



2023 Annual Conference of MU Chinese Studies

New Developments in Chinese Studies:

Area Studies, Diplomacy and International Relations

Saturday 28 October 2023

Venue: Council Room, Riverstown House, Maynooth University South Campus

Schedule

09:00-09:10 Opening of the Conference

Prof. Valerie Heffernan, Head of the Maynooth University School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

09:10-11:05 Session One

09:10-09:40 Keynote Presentation: The Qing economy according to 18th century British political economists

Prof. Nathan Hill, Trinity College Dublin

09:40-09:50 Q&A

09:50-10:10 The evolution of the Sino-European relationship: A view from global Cold War (Online)

Prof Yu Yao, East China Normal University

10:10-10:30 China's "People's Diplomacy" towards France during the 1950-60s (Online)

Dr. Jiayi Gao, East China Normal University

10:30-10:50 Railway and the Sino-Lao relations (Online)

Dr. Bo Qin, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China

10:50-11:05 Q&A

11:05-11:20 Tea Break

11:20-12:35 Session Two

11:20-11:40 Chinese nationalism in late Qing times: How to (not) change a multi-ethnic empire into a homogenous nation-state

Dr. Julia C. Schneider, University College Cork

11:40-12:00 Chinese images and reception of Irish literature in 1930s

Prof. Chengjian Li, Southwest Jiaotong University

12:00-12:20 The comparison of the political philosophy between Guo Moruo and John Millington Synge

Zhe Wang, University of Limerick

12:20-12:35 Q&A

12:35-13:25 Lunch Break (Pugin Hall)

13:25-15:00 Session Three

13:25-13:45 Revisiting new developments in state-business relations in China

Dr. Constantin Holzer, University College Cork

13:45-14:05 The localization of feminism in China and the tension of Confucianism modernity

Dr. Min Wu, Sichuan University

14:05-14:25 Cultural personality of mountainous residents in China

Prof. Jishi Wang, Huanggang Normal University

14:25-14:45 Folk culture in mountain areas of China

Prof. Hui Xia, Huanggang Normal University

14:45-15:00 Q&A

15:00-15:20 Tea Break

15:20-16:35 Session Four

15:20-15:40 What's next for Asian languages in Ireland's foreign language education strategy?

Dr. Chang Zhang, Post Primary Languages Ireland

15:40-16:00 How the Gyalrongs eat tsampa: An linguistic account and its implications

Dr. Yunfan Lai, Trinity College Dublin

16:00-16:20 Diversity of family structures in the Sichuan ethnic corridor: a glimpse from linguistic evidence

Dr. Shuya Zhang, Trinity College Dublin

16:20-16:35 Q&A

16:35 -18:30 Dinner (The Roost, Maynooth Main Street)

Notes on contributors:

Jiayi Gao is an Associate Professor in the History Department at East China Normal University, Shanghai. Her primary research area is Cold War history, with a specific focus on the history of Sino-French relations and the First Indochina War. She has published papers in prestigious journals, including *World History*, *The China Review*, and *CPC History Studies*, among others. Notably, her article, "Pathfinder across Camps: The Role of French Parliament Members in the Establishment of Sino-French Diplomatic Relations" (*World History*, Issue 5, 2021), was recognized as one of the top ten papers by the Shanghai Federation of Social Science Associations in 2022.

Nathan Hill is a Professor and Director of the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies. He earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2009 and previously taught Tibetan and historical linguistics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Professor Hill has published on Old Tibetan descriptive linguistics, Tibetan corpus linguistics, Tibeto-Burman reconstruction and comparative linguistics, the history of Chinese, and the typology of evidential systems. He has led research projects funded by the European Research Council, the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council, and the British Academy. His books include *The Historical Phonology of Tibetan, Burmese, and Chinese* (2019, Cambridge), *A Lexicon of Tibetan Verb Stems as Reported by the Grammatical Tradition* (2010, Bavarian Academy of Sciences), and *Old Tibetan Inscriptions*, co-authored with Kazushi Iwao (2009, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies). His edited books include *Evidential Systems of Tibetan Languages*, with Lauren Gawne (2017, De Gruyter Mouton).

Constantin Holzer graduated with a PhD in Economics from Renmin University of China before starting his career in UCC as Lecturer in Chinese Business. His research focuses on China's political economy, entrepreneurship and innovation cooperation between China and the EU as well as the dynamics of state-society relations in China under its economic reform process. Before his appointment at UCC he worked as a trainee in the section 'Science, Technology and Environment' at the European Union Delegation in Beijing and was awarded the Marietta-Blau Research Fellowship from the Austrian Ministry of Science, Research and Economy for his research on Chinese entrepreneurship and business ethics. He currently works on a monograph on state-business relations in China.

Yunfan Lai, currently holding an SFI-IRC Pathway grant at Trinity College Dublin, has established himself as a dedicated linguist specialising in Sino-Tibetan languages, with a specific focus on Gyalrongic languages. Furthermore, he has made contributions to Sinitic linguistics, with a focus on Min, and is beginning his research on Kra-Dai. His academic interests span various aspects of linguistics, encompassing field linguistics, descriptive linguistics, historical linguistics, morphology, and computational linguistics. Throughout his career, Lai has contributed to the field through the publication of more than thirty articles on various subjects in respected international journals, including *Diachronica*, *Linguistic*

Typology, and *Folia Linguistica*. He is also the recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Young Scholar Award from the Li Fang-Kuei Society.

