Taiwan Studies Fellowships and Research Grants
Established for Ph.D Program in Taiwan Studies at UCSB

A three-year agreement between the Cultural Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles (TECOLA), and the UC Regents benefiting the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies (EALCS) at the University of California, Santa Barbara provides for ongoing support of the Center for Taiwan Studies (CTS) at UC Santa Barbara in the promotion and study of the people, society, history, and culture of Taiwan.

This new program will flexibly support Taiwan Studies as a specialized field in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies at UCSB for the following:

1. Graduate Fellowships and Support
   These fellowships are intended to supplement university graduate support in the recruitment of new outstanding graduate students working toward a Ph.D. with a specialization in Taiwan Literature and Cultural Studies in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies at UCSB. Candidates will be considered within the application process for admission to the Ph.D. program and for currently enrolled graduate students with an outstanding academic record; no separate application is necessary.

2. Taiwan Studies Undergraduate Awards
   This award is targeted for students in Humanities and Social Sciences at UCSB with research interests and course work related to Taiwan Studies. Undergraduate Awards will be used to encourage students to pursue a senior project for research in Taiwan related course work—be it literature, history, or cultural studies. Requirements include: a proposal describing a research topic, issues to be explored, methodology, and the significance of expected research outcome.

3. Taiwan Studies Visiting Lectureships
   Specialists in the field are welcomed to UCSB for research and teaching for a period of one to three quarters with round-trip airfare reimbursed and a competitive stipend provided, depending on the applicant’s academic status and current salary at the home institution in relation to the UC teaching load and salary scale. Application should indicate the anticipated visiting period and include a C.V., current employment document, and a description of teaching experience and the course(s) to teach.

4. Postdoctoral Research Fellowships
   Postdoctoral researchers and advanced Ph.D. students will be considered to continue their research projects related to Taiwan Studies at UCSB for a period of one to three quarters. Round-trip airfare will be reimbursed and a stipend will be provided, depending on the applicant’s current academic status and financial need. Application should include: a C.V., a description of research plans and teaching experience, and the intended duration of stay.

For inquiry and application, please contact the CTS at UCSB, phone: (805) 893-5101, or email: doehner@eastasian.ucsb.edu.
CTS Co-sponsored Taiwan-Related Lectures at UCSB
with East Asia Center and Center for Cold War Studies

CTS與東亞研究中心及冷戰研究中心
聯合舉辦有關台灣研究的學術座談：

David Ambaras Explores
“Sudden Masses’ and ‘Social Losers’:
Everyday Tensions and Settler Anxieties
in Colonial Taiwan”

Studies of Japanese colonialism have only recently begun to explore the everyday experiences of Japanese settlers and sojourners and their interactions with indigenous populations in Taiwan, Korea, or Manchuria. David R. Ambaras (North Carolina State University), specialist in Japanese urban social and cultural history and the history of imperialism, visited UCSB in March at the invitation of the East Asian Cultures Research Focus Group, the East Asia Center, the EALCS, and the CTS, precisely to explore this topic.

In his talk, “‘Sudden Masses’ and ‘Social Losers’: Everyday Tensions and Settler Anxieties in Colonial Taiwan,” using the colonial press and police and social work sources to examine various forms of violence against Japanese settlers and the management of class and ethnicity in colonial Taiwan during the early twentieth century, Ambaras analyzed the vulnerability and anxiety that accompanied the Japanese movement into colonial spaces, the character and limits of colonial governmentality, and the nature of everyday forms of accommodation and resistance among colonial subjects.

Author of Bad Youth: Juvenile Delinquency and the Politics of Everyday Life in Modern Japan (University of California Press, 2006), Ambaras is currently working on a book-length project, “Down and Out from Taipei to Dairen: Policing Class, Race, and Space in the Japanese Colonies.”

Steve Chan Holds Workshop with
CTS and EAC
China, the U.S., and the Power-Transition Theory

Invited by the East Asia Center and co-sponsored by CTS, Steve Chan (Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder) discussed the power-transition theory that has been often applied to China’s recent rise and pointed to the danger that this development augurs for a Sino-American clash. He focused on the important historical, theoretical, and analytic issues that render such application (and the reasoning behind it) unwarranted and even dangerous.

Chan’s publications include fourteen books and more than one hundred articles and chapters, focusing on power-transition, democratic peace, economic statecraft, and comparative political cultures.
In response to Taiwanese nationalism and the curiosity that only forbidden archives can generate, histories of Japanese colonialism in Taiwan (1895–1945) have flourished since the lifting of martial law on the island in the 1980s. As participants and objects-of-inquiry in this scholarly renaissance, Taiwan’s indigenous peoples have been portrayed as the most unfortunate victims of Japanese aggression, as pristine avatars of Taiwanese cultural diversity, and as symbols of the island’s savage condition prior to Chinese immigration. Through the eyes of an aborigine-language interpreter known to history as “Kondō the Barbarian,” Paul D. Barclay (Lafayette College) traces a history of Japanese-Taiwan aborigine relations in his talk on campus, “Tracking the Tracker: Kondō ‘The Barbarian’ Katsusaburō, Imperial Japan and the Indigenous Peoples of Taiwan, 1873–1930.”

