

**Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange Cover Page
for Interim and Final Reports**

Interim Report **Final Report**

- Domestic Region American Region European Region
 Asia-Pacific Region Developing Regions

Project Number: RG004-U-17

Project Title: Modern and Contemporary Taiwanese Philosophy 臺灣現代與當代哲學

Grant Type:

- Lecture Series Grants Research Grants
 Scholar Grants Junior Scholar Grants
 Database Grants Conference and Seminar Grants
 Publication Subsidies Institutional Enhancement Grants
 Library Acquisition Grants Mobility Grants
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 Dissertation Fellowships for ROC Students Abroad
 Grants for Doctoral and Master's Students for Short-term Overseas Research

Project Duration (Month/Year – Month/Year): June 2018 – June 2021

Institution(s): University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Academia Sinica, R.O.C.

Project Director(s): Professor Jana S. Rošker, PhD

Project Co-Director(s): Professor Lee Ming-huei, PhD

Date Report Submitted: 02.07.2020

Research grant RG004-U-17 (Modern and Contemporary Taiwanese Philosophy 臺灣現代與當代哲學)

Interim report for the second year (July 2019-June 2020)

During the first year of the research project, the project director Jana S. Rošker and the project team members have been active in the following areas that are connected to the research topic:

- 1) constructing and maintaining the project website (see this [link](#));
- 2) conducting research work in Taiwan (National Central library in Taipei) for two months (from the beginning of August until the end of September 2019);
- 3) attending 3 international academic conferences in which they presented papers on the research project topic;
- 4) publishing several project related works:
 - 2 academic articles in high impact international academic journals
 - 2 books (academic monographs)
- 5) hosting the International Conference on Taiwanese philosophy at the University of Ljubljana, financed by the National Central Library in Taipei and the Slovene Research Agency (ARRS)
- 6) disseminating the project (book presentations, cultural events)

Due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, several activities had to be canceled and postponed respectively. Among these are:

- 2 guest lectures that were planned to be carried out by the project leader in Taiwan between late May and June 2020 on the Fu-jen University and in Academia Sinica respectively. These guest lectures will probably be carried out in spring 2021.
- 2 participations at international conferences (i.e. International conference of Academie du Midi, France, planned for early May 2020, and International conference on the Significance of Contemporary Confucianism that was planned to take place in Taipei (NTU) in summer 2020). While the new date for the previous mentioned meeting was not published yet, the NTU conference will probably take place in spring 2021.
- An international workshop on Taiwanese philosophy with participants from

Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in April 2020, which was supposed to take place in Ljubljana. The workshop has been preliminary postponed to December 2021.

- Book presentation: Jana Rošker's new book was originally planned to be presented in late April 2020; the project team members have already purchased the airplane ticket for Professor Lin Yueh-hui, who was supposed to deliver a speech at this presentation. The book presentation has been postponed and will hopefully take place in the beginning of October 2020.

Below, please find a short description of all these activities and research results respectively.

Ad 1). The research project website

was established in September 2018 by the project webmaster Jasna Bavec.

Its general structure is divided in to six individual tabs, containing information about our activities in the areas of:

1. Conferences and workshops;
2. Guest lectures
3. History (of previous collaborations with contemporary Taiwanese philosophers)
4. Publications
5. Research material
6. Dissemination
7. Summary (of the research project)

In this research period, we have added a new section on the dissemination of the project related contents (see point 6.), which was not a part of the webpage before. The website has been continuously updated and it contains all the relevant information about our research and its dissemination.

Ad 2) In the period from the beginning of August until the end of September 2019, the project director Jana S. Rošker and the project team member Téa Sernelj were carrying out **research work in the National Central Library in Taipei.**

During these two months, they were mainly investigating primary sources of modern and contemporary Taiwanese philosophers. Beside her work in the archives, the project director Jana S. Rošker has also conducted several in-depth interviews with various contemporary Taiwanese scholars in the field of philosophy, which were then

used in her book on contemporary Taiwanese philosophy.

