

Ewa Trojnar

Institute of the Middle and Far East

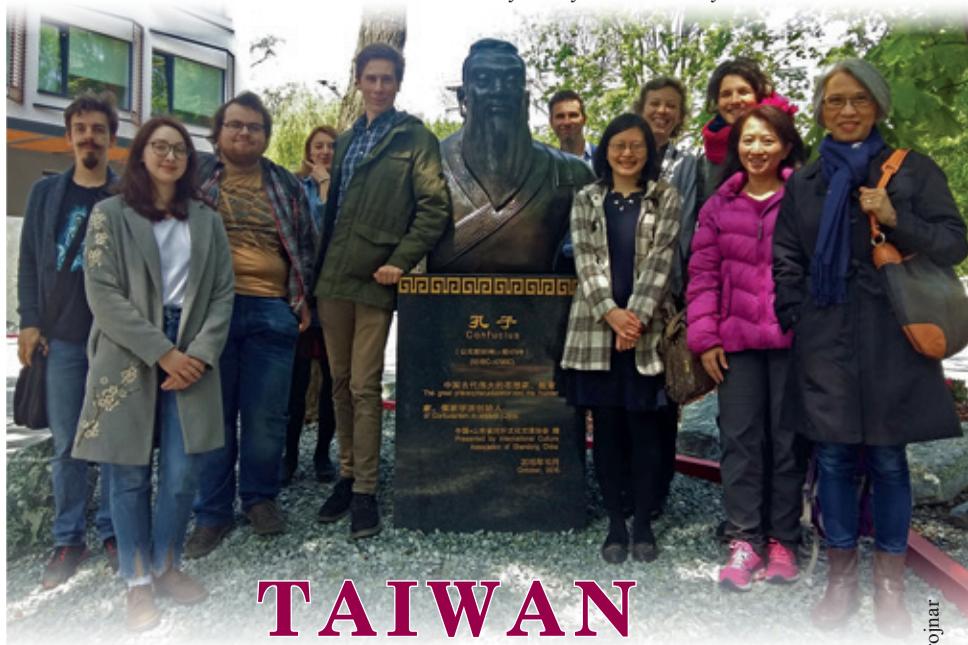
Between 6 and 10 May 2019, a workshop entitled *Taiwan: Space and Migration* gathered students of the Asian Studies programme from the JU Institute of the Middle and Far East. It was carried out by scholars from several European and Taiwanese universities. The main goal of the workshop was to discuss selected aspects of Taiwan's migration.

At first, Dr Isabelle Cheng, a Senior Lecturer in East Asian and International Development Studies at the School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature of the University of Portsmouth, examined the making of the militarised authoritarianism in Taiwan in the 1950s–1960s. She also made an overview of the post-war migration to and from Taiwan as well as Taiwan's transition from being 'a closed anti-communist bastion' to 'a migration state.'

The second module offered by Dr Chiung-wen Chang, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Taiwan and Regional Studies at the National Dong Hwa University in Taiwan, was dedicated to the dynamics of lifestyle migration trends at the domestic level in Taiwan.

The third module taught by Dr Bi-yu Chang, Deputy Director of the Centre of Taiwan Studies and Senior Teaching Fellow at SOAS, University of London, explained the post-war construction of 'an imagined community' in the primary education in geography as well as the evolution of Taiwan from 'a temporary residing place' to 'home.' By investigating the genealogy of the post-war state spatiality, this module discussed the relationships between culture, space and identity.

Lecturing on lifestyle migration in Taiwan



TAIWAN Space and migration

E. Trojnar

In the fourth module, Dr Lara Momesso, a lecturer in Asia Pacific Studies at the School of Languages and Global Studies, University of Central Lancashire, referred to multiculturalism by discussing the role of new immigrants in shaping the contemporary narrative of 'multicultural Taiwan.' This module aimed at defining the impact of migration not only on the migrants but also on the whole Taiwanese society.

The evaluation of the workshop *Taiwan: Space and Migration* by its participants was very good. Igor Szprotawski emphasised that the workshop concentrated on group discussions, which enabled him to interact with other students and instructors. 'It was a fantastic experience that enabled us to learn about different aspects of Taiwan's migration. It was a really worthwhile course and an experience which I would

definitely recommend, and I was very fortunate to be part of it,' he added.

