



Department of
East Asian Languages
and Literatures

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

The Chinese Program at the George Washington University

乔治华盛顿大学 东亚语言文学系 中文部
喬治華盛頓大學 東亞語言文學系 中文部



Chinese Program Research Showcase 2025

Thursday, May 1st, 2025

12:30–3:00 PM

Rome Hall 459

12:30 PM – Reception & Poster Display

1:00 PM – Opening Remarks by Professor Immanuel Kim, EALL Dept. Chair

3:00 PM – Award ceremony

Session I

1:10 pm Eliza Cormier 曹安怡: *Linguistic Sovereignty: National Identity in Taiwan's Presidential Rhetoric* Moderator: Kyle Nguyen

Abstract: Rhetoric surrounding the political status and national identity of Taiwan has evolved significantly over the years, and this change can be observed through the language of its political leaders. Given the sensitivity of Taiwan's status, high-profile speeches by its leaders carry substantial weight, making it crucial to closely analyze their language. This study examines the lexical choices used to identify Taiwan and its people by presidents in inauguration speeches since its democratization in 1996, and the close relation this language has to the evolution and formation of Taiwan's national identity as a political issue. The results of this study show that the growth of a national identity in Taiwan has not only shifted speech language away from associating with a Chinese identity, but has also resulted in the rise of strategically ambiguous linguistic choices that have shifted the semantic connotation of these identifiers and reflects growing cross-strait tension and concern both within Taiwan and internationally.

1:30 pm Lauren Wahlmark 王语然: *Steeped in Words: The Influence of Tea Culture in Tang and Song Dynasty Poetry* Moderator: Alex Bruner 白乐仁

Abstract: This thesis examines the representation of tea in Tang and Song dynasty poetry, exploring its symbolic meanings within changing sociocultural contexts. During this period, tea evolved from a monastic and aristocratic tradition into a key element of literati life. Tang poets such as Lu Tong and Jiaoran emphasized

its meditative and ascetic qualities, while Song poets like Su Shi and Huang Tingjian depicted it as an expression of personal taste, intellectual refinement, and transcendence. Despite these differences, both traditions associated tea with moral purity and scholarly ideals. As tea culture became more commercialized in the Song, poets engaged with it through competitive tea-tasting and artistic performance. This thesis highlights how tea, as both a material and symbolic entity, reflected shifting cultural values and contributed to Chinese literature.

1:50 pm Dylan Shepard 余迪: *Evolution, Not Revolution: Echoes of Hu Jintao in Xi Jinping's Common Prosperity* Moderator: Emma Kuruppacherry

Abstract: This paper explores the evolution of China's rural development strategies through a comparative analysis of Xi Jinping's "common prosperity" demonstration zone (2021 - Present) and Hu Jintao's "Building a New Socialist Countryside" program (BNSC, 2005-2015). By examining the implementation of both schemes in Zhejiang Province, the study identifies key continuities and divergences in their objectives and methods at the county level. Through a case study of three counties — Jingning, Qingtian, and Wuyi — the paper analyzes official implementation plans for both BNSC and common prosperity, revealing significant overlap in broad goals such as reducing rural-urban inequality and enhancing public services. However, differences emerge in the specific goals pursued and the methods of implementation, reflecting evolving local needs and shifting political priorities. The paper argues that while they may differ on individual policy measures, Xi's common prosperity generally continues the convention of rural development that existed under his predecessor. Specifically, this paper finds a consistent high degree of maneuverability and flexibility in local governance across the two schemes, reflecting deeply entrenched central-local relation dynamics established during the Mao period. This conclusion differs from pervasive speculation among practitioners that Xi's common prosperity drive represents an ideational shift from post-reform convention of Chinese economic statecraft.

