

Teaching Program for History, Culture, and Languages of Taiwan

Summer term 2020

Due to the Corona crisis, the Teaching Program for History, Culture, and Languages of Taiwan could not proceed with its lecture series for the summer term 2020 as planned.

Professor Dr. Lin Hsin-yi 林欣宜, a Taiwan historian from National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, was invited to Bochum to teach an intensive course on the social and political history of Taiwan for the Teaching Program for History Culture and Languages of Taiwan. Yet the current travel restrictions due to the CoVid19 pandemic prevented her from doing so.

Instead, Professor Lin kindly consented to lecture online on the early twentieth century history of Taiwan.

June 10, 2020 The beginning of the Japanese rule and the modernization of Taiwan

June 17, 2020 Local elite/class and their struggle under the Japanese rule

June 24, 2020 Taiwan in and out of the “Japanese Empire”

Feedback of the students on Professor Lin Hsin-yi's lectures

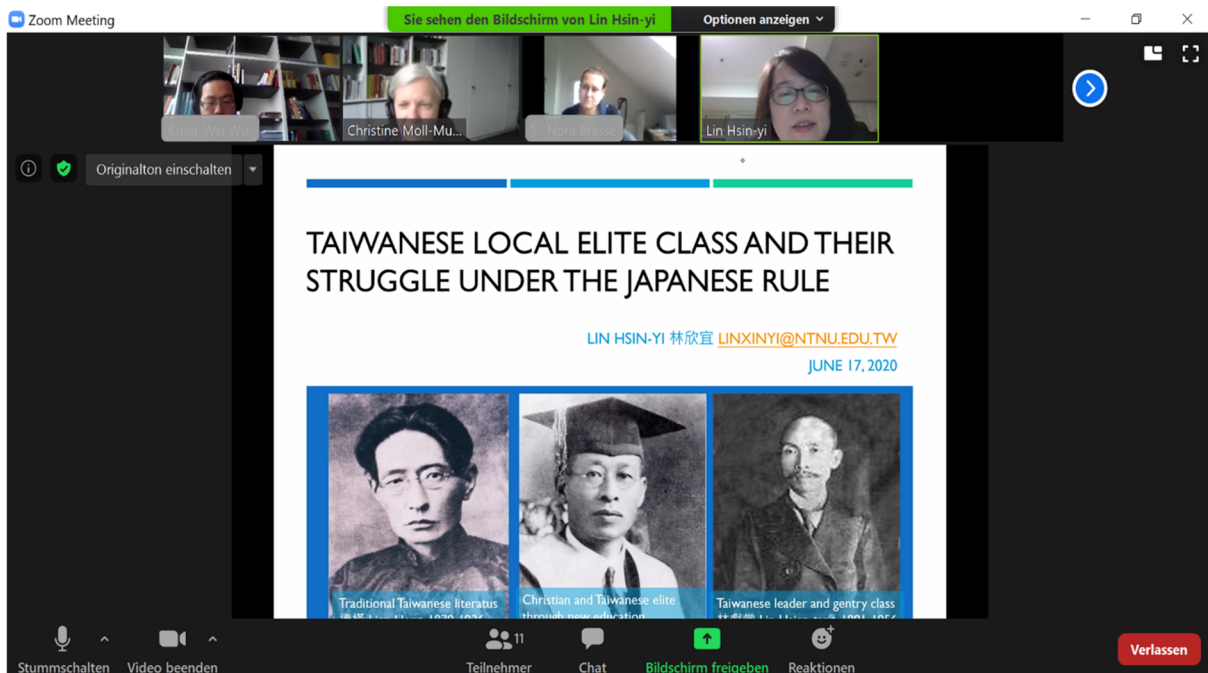
“In her first lecture, Professor Lin introduced us to the Davidson collection. Davidson was an American who was present in Taiwan during the establishment of the ephemeral 12-days Taiwan Republic in 1895 and the resulting meaning for China, the past and present. Davidson had also been present and involved in the first stages of Japan's rule over Taiwan from 1895 until about 1931, thus being an interesting contemporary witness to study Taiwan's history.

I thought it was fascinating when Professor Lin explained how she herself was involved in the Davidson collection as it made history more present and more relatable.”

