

**Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for
International Scholarly Exchange**

2012-2013 Annual Report

Religion (CREOR) focused on Brown University's Contemplative Studies program. The second talk was entitled "To Treat Yourself As Other (自他): The Psychodynamics of Self Alterity in Classical Daoist Meditation," and focused on Professor Roth's own research on the *Zhuangzi*.

e. "The State of the Field: Chinese Literature of the Last 25 Years"

Professor Sihe Chen, Chair of the Department of Chinese at Fudan University, held a workshop on "The State of the Field: Chinese Literature of the Last 25 Years" at Harvard University on February 6, 2013. Following shortly after Chinese novelist Mo Yan was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, the workshop held by Professor Chen engaged participants in discussion on recent trends in both the literary and scholarly fields of contemporary China. Professor Chen outlined three key challenges facing scholars and students of contemporary Chinese literature: language, literacy, and literariness. As contemporary literature moves towards world literature, those who study literature are challenged to expand their fluency in multiple languages and to be able to work among literatures from different parts of the world. At the same time, they also face the challenge of maintaining scholarly literacy, as the range of topics covered by MA and Ph.D. theses dramatically increases year by year. Finally, Professor Chen called attention to the fact that despite this expansion, the "literary" topics covered by the academy remain distanced from the literature being consumed by the reading public.

f. "Cold War and East Asian Cultural Politics: Chinese Perspectives"

A full-day workshop on "Cold War and East Asian Cultural Politics: Chinese Perspectives" was held at Harvard University on April 4, 2013. The event was organized by Xiaojue Wang (Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and 2012-2013 An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University), and co-sponsored by the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University as well as the Harvard-Yenching Institute. With a full line-up of 20 presentations divided amongst 4 panels and a concluding round table discussion, the workshop explored the ways in which the leveling and polarizing forces of Cold War ideology reconfigured modern Chinese literature and culture in communities across East Asia. Presentations included, among others, Pinghui Liao (University of California, San Diego) on "Eileen Chang and Chen Ying-chen: Two Contrasting Cases in Cold War Literature," Wook Yon Lee (Sogang University, South Korea) on "Cold War Culture in the Korean Peninsula and Understanding of China," and Ying-che Huang (Aichi University, Japan) on "Cold War Narratives in Japan."

(3) The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Asia-Pacific Centre for Chinese Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CCK-APC)

The Board of Directors approved the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Chinese Studies (CCK-APC) in December 2005. Professor Billy So served as the Centre's Director until his retirement in February 2011, when Professor David Faure succeeded him. The Centre operates under the supervision of a steering committee consisting of eleven scholars. The chairman is Professor Ambrose King, a CCKF Board Member



Poster for “The Symposium on Chinese Prosodic Grammar”

and former Vice-Chancellor of CUHK. The Centre originally had an annual budget of US\$135,000, of which \$120,000 came from the Foundation and \$15,000 from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Owing to the importance of this Centre in the field of Sinology in the Asia-Pacific area, the former Chancellor of CUHK, Professor Lawrence J. Lau, submitted a five year (2010-2014) proposal last year, according to which the Foundation will grant the Centre \$75,000 every year, with the same amount of matching funds being provided by CUHK. Due to the fact that Professor Leung Ki Che Angela and Professor Xingzhong Yu successfully completed their focus projects, the APC Steering Committee approved two new projects: “Law and Society” and “Health and Medical Culture”, “Health and History” by Professor Ping-chen Hsiung, and “Taiwan Research Centre” by Professor Desmond Hui Cheuk Kuen. The following activities took place in 2012-2013.

A. Accomplishments

a. Focus Project – Ancient Chinese Society and Religion

The Project co-organized the “Symposium on Famous Women in History: China, Rome, and Egypt” on February 27, 2013, led by Professor Robert Gurval of University of California, Los Angeles, and Professor Leo Lee of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, together with the P.I., Professor Mu-chou Poo. About 30 faculty and students participated and discussed the methodological issues related to the study of politics and gender in ancient China, Rome and Egypt. The “Workshop on Women, Law, and Belief in Early and Medieval China” was also held on May 11-13. Two senior scholars, Professor Robin Yates of McGill University, Canada, and Professor Lisa Raphals of University of California, Riverside, USA, were invited to give key note speeches, with selected graduate students and junior faculty from CUHK, Mainland China, Taiwan and Singapore being invited to participate and present research papers. Selected conference papers have already been edited and are expected to be published in 2013. In addition, a workshop was held on December 1 at UCLA for the preparation of a two-year project (January 2013 to December 2014).

b. Focus Project – Ming-Qing Studies

Established in 2009, the Research Centre for Ming-Qing Studies aims at promoting global cooperation and dialogue from an interdisciplinary perspective. In order to widen the horizons of the Centre’s members, a lecture series entitled “New Perspectives on Ming-Qing Research” has been organized, with scholars being invited to share their research achievements. Lectures 17 and 18 were held successfully on February 24 and April 27, with guest speakers Professor Pei-kai Cheng of City University of Hong Kong and Professor Rur-bin Yang of National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan. The Centre also continues to provide a platform for academic exchange



Professor Wei Hua (tenth from right, first row), Professor Ping-chen Hsiung (ninth from right, first row) and other members of the “2012 Postgraduate Student Conference on Ming-Qing Studies” in the Chinese University of Hong Kong

and sharing among junior researchers, with two luncheons being held for the Centre’s members and interested parties to read literary theory and classics. The “2012 Postgraduate Student Conference on Ming-Qing Studies” was also held on July 7-9 2012, which was one of the most important events of the Centre this year. The 10th issue of the Centre’s newsletter has already been published to share the information on the recent activities with our members.

