

**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
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 Publication Subsidies Institutional Enhancement Grants
 Library Acquisition Grants Mobility Grants
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 Special Project Grants
 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. Rosker, PhD

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

Date Report Submitted: 15.07.2019

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

Interim report for the first year (June 2018-June 2019)

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 (http://as.ff.uni-lj.si/raziskovanje/raziskovanje/raziskovalni_projekti/modern_and_contemporary_taiwanese_philosophy);
- 2) conducting research work in Taiwan (National Central library in Taipei) from January until March 2019;
- 3) attending 4 international academic meetings (2 conferences and 2 workshops) in which they presented papers on the research project topic;
- 4) delivering 5 public lectures on the research project topic in Slovenia, Germany, Austria and in Hong Kong;
- 5) publishing several project related works:
 - 3 academic articles in high impact international academic journals
 - 1 annotated bibliography
 - 1 academic monograph

Below, I will provide 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. Summary (of the research project)

The website has been continuously updated and it contains all the relevant information about our research and its dissemination.

Ad 2) In the period of January 10 until March 7 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 will be 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 will presumably be published in 2019. In August 2019, they will carry out their second research in Taiwan on the project related topics.

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

(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. August 10-20, 2018: The 24th World Congress of Philosophy
“BECOMING HUMAN – 學以成人”**

The project director Prof. Jana S. Rošker, and the project member Tea Sernelj Ph.D have presented papers on modern Taiwanese philosophy at the XXIV World Congress of Philosophy in Beijing. The congress took place from August 10th till August 20th 2018.

Together with research partners from Taiwan (Professor Lee Hsien-chung, Wu Huiling, Hsio Hung), the project director Jana S. Rošker has organized a round table on the project related topic (The development of the methodology of Chinese philosophy).

The round table is documented in the official national bibliographical database COBISS.SI (see below):

- LEE, Hsien-Chung, ROŠKER, Jana S., HSIAO, Hung-En, CHONG, Chaehyun, WU, Huiling. Methodology of Chinese philosophy: contribution st 24th World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing, 15. 8. 2018. [COBISS.SI-ID 67564386]

The project member Dr. Tea Sernelj has presented her work on the philosophy of the Taiwanese Modern Confucian scholar Xu Fuguan. The contribution is documented in the official national bibliographical database COBISS.SI (see below):

- SERNELJ, Tea. Analysis and critical evaluation of Xu Fuguan's interpretation of the concept qiyun shengdong : prispevek na 24th World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing, 14. 8. 2018. [COBISS.SI-ID 67564642].

**2. October 14, 2018: Conference at the Polytechnic University in Hong Kong:
Social Responsibility and Individual Worth: International Conference on
the Modern Implications of Classical Confucianism (社會責任與個體價值：
古典儒學的現代啟示國際研討會)**

On October 14th, the project director Professor Jana S. Rošker, has attended the conference *Social Responsibility and Individual Worth: International Conference on the Modern Implications of Classical Confucianism* (社會責任與個體價值：古典儒學的現代啟示國際研討會) at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. At this conference, she presented a paper on the comparison of mainland Chinese and Taiwanese philosophy in the 20th century. The paper, entitled »牟宗三的內在超越概念與李澤厚的親本體概念的比較« was delivered in Chinese language.

3. December 12, 2018: Lecture at the international workshop at Bonn University

On 16.12.2018, the project director Jana Rošker has delivered an invited plenary lecture at the international workshop at Bonn University. In the lecture, entitled Classical Texts, Modern ideologies – Understanding China through its own Language and Culture, she

has pointed out the role and significance of the Taiwanese philosophy in the preservation and development of analyses and interpretations of classical Chinese thought during the second half of the 20. Century, in which philosophy on mainland was limited to the sinisation of Marxist and Leninist theories.

