

Workshop
Taiwan Studies in Transition
Sources, Theories, and Approaches

2 May 2024
Leiden, the Netherlands

We're absolutely delighted and immensely grateful to everyone who joined our Taiwan Studies workshop on the 2nd of May. What a marvellous turnout—nearly 70 attendees came together, implying the vibrant and interdisciplinary nature of this field!

The day kicked off with an insightful lecture from Prof. David Wang (Harvard), who delved into the Dutch influence in Taiwanese fiction and literary works of the new century. His expertise provided a deep insight into the cultural dynamics that define Taiwan's literary landscape today.

Our lineup of speakers, coming from Taipei, Beijing, Portsmouth, Prague, Boston, London, Oxford, Leiden, and Amsterdam, examined Taiwan from a variety of angles — literature, frontier studies, environmental science, religion, and historical-anthropology, providing unique insights into Taiwan's rich and complex identity.

Prof. Leonard Blussé (Leiden) was at the helm of our roundtable, bringing not only his personal experiences related to Taiwan in the 1950s and 60s but also valuable reflections on Taiwan Studies in the past few decades. We were also honoured to have active participation from luminaries such as David Wang, Catia Antunes from the History Department, Anne Sytske Keijser, from IAS, Laura Erber, our fellowship coordinator, along with numerous researchers and PhD students. The dialogue explored the nuances of interdisciplinary and comparative research.

The day wrapped up with Dr. Ron Po discussing the many possibilities and new dimensions within Taiwan Studies, setting a progressive tone for future explorations.

A huge thank you to everyone involved—your contributions have laid a solid foundation for ongoing and future research. Here's to maintaining this momentum and enriching discussions in the years to come! More about this workshop could be found on this webpage:

<https://www.ias.asia/events/taiwan-studies-transition-sources-theories-and-approaches>

Organisation

This workshop is convened by Professor Ron Po, Chair of Taiwan Studies at Leiden University and IAS. It forms part of the Chair of Taiwan Studies Programme, which is supported by the Department of Cross-Strait Education of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan), the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), and the Leiden University Faculty of Humanities.

Some workshop impressions