c. Focus Project – Regional History and Heritage

The Project focused on activities related to Professor David Faure’s Areas of Excellence (AoE) research effort, “The History Anthropology of Chinese Society”, as well as setting up the CUHK-SYSU Centre for Historical Anthropology. The group met frequently to share ideas and follow up on the progress of various case studies. A generous grant received from the APC was also partially devoted to a publication by Professor John Lagerwey, which will be published by the Fudan University Press in 2013, so as to ensure that his research findings can be shared by and benefit a wider audience.

d. The Eighth and Ninth Annual Graduate Seminar on China

The 8th GSOC and 9th GSOC each lasted for 4 days (January 4-7, 2012; January 9-12, 2013). For the 8th GSOC a total of 44 participants were selected from among 198 applicants, while for the 9th GSOC a total of 44 participants were selected from among 147 applicants. Most participants were Ph.D. candidates from Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, USA and other countries. Organized by the Universities Service Centre for China Studies (USC) of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, both GSOC events aimed at promoting research on

contemporary China, encouraging national and international exchange among scholars of China studies, and broadening the perspectives of junior researchers.

e. Focus Project – Language and Society

The Symposium on “Chinese Prosodic Grammar” was held on March 30-31 at the Fung King Hey Building, CUHK, with experts and scholars invited from overseas and Mainland China, including Professor Duanmu San of the University of Michigan, Professor Perry Link of the University of California, Riverside, Professor Tsai Wei-tien Dylan of National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan), Professors Mei Huang and Jianfei Luo of Beijing Language and Culture University, and Professor Shengli Feng of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. In addition, the “Workshop on Chinese Register Grammar” was held on April 1 at the Fung King Hey Building, featuring scholars in stylistic studies such as Professor Chengzhi Chu of the University of California, Davis, Professor Hongyin Tao of UCLA, Professor Chin-fa Lien of National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan), Professors Mei Fang and Bojiang Zhang of The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Professor Pui Kwong Wong of the City University of Hong Kong. Papers, views and opinions shared during these meetings were edited for the submission to magazines such as the *Journal of Chinese Language*, while a volume of papers is being planned as well (under negotiation with the publisher).

f. Focus Project – Health and History

A public lecture “Why Taiwan’s National Health Insurance? -- Significance and Inspiration” was held on April 11, with guest speaker Professor Tung-liang Chiang from the Institute of Health Policy and Management, National Taiwan University sharing his views on public health issues in Taiwan. Another seminar was held on April 18: Dr. Siyuan Zhao, a postdoctoral fellow at the Research Institute for the Humanities, was invited to host a discussion and share his views on the topic “Epidemic Disease in Early Modern to Contemporary Chinese History”.

g. The Barometer of China’s Development: Potential for Research in China Studies

The second phase of BOCD construction was completed in the summer of 2012, with the next phase of the project focusing on enhancing the ability of users to obtain access to the dataset. Facilities will be installed and workshops will be held for this purpose. The Faculty of Social Science has provided the Centre with HK\$500,000 in funding to develop, maintain and release the dataset to the public.

h. Focus Project – Ancient Chinese Society and Religion

The Project is currently working with the Research Institute for the Humanities (CUHK) on a two-year endeavor (2013-14) to hold an international conference on the topic of “Religious Transformation and Cultural Identity in China and Rome (2-7 Centuries CE)” in June 2014. A total of 11 scholars have expressed their interest in participating in the conference so far, including Professor Carol Bakhos of UCLA, Professor Jas Elsner of Oxford University, Professor Kim Hyun-jin of the University of Melbourne, and Professor Zongli Lu of The Hong Kong

University of Science and Technology. More scholars are being contacted, and the organizer expects to have a final list of participants by the end of June, as to allow scholars ample time to conduct research and prepare for pre-conference works.

i. Focus Project – Taiwan Research Centre

The Taiwan Research Centre was founded in 2012. Current research topics and the forthcoming agenda of the Centre will include HK-Taiwan literature, history, philosophy, cultural and film studies. Areas in cultural management, cultural heritage conservation, urban regeneration, cultural development policy and cultural creative industries will also be developed and cultivated for bilateral research and collaboration in future. On June 23-27, 2013, the Centre held a roundtable discussion, “Maritime Frontier, Colonial Experience, and Post-Colonial Development: Macao, Hong Kong, and Beyond” to coincide with the International Convention of Asia Scholars 8 Conference (ICAS 8) in Macau.

III. General Affairs

1. Scholarly Activities Organized by the Cross-Strait Academic Exchange Planning Committee

In light of the potential increasing demand for Cross-Strait academic cooperation, the Foundation is attempting to form a platform for flexible evaluation and decision-making. On March 17, 2011, the Board approved the formation of Cross-Strait Academic Exchange Planning Committee to oversee this new program. The Committee consists of nine senior scholars, who are appointed by Foundation President Yun-han Chu, including Ying-Hwa Chang, Yung-mau Chao, Yung-fa Chen, Chin-shing Huang, Chun-chieh Huang, Yi-long Huang, Shu-min Huang, Ayling Wang, and David Der-wei Wang. After consultation with committee members, it was concluded that a mechanism for supporting young scholars from both sides of the Taiwan Strait will be the Foundation’s top priority. This could take the form of Taiwanese and Chinese academic institutions cooperating to organize summer or winter scholarly training camps for doctoral students from both sides of the Taiwan



President Yun-han Chu, Professor Chin-shing Huang, and Professor Fan-sen Wang (from left to right) at Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province