Kondō’s position in the colonial order suggests that the infamous 1930 Wushe Rebellion was the culmination of numerous bureaucratic bungles. From his perspective, the bloody massacre was both predictable and preventable. Taking the warnings of Japanese subalterns seriously, he argues that the chasm between field-grade functionaries and leading officials exemplifies structurally conditioned miscommunication between policy-makers in national capitals and the “men-on-the-spot” at the peripheries of territorially ambitious states. Kondō’s story is thus a cautionary tale for the visionaries who believe the peoples of the world can be managed from a central apex of power and knowledge.

Dr. Barclay’s talk on campus was co-sponsored by CTS, EAC, and the Departments of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, History, and Anthropology. Barclay is Associate Professor of History at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, a recipient of a 2007–2008 National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, and author of numerous articles about Japanese imperial rule in Taiwan; he is currently completing a book-length project on the Qing-Meiji transition in that colony.
Taiwan Studies in Global Perspectives—
2007 UCSB International Conference

Participants from Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Japan, Taiwan, and United States

Panels included Globalization and Taiwan Studies; Sociopolitical Issues and Identity; History and Culture; Aboriginal Culture, Cinema, Feminism, Literary History, and Language; Literature and Culture

Cited as one of the leading centers for Taiwan studies in North America (“Taiwan Studies Goes Global,” Steven Crook, Taiwan Review, Vol. 57 No.10, Oct. 1, 2007), the CTS is recognized for its strong focus on literature and translation. Crook writes “Twenty years ago academics treated Taiwan as part of China; now they are seeing that its unique history and hybrid culture are a new field of study.”

Coincidentally, concurrent to the publication of Crook’s article, the CTS was gearing up to its 2007 UCSB International Conference, “Taiwan Studies in Global Perspectives.”

In recognition of how, during the past decade, Taiwan studies has become a rising field of academic specialization, not only in Taiwan, but worldwide, in the many institutions of higher education and research institutes with Taiwan-related programs, as well as in research units and scholarly associations organized to promote this valuable undertaking.

In response to this new trend, the University of California at Santa Barbara launched the biannual journal, Taiwan Literature: English Translation Series, in 1996 (which has now published twenty issues to date), and established the Center for Taiwan Studies in 2003, annually convening an international conference on Taiwan’s literature, history, and culture.

In its continued effort to promote Taiwan studies, the “Taiwan Studies in Global Perspectives” was convened in October 2007 with the objective to:

(1) Review the current status of Taiwan studies worldwide and exchange views among international scholars about the development and prospects of learning in this field;
(2) In the context of globalization and with international perspectives, discuss the issues involved in the promotion of the study of Taiwan and its culture, history, and society to enhance the understanding of Taiwan;

(3) Strengthen the academic interaction and collaboration between the Center for Taiwan Studies at UCSB and international institutions of Taiwan studies and the academia in Taiwan.

International scholars of Taiwan literature and their recommended graduate students, including those from Australia, Taiwan, Japan, Great Britain, France, Poland, Italy, Canada, and the United States, presented papers exploring their particular research interests in any topic related to Taiwan literature, history, society, and culture. Student papers benefited from the comments made by mentoring scholars to enhance their perspectives on Taiwan studies in the context of a continuing trend toward globalization. The passion these scholars feel toward their chosen field charged the event with a very positive energy, shared by all. The proceedings of this conference will be published in 2008.

CTS SUPPORT OF STUDENT ENRICHMENT—
Cultural Enrichment and Learning Opportunity: Student Reports on Summer Exploration of Taiwan

I decided, rather spur-of-the-moment, to visit Taiwan this past summer when our professor presented the opportunity in class and a classmate begged me to go. I agreed, but never considered the profound effect it would have on me—I was simply happy to have summer plans! Not knowing what to expect, it was only when I arrived that I finally realized what an amazing opportunity I had been given.

Taiwan boasts of beautiful scenery, amazing food, kind people, and extremely hot weather! The cities are diverse, fusing the ancient with the modern, and my classmates and I were privileged to see a great many sights through our university’s program. When we were not practicing Mandarin in our intensive language classes, we were out seeing the sights, smelling the aromas, and trying out our awkward language skills. I was pleased to find people eager to help and jubilant when we were mutually intelligible. Maybe Mandarin is not so difficult after all!

Every day brought me in contact with the richness of the Taiwanese culture, and I, taking advantage of my friendship, was able to travel southwards as well.

Taiwan struck me for its beauty, progressiveness, and most profoundly, its people. Everyone was kind, generous in every capacity, and helpful in repeating sentences slowly to my untrained ear. I am grateful for the patience they showed that helped me to progress quickly throughout my one-month stay. The confidence people demonstrated in my ability reassured me, and everyone—from my professors to people I met on the street—showed such an eagerness to introduce me to the diversities of Taiwanese culture and contribute to my minimal vocabulary. What was a spontaneous decision resulted in the high point of my summer and one of my most enriching and fulfilling trips. Taiwan—a country that throbs with energy and vitality—is definitely worth a visit.

Hannah Dunham, UCSB
Learn more about the Center for Taiwan Studies at http://www.eastasian.ucsb.edu/projects/taiwancenter/