4. March 15 – 16, 2019: International workshop in Korte, Slovenia

The project director Jana S. Rošker and the project research team members Téa Sernelj and Marko Ogrizek have delivered speeches on Taiwanese philosophy at the International PhD workshop in Korte. The speeches were delivered in English language

In her contribution entitled Frameworks of reference in Asian studies: Taiwan, Mainland China and Japan, Jana S. Rošker has introduced the important role of the Taiwanese discourses upon the elaboration of new methodological approaches in the comparative East Asian philosophy.

Téa Sernelj has delivered a speech entitled Modern Confucianism in Taiwan and Japan, in which she has first introduced the relevance of these modern stream of thought that has been in the second half of the 20th century mainly developed in Taiwan. In the second part of her presentation, she has introduced and analysed its influence upon other parts of modern East Asian, especially upon Japan.

Marko Ogrizek's presentation with the title Japanese Confucianism and the question of de-contextualisation has also focused upon introducing the important role of Taiwanese philosophical methodology for the development of East Asian (particularly Japanese) modern Confucianism. In his lecture, Marko Ogrizek has mainly talked about the hermeneutics and methodology of the important Taiwanese scholar, Professor Huang Chun-chieh. In his speech, Marko Ogrizek has focused upon Professor Huang's concept of intercultural de-contextualisation and re-conceptualization, which has played an immensely important role in the process of historical spread of Confucian philosophy from China to other East Asian regions.

Ad 4) Invited guest lectures and public lectures on project related topics

In the first year of the conference, the project director Jana S. Rošker has delivered 5 public lectures on the research project topic in Slovenia, Germany, Austria and in Hong Kong. The project team member Téa Sernelj has delivered one invited public lecture on the project related topic.

Below, please find short descriptions of the speeches:

1. (In Slovenia):

April 3, 2019

INVITED GUEST LECTURE AT EARL (EAST ASIAN RESSOURCE LIBRARY)

The lecture was delivered in order to introduce the dialectic of the most prominent representative of the Taiwanese Modern Confucianism, and to embed his work into a broader East Asian context, Professor Jana S. Rošker has delivered an invited guest lecture on the comparative analysis between the Japanese philosopher Nishida Kitaro and the Taiwanese philosopher Mou Zongsan.

The lecture was delivered at the EARL (East Asian Resource Library) at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana on April 3, 2019. It was entitled *Teoretska izhodišča vzhodnoazijske modernizacije in filozofski dialogi med Tajvanom in Japonsko: primerjava dialektičnega modela Nishide Kitaroja in Mou Zongsana* (*The Theoretical Bases of East Asian Modernization and the Philosophical Dialogues between Taiwan and Japan: a Comparison of the Dialectical Models Nishida Kitaro's and Mou Zongsan's*).

The announcement can also be found here:

<https://www.fdv.uni-lj.si/knjiznica/o-odkrg/informacije-in-obvestila/predavanje-dr-jane-ro%C5%A1ker-nasprotje-in-protislovje-v-zrcalu-medkulturne-filozofije-primerjava-dialekti%C4%8Dnih-modelov-nishide-kitaroja-in-mou-zongsana>

SUMMARY:

Nishida Kitaro and Mou Zongsan belong to the most important East Asian philosophers of the 20th century. Based on the introduction of the most important characteristics of the specific referential frameworks defining East Asian philosophical theories, the lecture offers a contrasting analysis of their particular dialectical models. Despite the manifold differences between them, a comparison between these two models of “practical dialectics” is fruitful, for it points to an important method offered by new

approaches rooted in the so-called philosophy of sublation. Although it does not lead to a genuine “unity of oppositions”, it points to the manifold possibilities of creating different models of dialectical thought as such. In this sense, it comprises a shift of perspective, based upon a sublation of previous modes of perception. Such alternations of horizons that go beyond the common views of the laws and paths of reasoning are always a precious tool of philosophical thought, because they not only point to additional, different methods of perceiving and interpreting our complex reality, but also represent an indispensable precondition of any philosophical innovations.