The results of their research work have partly already been published and presented at several academic meetings. After returning to Slovenia, they are still elaborating on the material collected in this period and working on two academic monographs that were both published in the first half of 2020. Jana Rošker's book deals with contemporary female philosophers in Taiwan, and Téa Sernelj's book is a study on the modern Taiwanese Confucian scholar Xu Fuguan and his contributions to the revival and the re-interpretation of traditional Chinese aesthetics. Both books were published in Slovene, but are currently being translated into English and will presumably be published by the end of 2021. (For a more detailed description of both monographs see the section "Publications" on this website.

In May 2020, they have also planned a research staying in Taiwan. However, due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the visit has been postponed and will presumably take place in the period between January and March 2021. During this visit, they will carry out their second research in Taiwan on the project related topics, and also attend two international conferences which are planned to take place in Taipei in spring 2021.

Ad 3) In the second year of the research project, the director and the members of the project team have presented papers on several project related topics at 3 international conferences abroad

Photos and a detailed description of these presentations can be found at the following link on the project website:

http://as.ff.uni-lj.si/raziskovanje/raziskovanje/raziskovalni_projekti/modern_and_contemporary_taiwanese_philosophy_1

Below is the short description of these presentations:

1. November 15-19, 2019: Jana Rošker's participation at the *International conference in Honor of the 2570th Anniversary of Confucius and Sixth Congress of the International Confucian Association in Beijing*

From November 15, until November 19, 2019, the project director Jana Rošker was invited to participate at the International conference in Honor of the 2570th Anniversary of Confucius and Sixth Congress of the International Confucian Association in Beijing.

On this conference, she has delivered a plenary speech at the opening ceremony on November 15, 2019. In this speech, she has presented the importance of the Taiwanese Modern Confucians, especially Mou Zongsan and Xu Fuguan, to the preservation of the Confucian philosophical tradition through the lens of the question about the religious and philosophical dimensions of Confucianism.

Her plenary speech was entitled "Is Confucianism a Religion? Modern Confucian Theories on the Ethical Nature of Classical Discourses."

(For more information and some photos of her speech see the project website, section "Presentations of Taiwanese philosophy at international conferences abroad", at the following [link](#)).

2. September 5-7, 2019: 3rd International Conference of the European Association of Chinese Philosophy (EACP)

The project team members have organized and carried out a round table on Taiwanese philosophy at the 3rd International Conference of the European Association of Chinese Philosophy (EACP), which took place at the Ghent University in Belgium.

The title of the round table was: **Philosophy in Taiwan and Taiwanese Philosophy.**

Speakers (in alphabetical order):

- Bart Dessein, Ghent University, President of the EACS (e-mail: Bart.Dessein@UGent.be)
- Lee Hsien-Chung, National Taiwan University (e-mail: hlee@ntu.edu.tw)
- Lin Ming-chao, National Taiwan University (e-mail: mingchao@ntu.edu.tw)
- Jana Rošker, Ljubljana University (e-mail: jana.rosker@ff.uni-lj.si)
- Téa Sernelj, Ljubljana University (e-mail: tea.sernelj@ff.uni-lj.si)
- Wu Hui-ling, Fu-jen Catholic University (e-mail: huiling0120@gmail.com)

Description:

The main goal of the round table was to introduce to the European philosophic circles and the most important achievements of modern and contemporary Taiwanese philosophers, along with their contributions in the field of contemporary philosophical theory. There are two main reasons for the immense importance of Taiwanese philosophy for East Asia and the contemporary academic world: 1. First, they can be found in its contributions to the preservation of traditional Chinese thought during the

latter half of the 20th century. 2. Secondly, its development of specific innovative philosophical approaches and systems have been since this period profoundly influencing the theoretical discourses in the entire East Asian region. The philosophical currents in modern Taiwan were mainly developed during the second half of the 20th Century, in which the philosophical theory in mainland China was largely limited to the Sinification of Marxist thought. Hence, for many decades, Taiwanese philosophy was the only driving force behind the development, modernization, and upgrading of traditional Chinese thought and its syntheses with Western philosophy. Therefore, it soon also gained a wide spread popularity in most of the other East Asian societies that were traditionally influenced by classical Chinese thought, such as Japan and South Korea. Besides investigating Taiwanese influences upon these East Asian regions, the debate also aims to focus upon the broad and important impact of Taiwanese philosophy to the mainland Chinese academic world.