Break (2:10-2:20 pm)

Session II

2:20 pm Dayna Bailey 白丹娜: *A Labyrinth of Text: Navigating the Twists and Turns of Su Hui's "Map of the Armillary Sphere"* Moderator: Xinran Wang 王馨冉

Abstract: Su Hui's (蘇蕙) palindrome poem "Map of the Armillary Sphere" (璇璣圖), dated as early as the fifth century, takes the form of a twenty-nine-by-twenty-nine character square grid of classical Chinese poetry with a complex structure divided into segments and organized by color that allows for innumerable readings horizontally, vertically, or diagonally in various directions. The palindrome, which contains an innumerable number of poems, is not only a work of literature but also a work of visual art with a uniquely formatted presentation that is inextricably linked to the reading process of the text it portrays.

As an art form, visual literature has appeared in nearly every culture and language throughout history. Belonging to the broader category of constrained literature - a genre which includes calligrams, palindromes, ergodic literature (pieces that require a reader to expend effort beyond that of reading words in a linear manner), and various other works whose stylistic devices impose atypical compositional rules - these works surpass traditional expectations by incorporating elements of both literary and visual artwork into a single piece.

In this paper I will present an analysis of the content and layout of Su Hui's "Map of the Armillary Sphere," addressing the importance of spatial, compositional, and stylistic elements and the intentionality behind the poem's construction in its overall interpretation. I will also address the translation process of the palindrome, touching upon the challenges and impossibilities of rendering such a labyrinthine ergodic work that, by design,

plays with the idea of the infinite, relying heavily upon the reader's individual choices to create a unique, non-linear reading experience out of the countless possible methods of traversing the piece.

2:40 pm Ding Ziwei 丁紫薇: *Poetry of Quanzhen Daoist Yu Daoxian*

Moderator: Ziyuan Zhang

Abstract: This paper focuses on the Quanzhen poet Yu Daoxian (于道顯, 1169 - 1233) and his poems from the collection *Lifeng Laoren Ji* (離峰老人集, *Collection of Old Man Lifeng*), which was preserved in the Daoist Canon during the Ming dynasty. The paper explores Yu Daoxian's life to provide insights into his own cultivation experiences and others' commentaries on him. Moreover, through translation and textual analysis, this paper categorizes Yu's poetry into three categories: didactic, nature, and introspective poems. It shows that Yu Daoxian composed Quanzhen poetry to transmit Quanzhen teachings and cultivation methods, inspire Quanzhen conversion, and expand and consolidate Quanzhen communities. It reveals how he adapted different rhetorical strategies, including didactic messages, allusions to classical Daoist and Buddhist texts, and poetic expressions of inner cultivation and transcendence, to address the concerns and aspirations of diverse audiences and to articulate the Quanzhen worldview. It argues that Yu Daoxian's poetry functions as both literary expression and religious practice. Furthermore, his poetry offers valuable material that enriches our understanding of Quanzhen Daoism's cultural and spiritual landscape in the Jin dynasty from the personal perspective of the poet.

About the Presenters

Eliza Cormier 曹安怡

Eliza Cormier is completing her Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language and Literature and Political Science at George Washington University. Her academic interests focus on cross-strait relations, U.S.-China relations, and domestic politics in Taiwan. During her time at GW, Eliza interned with the Democratic Progressive Party while studying abroad in Taipei, and later with the Taiwan Coordination Office at the U.S. Department of State. She has enjoyed combining research and language skills to explore international affairs and political communication. After graduation, Eliza plans to pursue research and policy work related to U.S.-cross-strait relations.

Lauren Wahlmark 王语然

Lauren Wahlmark is completing her Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Literature and Language with a minor in Art History. Her academic interests include Chinese poetry, mid to late 20th-century art, and all things linguistics. During her time at GW, Lauren participated in hosting a radio show with WRGW and joined the Collegiate Chinese Honor Society. She has truly enjoyed learning so much about her passions and meeting such wonderful people along the way.

Dylan Shepard 余迪

Dylan Shepard is graduating with a bachelor of arts in Asian Studies and Chinese Language & Literature. Since freshman year he has been an active member and vociferous champion of the China Affairs Forum at GW where he has led Chinese studies book clubs, guest speaker events, research workshops, and most recently the effort to launch and publish the *GW Collegiate Journal of Chinese Affairs*. Over the duration of his undergraduate education he has dedicated his studies to advancing his understanding of Chinese society and politics. After graduation, he will remain in the DMV area, where he can often be found cycling quiet country roads on either side of the Potomac.