2. (In Austria)

March 28, 2019

INVITED GUEST LECTURE AT VIENNA UNIVERSITY

Professor Rošker has delivered an invited guest lecture at the Department of Philosophy at the Vienna University. The lecture was entitled *Gegensatz und Widerspruch im Spiegel der Komparativen Philosophie: Ein Vergleich der dialektischen Modelle Nishida Kitarōs und Mou Zongsans* (*Opposition and Contradiction: a Comparison between the Dialectical Models Nishida's Kitaro and Mou Zongsan's*). The lecture was delivered in German language

SUMMARY (see above):

This was basically the same lecture as the one described above (see No. 1). However, while the one in the EARL was held in the Slovene language, the one delivered in Vienna was, of course, held in German.

The lecture announcement can also be found here:

<http://kophil-interdis.at/wb/pages/aktuelle-termine.php>

3. (in Slovenia)

March 14, 2019

INVITED GUEST LECTURE AT THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

On Thursday, March 14, Professor Jana S. Rošker has delivered a special guest lecture at the Faculty for Social Studies in Ljubljana.

The lecture, entitled “*The Intercultural Dimensions of Confucianism: Taiwanese Studies of Dasan Jeong Yakyong* (茶山丁若鏞)” took place in the framework of the

Days of Korean Studies 2019. The lecture was delivered in Slovene language

SUMMARY

In her lecture, Professor Rošker has exposed the important role and essential function of Taiwanese scholars from the field of philosophy and intellectual history in the research on Korean Confucianism. Their academic support in the revival of Korean Confucianism is crucial for the awareness of the Korean contribution to the Confucian studies at the international level.

Info about the event: <http://spletff.ff.uni-lj.si/node/13751>.

4. (In Slovenia)

December 6, 2018

PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SLOVENIA

On December 6th 2018, the project member Téa Sernelj PhD has delivered a public lecture on *Traditional Chinese Aesthetics through the lens of Xu Fuguan's analyses* in the National Museum of Slovenia. The lecture was delivered in Slovene language.

SUMMARY

In her public lecture, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Téa Sernelj pointed out that the modern Taiwanese scholar Xu Fuguan belongs to the earliest pioneers who have established Chinese aesthetics as an independent, specific philosophical discipline. In the lecture, she has critically introduced his life and work.

5. (In Germany)

November 13, 2018

**INVITED GUEST LECTURE AT THE TRIER UNIVERSITY
(GERMANY)**

In November 2018, the project director Professor Jana S. Rošker has delivered an invited guest lecture at the Trier University (Germany) entitled “*The Sinisation of Marxism and the Preservation of the Confucian Tradition in Taiwan*”. The lecture was delivered in German language.

SUMMARY

In her lecture, Professor Rošker has introduced the situation of Chinese philosophy in

the first decades after the establishing of the PR China and pointed out the significance of Taiwanese philosophy for the continuation of the research in classical and traditional Chinese philosophy. This continuation was especially important due to the fact that in mainland China, philosophical research was mainly focused upon the analyses and attempts to Sinicize Marxist philosophy in China.

In her lecture, Professor Jana S. Rošker has also offered a contrastive analysis of the developmental trends in this regard on both sides. She also exposed the importance of the preservation for a positive development of the cross-strait relations.

6. (In Slovenia)

November 8, 2018

PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SLOVENIA IN LJUBLJANA

On November 8th 2018, the project director Professor Jana S. Rošker has delivered a public lecture on Neo-Confucian philosophy in the National Museum of Slovenia. The lecture was entitled “*The Song Dynasty Neo-Confucian Philosopher Wang Yangming and the Modern Taiwanese Confucianism*”. The lecture was delivered in Slovene language.

SUMMARY

In the lecture, Professor Rošker has first introduced the philosophy of the chief representative of the Neo-Confucian School of Heart-Mind, Wang Yangming, especially his ethical thought. In the second part of the lecture, Professor Rošker has focused upon the Taiwanese Modern Confucian analyses of this Song Dynasty philosopher, particularly exposing the importance of Mou Tsung-San’s late work and Tu Wei-ming’s studies on this topic.