Each of the speakers has introduced and discussed a particular aspect of Taiwanese philosophy. The debate has focused upon questions related to the following aspects of Taiwanese philosophy:

- Development of the methodology of Chinese philosophy in Taiwan,
- Buddhist studies and Buddhist policies,
- Daoist philosophy,
- Modern Confucianism,
- Aesthetic thought, and
- Intercultural dialogues.

Due to sudden illness, Professor Lin Ming-Chao from the National Taiwan University was eventually not able to attend the conference and to participate at the round table. However, his abstract was still included into the conference program and discussed by other participants.

All individual abstracts and some photos of the round table can be found at the project website, section “Presentations of Taiwanese philosophy at international conferences abroad” (at the following [link](#)).

3. July 2-5, 2019: attendance at the 21st ISCP (International Society of Chinese Philosophy) Conference on Chinese Philosophy, Berne, Swiss.

From July 2nd until July 5th 2019, the project director Professor Jana S. Rošker and the

project team member Assoc. Professor Téa Sernelj, have attended the 21st ISCP (International Society of Chinese Philosophy) Conference on Chinese Philosophy, which took place in Berne, Swiss.

Here is the link to the conference program and the list of papers and presenters:
<http://iscp2019.philo.unibe.ch/index.php/schedule-list-of-papers/>

Associate Professor Téa Sernelj has delivered a speech on the important Taiwanese scholar Hsü Fu-kuan (Xu Fuguan) 徐復觀 and his interpretation of the central concepts of Chinese aesthetics, *qiyun shengdong* 氣韻生動. Her paper was entitled Xu Fuguan's *Interpretation of the Concept Qiyun Shengdong and the Problem of Authenticity*. Her presentation was dealing with Xu Fuguan's analysis and interpretation of the concept *qiyun shengdong*, which he understands as the most essential and fundamental in traditional Chinese aesthetics. Prof. Sernelj exposed that in Xu Fuguan's interpretation, *shengdong* means the actual manifestation of *qiyun* in the work of art and she pointed out the innovative nature of his aesthetic theory in this segment.

Professor Jana S. Rošker has delivered two speeches.

Firstly, she was invited to participate at the Taiwanese round table which was organized by Associate Professor Lin Ming-chao from the National Taiwan University. Beside Professor Lin and Professor Rošker, the round table also included presentations by Professor Lee Hsien-Chung from the National Taiwan University, and Assistant Professor Wu Huei-ling from the Fu-jen University in Taipei. The title of the round table was 中國哲學中的語言、論辯與認知 (The Language, Disputes and Cognition in Chinese Philosophy). In the scope of this round table, Professor Rošker has delivered a speech entitled *Modern Confucian Epistemology: From Intuition to Reason – And Back*. In this framework she has introduced the epistemic thought of the Taiwanese Modern Confucians Mou Zongsan, Xu Fuguan, and Fang Dongmei.

Secondly, she delivered an individual presentation entitled *Confucian revivals in Taiwan and mainland China: Chen Lai's and Li Zehou's upgrading of Mou Zongsan's metaphysics of morality*. In this presentation, she introduced the moral metaphysics of Mou Zongsan, who is arguably the most influential Taiwanese philosopher, and offered then a critical analysis of Chen Lai's and Li Zehou's respective developments of this theory.

Ad 4) PUBLICATIONS

In the second year of the duration of the research project, the project director and the members of the research project team have published:

- 2 academic articles in high impact international academic journals
- 2 books (academic monographs)

All these publications will be sent to the head office of the Chiang Ching-kuo foundation in Taipei. They all also contain the written acknowledgement of the CCKF Foundation's support at the first page.

Below, please find the bibliographic information and short description of all abovementioned publications:

2 ACADEMIC RESEARCH ARTICLES, PUBLISHED BY THE PROJECT DIRECTOR Jana S. Rošker

1. Rošker, Jana S. 2019. "A philosophical relation between Taiwan and Japan: models of dialectical thought in Mou Zongsan's and Nishida Kitaro's theories." *Asian Philosophy*, 29(4): 1-18.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09552367.2019.1699260>

Description: In December 2019, the research project director Jana S. Rošker has published a research paper on Taiwanese philosophy in English language in the renewed academic journal *Asian Philosophy*. The paper is entitled "A philosophical relation between Taiwan and Japan: models of dialectical thought in Mou Zongsan's and Nishida Kitaro's theories."

