

Prof. Jen-der Lee's Taiwan Lecture in Chinese Studies at the University of Washington

The National Central Library (NCL) of Taiwan partnered with the University of Washington (UW) to hold a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies on UW's Seattle campus. The lecture, the first to be co-hosted by the two institutions, took place in the dedicated Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) room at the university's East Asia Library on the afternoon of April 4, 2016. Ms. Zhijia Shen, Director of East Asia Library, moderated on this occasion, and an introductory speech was made by Mr. Chin Hsing, Director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Seattle.

Prof. Jen-der Lee of the Institute of History and Philology (IHP) at the Academia Sinica kindly accepted an invitation to deliver the lecture, which was entitled "Gender and Medicine in Medieval China." Prof. Lee who received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington's Department of History is currently the Assistant Director and a research fellow of the IHP, and teaches at National Taiwan University and National Tsing Hua University. She is also Editor-in-Chief of the academic journal *Asia Major*. The approach and focus of her research is traditional Chinese medicinal culture and the legal system from a gender perspective. In recent years she has expanded her scope to include the modern and contemporary period.

In her lecture, Prof. Lee began by presenting images of a set of Song dynasty stone sculptures depicting a childbirth scene. Drawing on her many years of research on the subject, she employed a rich mixture of historical texts and images to give the audience an account of the history of women's participation in all stages of life in medieval China, narrating in detail their roles as both healer and patient. The lecture covered information found in ancient medical texts related to topics such as conception, medicinal recipes for women, childbirth, and burying the placenta, and the role of women as healers, caregivers, wet nurses, and filial daughters. At the same time Prof. Lee explored issues

of our age when Western medicine is dominant, such as childbirth practice being more convenient for doctors than for women giving birth, and the rationale for the excessive use of caesarian birth.

An audience of more than 40 were captivated by Prof. Lee's lecture, which triggered an animated discussion among attendees, including University of Washington professors Patricia Ebrey of the Department of History and David Knechtges of the Department of Asian Languages and Literature.

At the very end, Ms. Keng Li-chun, Head of the NCL Center for Chinese Studies Liaison Division screened a short promotional video in English specially produced by the Center for these occasions. The video briefly introduced the work of the Center, the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, the Taiwan Fellowship, and the digital resources for Chinese Studies provided by various academic institutions in Taiwan. The aim was to encourage more outstanding overseas scholars to apply for financial support to carry out research in Taiwan.



A packed audience attend this Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies at the University of Washington



Prof. Jen-der Lee delivers the lecture



Ms. Zhijia Shen, UW East Asia Library Director, moderates the lecture



Mr. Chin Hsing, Director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Seattle, delivers an introductory speech



Prof. Lee begins her lecture with images sculptures from Dazhu, Sichuan



Prof. Patricia Ebrey raises a question during the Q&A.



At the very end a short video introducing Taiwan's digital resources for Chinese Studies is screened