7. (In Hong Kong)

October 9, 2018

INVITED GUEST LECTURE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY OF THE HONG KONG CHINESE UNIVERSITY

On October 9th 2018, the project director Professor Jana Rošker has delivered a guest lecture at the Department of Philosophy of the Hong Kong Chinese University. The guest lecture was entitled “*New Systems of Chinese Thought in Taiwan and Mainland China: Chen Lai’s and Li Zehou Upgrading of Mou Zongsan’s Moral Metaphysics*”

and delivered in English language.

SUMMARY

In this lecture, Professor Rošker has introduced and critically evaluated three different modern and contemporary Chinese ontological systems. The lecture dealt with the comparison of Mou Zongsan's, Li Zehou's and Chen Lai's view on the fundamental nature of existence and reality in order to expose and to illuminate some alternative models of ontology, which have been developed on the basis of specifically Chinese philosophical tradition and can hence be seen as a valuable contribution to contemporary intercultural philosophy.

The presentation can also be seen as an analysis of the specific reactions of contemporary Chinese philosophy to some basic paradigms provided by the main representative of the Taiwanese Modern Confucianism, Mou Zongsan.

Ad 5) PUBLICATIONS

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

- 3 academic articles in high impact international academic journals
- 1 annotated bibliography
- 1 academic monograph

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:

3 ACADEMIC RESEARCH ARTICLES

1. Sernelj, Téa. 2019. "Modern Confucian Objection against Communism in China—the Unique Case of Xu Fuguan". *Asian Studies*, 7(1), 99-113.

Description: In January 2019, the research project team member Assoc. Prof. Téa Sernelj has published a research paper on the Taiwanese philosopher Xu Fuguan in

the renowned academic journal *Asian Studies* (impact factor SJR 0,2). Her article “*Modern Confucian Objection against Communism in China—the Unique Case of Xu Fuguan*” investigates the political views of Xu Fuguan, who belongs to the most prominent representatives of the so-called second generation of Modern Confucianism. It reveals his unique position within this intellectual movement. Even though all other adherents of Modern Confucianism were focused upon metaphysics and ontology rather than political theory, Xu believed that these lines of thought could not contribute enough to solving the various urgent social and political problems of modern China. In this regard, the article focuses upon a critical analysis of Xu’s critique of the Chinese Communist Party. The author presents and evaluates his critique mainly with regard to his search for a resolution of the problematic and chaotic political and social situation of China during the first half of the 20th century. In conclusion, the author provides a critical evaluation of Xu’s social democratic thought and particularly of his attitude towards the Chinese Communist Party.

The article is written in English.

2. Rošker, Jana S. (2019). “Modernization of Confucian Ontology in Taiwan and Mainland China”. *Asian Philosophy*, 29(2), 1-17.

Description: In May 2019, the project director Jana S. Rošker has published an article entitled Modernization of Confucian Ontology in Taiwan and Mainland China in the prestigious philosophical journal *Asian Philosophy*. The article compares three models of modernized Confucian ontology. The philosophers under debate belong to the most important, well-known and influential theoreticians in modern Taiwan and mainland China respectively. Through a contrastive analysis, the paper aims to critically introduce three alternative models of ontology, which have been developed from the Chinese philosophical tradition by the most well-known Taiwanese philosopher Mou Zongsan and by two most influential mainland Chinese theoreticians, Li Zehou and Chen Lai respectively. In this paper, the author has analyzed and critically introduced Li Zehou’s and Chen Lai’s respective critiques of Mou Zongsan’s basic assumptions that have been reflected in his methodological paradigms, while also exposing some major differences within their own lines of thought. The article is written in English language.

3. Rošker, Jana S. 2019. “Philosophy in Taiwan: the Continuation of Tradition and the Creation of New Theoretical Paradigms” *Asian Studies*, 7(2), 247-268.