The author has acknowledged the support of the Chiang Ch'ing-Kuo Foundation on the first page of the article, as well as in the end of the paper, under the section Funding.

Abstract:

The article opens with a discussion of recent theoretical and methodological innovations in the field of comparative philosophy. In this regard, I propose and explain a new possible method of contrasting particular aspects of divergent

philosophical texts or discourses and denote it as a 'philosophy of sublation'. Then, the paper provides a concrete example for such a post-comparative method of reasoning, I will try to apply a 'sublation philosophy' approach for a reinterpretation of certain aspects of the complex philosophical intersections between modern Japanese and Chinese philosophies through the lens of a contrastive analysis of Nishida Kitarō's and Mou Zongsan's dialectical thought. In this way, I hope to shed some new light upon some general questions regarding different models of dialectics.

Keywords: Taiwanese philosophy, modern Japan philosophy, comparison between Taiwanese and Japanese philosophy, Mou Zongsan, Nishida Kitaro, dialectics, philosophy of sublation

Full article can be accessed [here](#).

PDF version [here](#) .

The article is written in English.

2. Rošker, Jana S. 2020. "Mandate of Heaven and Two Kinds of Truth: a Contrastive Analysis of Tang Junyi's and Mou Zongsan's Models of Confucian Democracy (In Slovene). *Asian Studies*, 8 (2): 337–349.

DOI: [10.4312/as.2020.8.2.337-349](https://doi.org/10.4312/as.2020.8.2.337-349)

Description: This article, published in the academic journal *Azijske študije (Asian Studies)* is written in Slovene language (Slovene title: Nebeški mandat in dve vrsti resnice: kontrastna analiza Tang Junyjevega in Mou Zongsanovega modela konfucijanske demokracije). It has, however, an English abstract, and it deals with the comparison of Mou Zongsan's and Tang Junyi's political theories and analyses their respective views on Confucian democracy.

The article has currently been translated into English and will presumably be published in English language in 2021.

Abstract

The majority of modern scholars believed that Confucianism was an obsolete and outdated ideology, which is not only inappropriate for the development of modern sciences and democratic societies, but also responsible for a deep social and political crisis that has marked China during the last two centuries. The Taiwanese Modern Confucians, however, have never assumed that the Confucian system was responsible for such a situation. Most of them believed that Confucianism is

compatible with science and democracy. Besides, the majority of them assumed that the East Asian cultures will never be able to develop truly democratic structures of their societies unless they take in consideration the appropriate elements of their own, i.e. Confucian traditions. This paper critically analyses Tang Junyi's and Mou Zongsan's theoretical models of a possible revival of Confucian proto-democracies. Keywords: Confucianism, Taiwanese philosophy, Modern Confucianism, Democracy, Science

Please, find the PDF version of the article [here](#) .

2 ACADEMIC MONOGRAPHS – BOOKS, ONE AUTHORED BY THE PROJECT DIRECTOR JANA S. ROŠKER AND ONE AUTHORED BY THE PROJECT TEAM MEMBER TÉA SERNELJ

1. Rošker, Jana S. 2020. IN THE SHADOW OF GREAT MASTERS: TWO CONTEMPORARY TAIWANESE FEMALE PHILOSOPHERS AND THE QUESTION OF WOMEN IN CHINESE PHILOSOPHY.
(In Slovene, original title: V senci vélikih mojstrov: vprašanje žensk v kitajski filozofiji na primeru dveh sodobnih tajvanskih filozofinj).

ISBN 978-961-06-0303-0.

<https://e-knjige.ff.uni-lj.si/znanstvena-zalozba/catalog/view/192/289/4976-1>

DOI: [10.4312/9789610603030](https://doi.org/10.4312/9789610603030)

The book has been published in April 2020 by the Scientific Press of the Ljubljana University, Faculty of Arts. It has currently been translated into English and will presumably be published in the first half of 2021, i.e. before the ending of the present research project.