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main window displays a presentation slide with the title "THE BEGINNING OF THE JAPANESE RULE AND THE MODERNIZATION OF TAIWAN" and the presenter's name "LIN HSIN-YI 林欣宜 LINXINYI@NTNU". Below the title is a historical illustration of a group of people in traditional Chinese attire, with red circles highlighting specific figures. The Zoom interface includes a top bar with "Originalton einschalten" and "Optionen anzeigen", a bottom bar with "Stummschalten", "Video beenden", "Teilnehmer", "Chat", "Bildschirm freigeben", "Reaktionen", and "Verlassen". Three video thumbnails are visible on the right side, showing participants Christine Moll-Murata, a man, and Lin Hsin-yi.

“The second lecture dealt with the establishment of the Japanese education system in Taiwan. Professor Lin chose three examples of Taiwanese personalities to show the Japanese influence in Taiwan. She told us about the lives of the traditional Taiwanese literatus Lian Heng 連橫 (1878-1936), the Christian and Japanese educated Lim Bo-sheng 林茂生 (1887-1947) and Lin Hsien-tang 林獻堂 (1881-1956) as a representative of the Taiwanese gentry.

I thought especially the life of Lim Bo-sheng 林茂生 was really interesting as his stand towards the Japanese rulership changed during his lifetime, showing the problems of a foreign rulership and the wish to form one’s own identity.”



“In her third lecture, Professor Lin discussed the numbers and routes of migrations within the Japanese empire. It should be noted that not many Taiwanese left Taiwan. The most interesting aspect of the lecture for me was the Taiwanese's wartime experience of WWII, the development from building bunkers and evacuation to the countryside, total mobilization and joining the war as soldiers for Japan. Taiwanese joined the war as soldiers for different reasons: e.g., they were given rights in exchange for becoming soldiers and they did not want to join the youth corps. At the end of the lecture we briefly talked about the collapse of Taiwan as a Japanese colony and how the movement to form a Taiwanese identity evolved.

The lesson was highly interesting because it gave us an idea of how the war really changed the view on being a colony and the wish for independence and a national identity.”

TAIWAN IN AND OUT OF THE “JAPANESE EMPIRE”

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TO CONCLUDE

- Wartime experience of Taiwanese: total mobilization, evacuation, fortification construction; Taiwan was lucky not to have become battlefield and therefore massive casualties were avoided
- Incorporation of Taiwan into pre-war Japanese **multi-national** empire but afterwards Taiwan was positioned as a part of the Chinese nationalist state
- Total mobilization and total assimilation in exchange for colonial subjects' war service → appeals of right-earning movements since 1920s were given → not permitted by the colonial subjects → **Collapse of colony in 1944** because colonial differences all ended

“Japan’s rule in Taiwan impressed me a lot because it Japan’s rule was different from the Dutch and the Spanish. Japan brought the modernization to Taiwan and built up Taiwan’s infrastructure. What’s more, the Taiwanese people’s tax burden was even less than that of the Japanese. This is all surprising to me. For Taiwan, Japan’s rule was more friendly than in other colonial empires.”

“I was impressed and surprised that during the colonial period, Taiwanese paid less tax than Japanese, as this doesn't fit the stereotypical image of an invader exploiting a colony. Also the change of attitude of Lim Bo-seng is memorable to me. Before the 1920s he supported the new type of culture initiated by the Japanese, and also held critical attitudes toward the discriminatory institutions of colonial rule, but by the 1920s, he criticized the Government-General for making the educational policy more culturally assimilatory in exchange for the

equalization of educational institutions. I think this shows to some extent the growth of Taiwanese national consciousness.”

“I very much appreciated Professor Lin's special participation in this semester, since she did not only bring changes and surprises to the seminar via Zoom, but also provided perspectives from Taiwanese scholars. As a Taiwanese I did study history in high school, but never in such interesting details and perspectives. It was a brand new and memorable experience for me. In the lecture on June 10, Professor Lin shared her interesting experiences in Canada, working on the Davidson Collection while writing her book. It was enlightening for me to see how scholars work on research and search for resources. In addition, I like how Professor Lin focused on individuals during the Japanese colonial time in Taiwan to show us how people from different classes or different backgrounds lived and thought at the time. What impressed me the most was how detailed (with lots of pictures, documents and statistics from that period) and in a lot of ways delicate, pretty and well-structured Professor Lin's ppt were. It's obvious how much work she has invested in these lectures. All in all, I would like to thank her for her contribution to this seminar. I had a much more interesting and enlightening experience than I had expected.”