Dayna Bailey 白丹娜

Dayna Bailey is completing her Master of Arts in Chinese Language and Culture with a focus on both classical and contemporary literary translation. A soon-to-be double-alumna, Dayna also received her Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language and Literature from GWU and additionally completed two semesters of study at 中央民族大学 in Beijing, China. Dayna is a passionate language-learner and has studied several other languages during her years at GWU including Uyghur, American Sign Language, and Russian. Outside of class, she can often be found enjoying literature,

solving crossword puzzles, and playing with her dogs. After graduation, Dayna plans to continue her work as a Chinese-English translator and hopes to add even more languages to her repertoire.

Ding Ziwei 丁紫薇

Ziwei Ding is completing her Master of Arts in Chinese Language and Literature at George Washington University. Her research interests include Chinese literature, translation studies, and the relationship between literature and religion, with a particular focus on classical texts and Daoist writings. In addition to her academic work, she has served as a teaching assistant for beginner-level Chinese courses, where she developed skills in language instruction and student support. She plans to pursue further graduate study and an academic career, and continue to explore the intersection of Chinese literature and religious thought.

Poster Presentations

Jake Albertson 敖佳科 [MA in Chinese Language and Culture]

《太平天国运动及其对现代中国的影响》The Taiping Rebellion and Its Influence on Modern China

Leyton Berat 白莲 [BA in Chinese Language and Literature]: 《战狼外交： 中西关系关系的背景下》Wolf Warrior Diplomacy: In the context of Sino-Western Relations

Adam Bubanich 毕蓝 [MA in Asian Studies]: 《特朗普政府时期的中美学者与学生交流： 今天的问题，明天的挑战》U.S.-China Scholarly and Student Exchanges During the Trump Administration

Mitchem Callahan 柯震 [MA in Asian Studies]: 《中国与北欧外交关系》China-Northern Europe Relations

Sandy Faure 方易弘 [MA in Asian Studies]: 《中华人民共和国与菲律宾南海仲裁案》The China-Philippines South China Sea Arbitration

Liam Green 高守军 [BA in International Affairs, Minor in Chinese Language and Literature]: 《中俄关系历史，现代情况，年轻看法》Sino-Russian Relations History, Current Situation, and Views of the Youth

Erin Naumann 诺艾霖 [MA in Asian Studies]: 《防止强迫维吾尔人劳动法》Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act

Denise Roman 罗梦迪 [BA in Business, Minor in Chinese Language and Literature]: 《中美学生对中美贸易战的看法》Chinese and American Students' View on the U.S-China Trade War

Kitty Stauffer 石凯音 [BA in International Affairs]: 《台湾科技以及中美贸易战相关的问题： 中美贸易战如何影响台积电与台湾？ 》The Impact of the U.S.-China Trade War on TSMC and Taiwan's Semiconductor Industry

Shuli Wong 黄树李 [BA in International Affairs, Minor in Chinese Language and Literature]: 《台独或者统一： 国家认同与代际差异》Taiwan Independence or Reunification: National Identity and Generational Differences

Megan Zeiss 蔡致奇 [BA in International Affairs, BA in Chinese Language and Literature]: 《一带一路对美国与中东国家贸易、中国与中东国家贸易有什么影响？ 》The Belt and Road Initiative: Implications for U.S.-Middle East and China-Middle East Trade Relations

Ashley LaPlante 柳艾理 [MA in Chinese Language and Culture] "The Beginning of a New Era: A Closer Look at Italian Neorealism's Impact on the Taiwan New Cinema Movement"

Camryn Yi 易爱琼 [BA in Chinese Language and Literature] "Ginseng Storytelling Properties: The Use of Ginseng as a Symbol of Misfortune in *The Dream of the Red Chamber*"