Chengjian Li is a Professor of English literature in the school of Foreign Languages , South-west Jiaotong University, China. Her main academic interests are Irish literature, Sino-Irish literary Relationship, Contemporary British poetry. Her recent publications include *Contemporary Irish Drama* (Sichuan People's Press, 2016) and *Li Po Embracing Moon: On the Chinese Image in Denis Johnston's play The Moon in the Yellow River* (*Foreign Literature Studies*, No. 1, 2022)

Bo Qin is an Associate Professor of Sociology in the School of Foreign Languages, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. He also serves as the director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies at UESTC. He completed his postdoc research and BA from China, obtained his PhD & M.Phil from Ireland, and received his MPH from Thailand. His main areas of interest are cultural anthropology and sociology, Chinese modern history, public health, southeast asian studies. He has a particular interest in the relations between China and ASEAN countries & island nations in the south pacific.

Julia C. Schneider is a Lecturer for Chinese history at the Department of Asian Studies at University College Cork. Before that, she was Assistant Professor at the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Göttingen. Julia holds a Dr. phil. in Chinese Studies from the Universities of Göttingen and Ghent (2013, summa cum laude), and an Master degree in Classical Sinology from Heidelberg University. Her book *Nation and Ethnicity* (Brill 2017) won the Foundation Council Award of the University of Göttingen. Julia has published articles and chapters on Chinese intellectual history, nationalist historiography, and colonialism, on non-Chinese ethnicities, and on Jurchen and Manchu studies in numerous journals and books.

Jishi Wang is a Professor and the director of Red Culture Research Center of Dabie Mountain at Huanggang Normal University, vice president of Hubei Dabie Mountain Spirit Research Association, vice president of Dabie Mountain Rural Revitalization Research Institute, and a assessment expert of the National Philosophy and Social Science Foundation of China. He is mainly engaged in the research of Dabie Mountain history, revolutionary history and folk culture of Dabie Mountain. He has authored and edited many works such as *History of Huangma Uprising*, *Folk Culture and Society*, *Compendium of Modern History of East Hubei*, *Evaluation of East Hubei Cultural Celebrities*, etc. He has published more than 100 journal papers in total.

Zhe Wang is a doctoral student of English language and literature in Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland. His doctoral thesis is around the comparison between the dramatic movement in Irish literary revival and the national drama movement in China. He has a particular interest in the relations of Guo Moruo and John Millington Synge.

Min Wu holds the position of associate professor at the Marxism School of Sichuan University, and she actively contributes to the Chinese Studies Center as well. Her research predominantly revolves around feminist theory, ethics, and pedagogy. Notably, she is the architect and

instructor of the nationally award-winning course titled "Feminine Study: Exploring the Challenges Faced by the Female Spirit in the Modern World."

Hui Xia is a Professor and Deputy Dean of the School of Marxism at Huanggang Normal University. She also serves as the Deputy Director of the Red Culture Research Center of Dabie Mountain, a prominent research institution in humanities and social sciences in Hubei Province. Additionally, she holds the position of Executive Director at the Hubei Dabie Mountain Spirit Research Association. Her primary research areas include Dabie Mountain History, Revolutionary History, and the Folk Culture of Dabie Mountain.

Yu Yao is a Professor of the History Department in East China Normal University, Shanghai. He is also Deputy Director of the Academy of History and Documentation of Socialism, ECNU. Yao is specialized in Sino-American history, economic cold war and diplomatic history of modern China. Among his publications are *US Intelligence Reports on China: Economy* (2007), *War and Peace in 20th Century* (2013, textbook, co-authored), and *History of Global Economic Evolution* (2013, textbook, co-authored), Now he is completing a book on US intelligence reports on China's economic activities in the third world.

Chang Zhang is an Education Officer at Post-Primary Languages Ireland, a unit of the Irish Department of Education. He works on the implementation of Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education, with a focus on new and lesser-taught languages. He is the project leader responsible for providing Continuing Professional Development, roadmapping Initial Teacher Education, and supporting state registration for teachers. Additionally, he serves as the liaison for Applied Linguistics and Asian Studies in Higher Education and contributes to the pilot of foreign language sampler modules in Irish primary schools. His primary areas of interest include psycholinguistics, language policy, and teacher education.

Shuya Zhang is a research fellow at the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, Trinity College Dublin. Her main areas of interest are modern Gyalrongic languages, Tangut, linguistic typology and linguistic anthropology. Her recent publications include *Towards a New Generalisation of the Tri-Axial Orientation System in Situ Rgyalrong* (Transactions of the Philological Society, 2023), *The history of the polyfunctional jij¹ in Tangut: How did the accusative/genitive syncretism come about?* (Studies in Language, 2023), *Rethinking the *-s suffix in Old Chinese: with new evidence from Situ Rgyalrong* (Folia Linguistica Historica, 2022).