Description (English Summary): This book on female Chinese philosophers has been on my mind for many years. But its actual writing was always put on hold and pushed into the background of my other research work. Other topics always seemed more important, more urgent and more topical. Being a female expert in Chinese philosophy myself, this belittling attitude regarding the importance of female philosophers is somehow ironic, and it is certainly symptomatic of the way the topic treated in this

work has usually been approached.

But finally, I made it, and I wrote the book through the lens of two problems. Both are linked to a philosophical work that is – entirely unjustifiably – pushed to the very margins of dominant discourses.

Firstly, this book deals with problems pertaining to the question of gender discrimination in the field of general philosophy, and particularly in the field of Chinese philosophy. It deals with this discrimination on many different levels, starting with the multifarious expressions of misogyny in the very contents and structures of these discourses, and trying then to reveal why and in which ways such views still influence the precarious relation between female gender and philosophy to the present day. All these theoretical endeavours have been exemplified and concretized by several problems, specifically pertaining to Chinese philosophy. This latter task also included introductions of the life and work of several more or less forgotten Chinese female philosophers, who always remained in the shadow of their male colleagues, teachers and colleagues – regardless of the historical time and geographical place in which they lived and worked, and in spite of their talent and the actual value of their theoretical work.

The second aspect that aroused my interest in this framework of the discrimination-related questions within (Chinese) philosophy was connected to the problem of the role and the contribution of Taiwanese philosophy in maintaining the continuity of research in the Chinese intellectual tradition during the second half of the 20th century, which was in mainland Chinese philosophy primarily defined by discourses of Maoist ideologies and by the Sinicization of Marxism.

The book brings together both of these aspects, representing a kind of a narrow, but solid bridge between them. At a first glance, discrimination against female philosophical theorists on the one hand, and the repudiation of Taiwan's important contribution to the development of contemporary Chinese philosophical theory on the other, have little in common. In fact, however, both issues are connected through a common problem, which is rooted in the underlying, and mutually comparable, discourses of negation arising from the historical, political, and social disparities associated with existing power structures.

The central part of the book introduces two Taiwanese female philosophers whose life and work is related to both issues mentioned above. Firstly, they are both women, i.e.

belonging to the gender which is still severely marginalized in all philosophical disciplines. Secondly, they are both Taiwanese, and hence, working in the “marginal segment” of Chinese philosophy. In this sense, both phenomena – namely the “female” as well as the “Taiwanese” philosophy – belong to a theoretical periphery, to the furthest, most obscure, and almost unexpectedly existing edges of philosophical production.

For the exploration of the questions outlined above, I have chosen two female Taiwanese scholars of Chinese philosophy, namely Lin Yue-huei and Wu Huei-ling. There are several reasons for this choice. First of all, they are – in spite of the many aforementioned similarities – very different. These differences fundamentally determine two different theoretical paths of development in modern and contemporary Taiwanese philosophy. While the former is a representative of the older generations, the latter stands at the beginning of her academic career. Besides, Professor Lin is a Confucian scholar and a student of Mou Zongsan, probably the most influential thinker of the second generation of Modern Confucianism. Assistant Professor Wu, on the other hand, is researching, analysing and re-interpreting classical Daoist philosophy, following the enthusiastic inspiration of her Neo-Daoist teacher, Professor Chen Guying.

History will show whether these two female Taiwanese philosophers will eventually liberate themselves from the shadow of their great masters, together with numerous other female scholars who are trying to find their way through the dense and difficult jungles of past and present philosophical theories. And since we now find ourselves at the threshold of the third decade of the 21st century, in which the Enlightenment values of equality, autonomy, subjectivity and human dignity should already belong to the long secured heritage of humankind, we should have good reason to hope that their (and our own) life in the twilight of the idols will finally come to an end. Moreover, I can only hope that this book will be one of the many small, initial steps towards a more egalitarian future in philosophical theory.

2. Téa, Sernelj. 2020. THE CONFUCIAN REVIVAL IN TAIWANESE PHILOSOPHY: XU FUGUAN AND HIS THEORY OF CHINESE AESTHETICS.

(In Slovene, original title: Konfucijanski preporod v tajvanski filozofiji: Xu Fuguan in njegova teorija kitajske estetike). ISBN 978-961-06-0337-5.

https://e-knjige.ff.uni-lj.si/znanstvena-zalozba/catalog/book/219?fbclid=IwAR1pp-KlWb7_ZH3Wu8qfx55Waj9VNY1gcrIbJxkE3j67ja244nIR1cWOUJ4

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4312/9789610603399>

The PDF version of the book can be found [here](#) .

