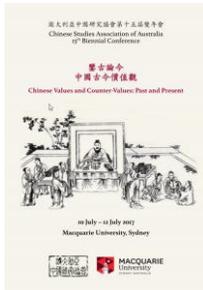


Report on Chinese Studies Association of Australia 15th Biennial Conference

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The Chinese Studies Association of Australia's (CSAA) 15th Biennial Conference was held from Monday 10 July to Wednesday 12 July, 2017 at Macquarie University, Sydney. The theme of the conference was "Chinese values and counter-values: past and present". Over 100 abstracts were submitted from over 15 countries and over 150 delegates attended this 3 day conference.



On the first day I attended the postgraduate workshop along with my colleague Di Pin Ouyang. In the two sessions of the workshop, nine postgraduates presented their research papers on the cross-disciplinary topics of "Implementing Minority Language Policy at the local level in China: Patterns and problems" by Alexandra Grey, Macquarie University; "Future development of Australian Chinese media in the new media age" by Yanying Chen, The University of Sydney; "Chen Lai's New Confucianism and contemporary China" by Shi Wei, La Trobe University; "The young and the old: Shen Congwen's regional characters as a vehicle for social criticism" by Mathew Jon Phillips, The University of New South Wales; "World cities, translocality and gender in financial service economies: Women professionals and changing Chinese lives in China, Hong Kong and Australia" by Dr. Vivien Wai Wan Chan, University of Technology Sydney; "China's policy-making for overseas investment: A Case Study on Australia" by Haoyue Zu, UNSW Canberra; "Grant, investment, and cooperation – the trilogy of foreign aid in China since the 1950s" by Hui Guo, The University of Sydney; "Defining China's maritime security: a changing concept" by Edward Sing Yue Chan, The University of Sydney; "The generating mechanism of Chinese online protest from the perspective of the political opportunity structure" by Wenze Lu, UNSW Canberra.

Attending the postgraduate workshop provided me with an opportunity to understand what the research students' needs and their fields of interest are. This will help us to further develop the Chinese collection in order to provide support to our research students. Among the nine papers, I was especially impressed by the paper presented by Shi Wei, a PhD candidate in the China Studies Research Centre of La Trobe University. From her presentation I became aware of Chen Lai, a leading New Confucian philosopher whose writings have become immensely influential among Chinese academic and political elites in recent years. His ideas have also recently gained considerable currency in the upper echelons of the CCP. Chen Lai was also addressed by Professor John Makeham, Chair and Director of the China Studies Research Centre at La Trobe University, in his keynote lecture of "Universal Values and its Discontents in Contemporary China" held on Tuesday 11 July. I also found the research focusing on

online politics and cyber protest in China and new Australian-Chinese communication media were interesting in this workshop.

The highlight of the second day I thought was the panel discussion on the theme of “Early Western Sinology & Missionaries”. There were two presenters in this panel. One was Gabriele Tola, Postdoctoral Researcher, Kansai University. Gabriele introduced the translation work “Translator’s Vade-mecum” by John Fryer and the role the work played in the transmission of terms from earlier sources and in connecting contemporary and preceding sources. John Fryer was one of the most important foreign translators in China after the two Opium wars. The work that is the final result of his translation activity at the Jiangnan Arsenal is The Translator’s Vade-mecum, published in 1888. Another presenter was Yating Yu of Kansai University. She discussed the inheritance and evolution of the translation of Bible terms into Chinese. She gave examples of the translated terms in the three works “Tian zhu jiang sheng yan xing ji lue”, “Sheng jing zhi jie” and “Gu xin sheng jing. After this panel talk, I had an opportunity to talk to the two presenters and introduced the Library’s London Missionary Society Collection which I felt might be of interest to them and welcomed their attendance at my colleague Di Pin’s presentation the next day.

The highlight of the final day, Wednesday 12 July, was Di’s presentation of “**How Librarians can help widen access to China-related resources**”. This presentation attracted approximately 30 attendees. Di demonstrated different methods to discover and access library and archival materials, data, and e-resources beyond the library catalogue. She observed that we can see a strong increasing interest in accessing the Library’s collections off site.



I would like to thank the Library, Alex Philp and Di Pin for providing me with the great opportunity of attending the conference. This was a valuable experience for me to be able to learn, exchange and network with scholars, postgraduate students and other librarians, as well as engaging and interacting with them both between and after meetings.