Description: In June 2019, the research project director Jana S. Rošker has published a research paper on Taiwanese philosophy in the academic journal *Asian Studies* (impact factor SJR 0,21). The article is written in Slovene language and its original title is: "Filozofija na Tajvanu: nadaljevanje tradicije ali ustvarjanje novih teoretskih paradigem?" The paper describes the most important Taiwanese philosophers, who are playing a rather prominent role in the context of preserving the Chinese ideational tradition, even though their significance in this context is still widely unknown. The present article is thus focused upon the critical introduction of their work, and its positioning into the context of the political, economic and intellectual conditions of the second half of the 20th century. The role of the Taiwanese philosophy was especially important precisely in the period which began in 1949 and lasted until the end of the century. In these five decades, the philosophical production on the mainland was mostly dominated by censorship, and the prevailing regulations of the Communist Party's policies mainly demanded that researchers working in philosophy stayed in the field of the sinization of Marxism, whereby investigating the Chinese intellectual tradition was not so much in favour. The article clearly exposes the reasons for and significance of the preservation of continued research into Chinese ideational history in Taiwan, and points out that without this extraordinarily constructive role of the Taiwanese philosophers, these studies would have suffered immense damage. The author also shows that the work carried out by the Taiwanese philosophers was not merely important in respect of preserving the continuation of Chinese philosophical research, but also because they have at the same time created numerous innovative methodological and theoretical concepts that have fundamentally enriched the recent history of investigating and developing Chinese philosophy. In this regard, the author exposes and critically analyses some of the central philosophical concepts of Mou Zongsan, who is among the most important representatives of modern Taiwanese philosophy.

1 ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kang, Byoung Yoong (2019). *Taiwanese Philosophy in Korea: A comprehensive list of research papers on Taiwanese philosophy published in Korea between 1994 and 2018*. Ljubljana: Scientific Press, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

In June 2019, the research project team member Kang Byoung Yoong has published an independent booklet entitled *Taiwanese Philosophy in Korea: A comprehensive list of research papers on Taiwanese philosophy published in Korea between 1994 and 2018*. The book (ISBN 978-961-06-0213-2, CIP - 1(529)(082)) was published

and printed by the Scientific Press of the Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana University.

Description: This booklet comprises a comprehensive list of research papers on Taiwanese philosophy published in Korea between 1994 and 2018. The research material, which is rich and comprehensive, represents a valuable collection of material that could be accessed for this research topic in South Korea. It was mainly collected by means of a comprehensive review and survey of several of the most important Korean databases that are available for researchers at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. The present research report will enhance and facilitate further Slovenian and international investigations on the impact of Taiwanese philosophy on the wider East Asian area.

1 ACADEMIC MONOGRAPH - ANTHOLOGY

Rošker, Jana S. 2019. (ed). Jana S. Rošker (editor). 2019. *Philosophy in Taiwan – Characteristics, Function and Importance*. Ljubljana: Znanstvena založba

In June 2019, the research project director Jana S. Rošker (chief editor) and the project team member Jasna Bavec (technical editor) have published a book on Taiwanese philosophy. The book is written in Slovene language and its original title is: “*Filozofija na Tajvanu: značilnosti, vloga in pomen*”.

Description: The present book is related to an unusual chapter of Chinese intellectual history. It is a collection of Slovene translations of modern philosophy, which was originally written in Chinese, and mainly deals with traditional Chinese thought. Yet this philosophy did not originate in mainland China, and thus in some supposedly logical “centre” of Chinese culture, but on its alleged “periphery”, namely on the beautiful island of Taiwan. The main reason for compiling this book is to show to Slovenian readers that Taiwanese philosophers have played an important role in the development of modern Chinese philosophy, and especially in the second half of the 20th century.

The editor, Jana S. Rošker, has also authored two contributions in this volume, namely the Introduction (p. 7-13), and chapter 2 entitled The Significance of Modern and Contemporary Taiwanese Philosophy for the Preservation of the Chinese Ideational Tradition (p. 27-44). Same as the rest of the book, these two contributions were also published in Slovene language.

In Ljubljana, July 9th, 2019

Project director: Jana S. Rošker