The book has been published in June 2020 at the Scientific Press of the Ljubljana University, Faculty of Arts. It is written in Slovene language but is currently being translated into English language. The English version will presumably be published in 2021.

Summary

This monograph deals with the critical analysis of Xu Fuguan's aesthetic theory. Xu (1904–1982) is one of the central representatives of the second generation of the Taiwanese theoretical current of Modern Confucianism. The research was mainly focused on his fundamental contributions to the philosophy of this current, especially regarding his reinterpretations and re-evaluations of the basic axiological concepts of original Confucian and Daoist aesthetics. It also deals with questions linked to his attempts to preserve, systematize and modernize traditional Chinese aesthetics. Xu Fuguan's theory of Chinese ideational tradition is defined by the paradigm of the traditional connection between ethics and aesthetics, the study also explored the importance of the mutually complementary interaction between Confucianism and Daoism in Xu's theory of aesthetics. Through the analysis of certain crucial fragments derived from the classical works of these two intellectual currents, the study also verified the presumption according to which both currents are instrumental for the consolidation of specifically Chinese aesthetics, albeit each of them in its unique way: while Confucianism contributed axiological elements to the inner coherence of traditional aesthetic discourses, Daoism endowed it with the important aspect of holistic vitality. On the basis of studying, analysing and interpreting Xu Fuguan's most important works, the author also illuminated the significance of his innovative interpretation of the Chinese aesthetic concept *qiyun shengdong*, which still belongs to the most complex and difficult notions of the Chinese aesthetic tradition.

Since the representatives of the second generation of Modern Confucianism mainly placed their interpretations and re-evaluations of basic concepts defining the Chinese intellectual tradition into the framework of comparative analyses of Chinese and Euro-American intellectual history, Xu Fuguan also based his interpretation of traditional Chinese aesthetics upon a comparative perspective, contrasting it with European aesthetics. However, the dissertation clearly shows that his analysis of European

aesthetics is too generalized, and therefore problematic.

These difficulties also manifest themselves in Xu's superficial and defective comprehension of modern Western art and culture. Xu Fuguan's central theoretical contributions, i.e. the notion of concerned consciousness, the concept *qiyun shengdong*, and the systematic elucidation of the axiological foundations of Chinese aesthetics, which have been introduced and critically analysed in the present dissertation, are among the most important philosophical innovations elaborated by the Modern Confucian theory. These novel approaches are also interesting from the perspective of the global theoretical discourses, for they reveal important, culturally conditioned differences between traditional Western and traditional Chinese philosophy regarding their particular ways of perceiving and interpreting reality.

The work contains a critical account of Xu's work on Chinese aesthetics. It focuses on the analysis and interpretation of his most important concepts and attempts placing them in the historical contexts of his life and work, as well as in the context of the development of Chinese aesthetics at the crossroads between tradition and modernity. The first chapter presents the historical development, basic concepts, paradigms and methods of traditional Chinese aesthetics. The second chapter deals with the characteristics and development of Chinese aesthetics as an academic discipline and introduces the investigation of the characteristics of traditional Chinese aesthetics. In this chapter, we learn about the various conceptual guidelines within the development of Chinese aesthetics in the 20th century, which was greatly influenced by certain concepts derived from the Western aesthetics, through which the recognition and re-evaluation of the special features of traditional Chinese aesthetics were established. The third chapter presents the historical and ideological background of Modern Confucianism, with an emphasis on the critical evaluation and substantive analysis of the Declaration or the Manifesto for the re-evaluation of Chinese culture as a world heritage. In this document, the second generation of Modern Confucians, whose representatives include Mou Zongsan, Fang Dongmei and Tang Junyi, highlighted the central objectives of this intellectual current. Amongst other issues, the second chapter also deals with the problems of China's modernization, especially with the issues linked to the survival and preservation of the Chinese tradition. These questions were of utmost importance for all representatives of the second generation, including Xu Fuguan.