In turn, Aneta Brancewicz felt really grateful to have been offered a chance to take part in the workshop, which covered all the key issues of Taiwan and created a space for discussing various points of views including additional topics: it was much more than she had expected.

Berenika Pieron said that the participants had discussed the political, sociological, cultural and geographical aspects of Taiwan's migration problems. Every day brought a different perspective and offered new information presented by the experts. For Berenika, the workshop was [...] indeed memorable and worth the effort. All of us learnt a lot and we will surely make use of this knowledge in the future. The organisation deserves a big applause.'

Jan Chmielowski emphasised that every lecturer had helped him broaden his knowledge on a wide variety of fields concerning Taiwan's geopolitical presence, culture and struggle to build national identity. He enjoyed the lecture about Hualian County most of all. Indeed, it was exceptional to hear such a personal coverage of counter urbanisation in Taiwan, which is a genuinely intriguing phenomenon. According to Jan, establishing permaculture villages and promoting 'green lifestyle' in Taiwan is not so different from what he can observe in Poland.



In the front of the Institute of Middle and Far East

During the workshop, the students were invited to prepare and deliver their presentations about the topics assigned by the international teachers. The students appreciated the opportunity to create their own presentations related to the topics of the course and to deliver them to the workshop participants. They said that they had gained useful and inspiring knowledge as well as constructive feedback on speaking in public. All the participants discussed various aspects of migration challenges.

For example, Aleksandra Klimecka addressed the term of everyday

multiculturalism, while focusing on the issues of 'foreign wives' in Taiwan. In her presentation, multiculturalism appeared not only as a value that enhances treating different cultures, races and ethnicities with equality but also a perspective to explore how cultural differences coexist in everyday life. In Taiwan, for example, the main problem of foreign women married to Taiwanese men is that their cultural differences are not recognised by the government and consequently, by the society. This issue generated Aleksandra's interests in the rights of 'foreign wives' in Taiwan.

Jan chose a subject related to defining home, homeland and nation. He showed different perspectives regarding this sociological study and shared his own outlook on this problem by presenting his hometown as an exemplary place of 'Heimat,' i.e. a region (or even a point in time) defined mostly by personal and emotional ties with it. Igor examined the relationship between identity and place, with reference to the preservation of the Japanese colonial architecture in Taiwan.

The structure of the workshop was adapted from Dr Adina Zemanek's workshop *Taiwanese Popular Culture in a Regional Context*, which was conducted at the Jagiellonian University in 2015. She shared this experience with me and so I was in charge of the organisation of the workshop in 2019. As an Associate Professor at the JU Institute of the Middle and Far East focusing on political sciences as well as international relations in the Asia-Pacific Region, I have been engaged in research and educational projects with the intention of establishing strong relations between Asia and Europe. My research concerns developmental and intercultural problems, especially in Taiwan. Currently, I am the project manager of the Taiwan Studies Centre at the Jagiellonian University.

New agreements with Russian universities

Maria Kantor

International Relations Office

Currently, the Jagiellonian University is co-operating with 17 Russian universities within 20 agreements of scientific co-operation: six at university level and 14 at faculty level. The longest lasting scientific relationship is the agreement between the JU Faculty of Medicine and the Northern State University of Archangelsk (since 2001), whereas the longest running staff and student mobility is the university-wide agreement with Saint Petersburg State University (since 2011).

Student exchange between the Jagiellonian University and Saint

Petersburg University has been realised since the 2011/12 academic year and has embraced **34 undergraduate and graduate Polish and Russian students**. JU has already nominated 6 students for exchange with Saint Petersburg in the 2019/20 academic year. Staff exchange has embraced **22 incoming scholars and 41 outgoing scholars** since 2013. They have represented the following fields: law, history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, ethnology, journalism, religious studies, cultural studies, Polish literature, English philology, Slavonic philology, Russian studies, Middle and Far East studies, physics and environmental sciences. There has also been collaboration between university libraries.

Three of these 17 agreements have been signed recently. Two concerned universities situated in Moscow: Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and Moscow State Linguistic University (MSLU).



Y. Mazei and A. Jelonek

A. Jelonek