The fourth chapter presents Xu Fuguan's life, professional career, his political views which influenced his understanding of Confucianism, and his theoretical contributions

regarding the methodology he used when interpreting and analyzing Confucianism. The main part of this chapter focuses on the analysis of the concept of concerned consciousness, which - according to Xu Fuguan - represents the basic worldview that laid the foundations for the development of Confucian ethics and its cultivation of the moral self. Xu's interpretation of this concept is widely regarded as one of his crucial contributions to the understanding of Chinese conceptual tradition.

The sixth chapter deals with Xu Fuguan's theory of Chinese aesthetics through the lens of axiology. On one hand, this chapter provides Xu's detailed comparative analysis of Confucian and Daoist (especially Zhuangzian) aesthetics. On the other, it offers his comparison between Zhuangzi's aesthetics and Western phenomenology.

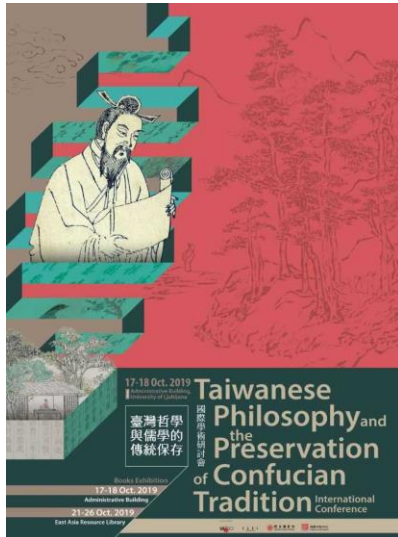
Both comparative studies open the questions linked to the onto-aesthetic paradigm which underlies the Chinese intellectual tradition through the aspect of bodily recognition, which is, according to Xu, the fundamental method for establishing and realising the moral self. An extensive part of the sixth chapter is devoted to Xu's interpretation of one of the most complex Chinese aesthetic concepts, namely the notion of *qiyun shengdong* remains one of the most fundamental and most difficult concepts in Chinese art and aesthetics.

Chapter seven addresses Xu's critical evaluation of Modern Western aesthetics and axiology, which are manifested in his critiques of abstract paintings, the political implications of modern art and his overall critique of Western culture.

The book concludes with a critical evaluation of Xu's contribution to the development of contemporary Chinese aesthetics as a new theoretical discipline, which also includes a methodological critique of his comparative studies.

AD 5) ORGANIZING AND HOSTING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ENTITLED "TAIWANESE PHILOSOPHY AND THE PRESERVATION OF CONFUCIAN TRADITION", October 17–19, 2019

From October 17 until October 19, 2019, the project team members have organized and hosted an international conference on Taiwanese philosophy at the University in Ljubljana, entitled *Taiwanese Philosophy and the Preservation of Confucian Tradition*. (see the official website of the conference [here](#) and [here](#).)



Description: The main organizer and the host of the conference was the project director Jana S. Rošker and the Department of Asian Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana University. The project director has managed to obtain the covering of the costs for the conference entirely from other sources. The Slovene part of the funding was provided by the Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS) and by the University in Ljubljana. However, the conference was also co-organized and co-funded by the Center for Chinese studies at the National Central Library in Taipei. A small research grant (500 Euro) was also obtained from the EATS (European Association of Taiwanese Studies). But the overall financing was structured in the following way:

- 65% of the funds were provided by the Center for Chinese studies in Taipei, and 35% were provided by the Ljubljana University and the Slovene National Research Agency (ARRS), mostly in the framework of the research program group “Asian Languages and Cultures” P6-0243, the head of which is the project director, Professor Jana S. Rošker.

The hosts have covered all costs for the transportation, accommodation and the living expenses for all participants. The invited speakers belonged to the most renewed experts on the conference topic in Taiwan, broader East Asian region, Europe and the USA. Their profound and broad expertise has immensely contributed to the overall success of the conference.

The introductory speech of the project director, who was the chief organizer of the conference, can be found [here](#).

The PDF version of the conference booklet containing the full conference program, all

events, as well as the abstracts, papers and contact addresses of all participant can be found [here](#).

A report on the conference was also published in the EATS Newsletter (see the PDF attachment [here](#)).

Two publications will result from the conference:

A selection of the best papers will be published in the special issue of the international academic journal Asian Studies (see <https://revije.ff.uni-lj.si/as>), the chief editor of which is the project director Jana S. Rošker. The special issue will be published in September 2020 issue (Vol. 8, No 3) of the journal.

All papers will be republished in an edited volume published by the Center for Chinese studies at the National Central Library in Taipei.

At this opportunity, the National Central Library has donated to the University of Ljubljana over 100 books on Taiwanese philosophy. They were exhibited in front of the conference hall during the duration of the entire conference, and afterwards they were exhibited for two additional weeks at the East Asian Research Library, which was co-founded by the project director, Professor Jana S. Rošker. After the exhibition, the books have become a part of the library of the Department of Asian studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

AD 6) PROJECT DISSEMINATION

The project team members have also been very active in the dissemination of their research results regarding modern and contemporary Taiwanese philosophy.

The project team members have planned to organize an international workshop on Taiwanese philosophy with participants from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in April 2020. The workshop will probably take place in December 2021 instead.

Among all other dissemination activities the following two are especially worth mentioning:

1. Theatre performance "Zhuangzi and the Riddle of European Subjectivity"

The project team members have written and performed a musical on philosophical dialogues between East Asia (particularly Taiwan) and Central and Eastern Europe.

The performance was a “dark green” comedy, which highlighted, among other issues, the preservation of traditional Chinese philosophy in Taiwan, and included singing and dancing on a high quality professional level, even though it was mainly performed by teachers and researchers from the Department of Asian Studies at the Ljubljana University. Zhuangzi, who fled to Taiwan, was wondering why the Western philosophers believe that there is no Chinese philosophy, because traditional Chinese thought did not create a concept of subjectivity. Therefore, he decides to visit Central Europe, aiming to find out what this concept actually means. He first visits Prague and talks there with Franz Kafka. Then, he travels to Vienna, where he has debates with Ludwig Wittgenstein and Sigmund Freud. Then, he embarks a train and heads to Venice, where he intends to visit Giordano Bruno. However, on the train, he meets the Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek and Melania Trump, who is also Slovene and visits her relatives in Ljubljana. After all these encounters Zhuangzi is rather disappointed about the European subject, so he returns home.

The comedy was first performed as a part of the cultural program at the International Conference on Taiwanese Philosophy in October 2019, and three more times afterwards between October 2019 and January 2020.

Some photos of the performance can be found [here](#) .

2. Online book presentation

On May 25, 2020, the project director Jana Rošker and the project team member Téa Sernelj have published an online presentation of Jana Rošker’s new book entitled “IN THE SHADOW OF GREAT MASTERS: TWO CONTEMPORARY TAIWANESE FEMALE PHILOSOPHERS AND THE QUESTION OF WOMEN IN CHINESE PHILOSOPHY”.

The book presentation can be seen at the following [link](#).

(For a detailed description of the book, see the section “Publications” at the project

website, i.e. [here](#)).

In the presentation, the research project team members mentioned that the book is part of the CCKF research project on modern and contemporary Taiwanese philosophy.

In the beginning of October 2020, we will also organize a physical public presentation of the same book. The presentation will also be attended by professor Lin Yueh-hui, who is one of the two Taiwanese female philosophers, whose work is described in this book. At this opportunity she will share her professional experiences with a wider Slovenian public in person.

FUTURE WORK

In the third and last year of the research project, the research project director and the research project team members are planning

- A) to carry out two additional research visits in Taiwan,
- B) to organize two workshops on modern and contemporary Taiwanese philosophy
- C) to publish a special issue of the influential and high impact factor academic journal *Asian Studies* (<https://revije.ff.uni-lj.si/as>) on modern and contemporary Taiwanese philosophy. The issue is in production already and will be published in September 2020.
- D) to publish an edited volume (collection of essays) on modern and contemporary Taiwanese philosophy, which is currently under review at the Cambridge Scholars publishing (<https://www.cambridgescholars.com/philosophy-4>)

Ad C) The structure of the special issue of the journal *Asian studies* (Table of contents):

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