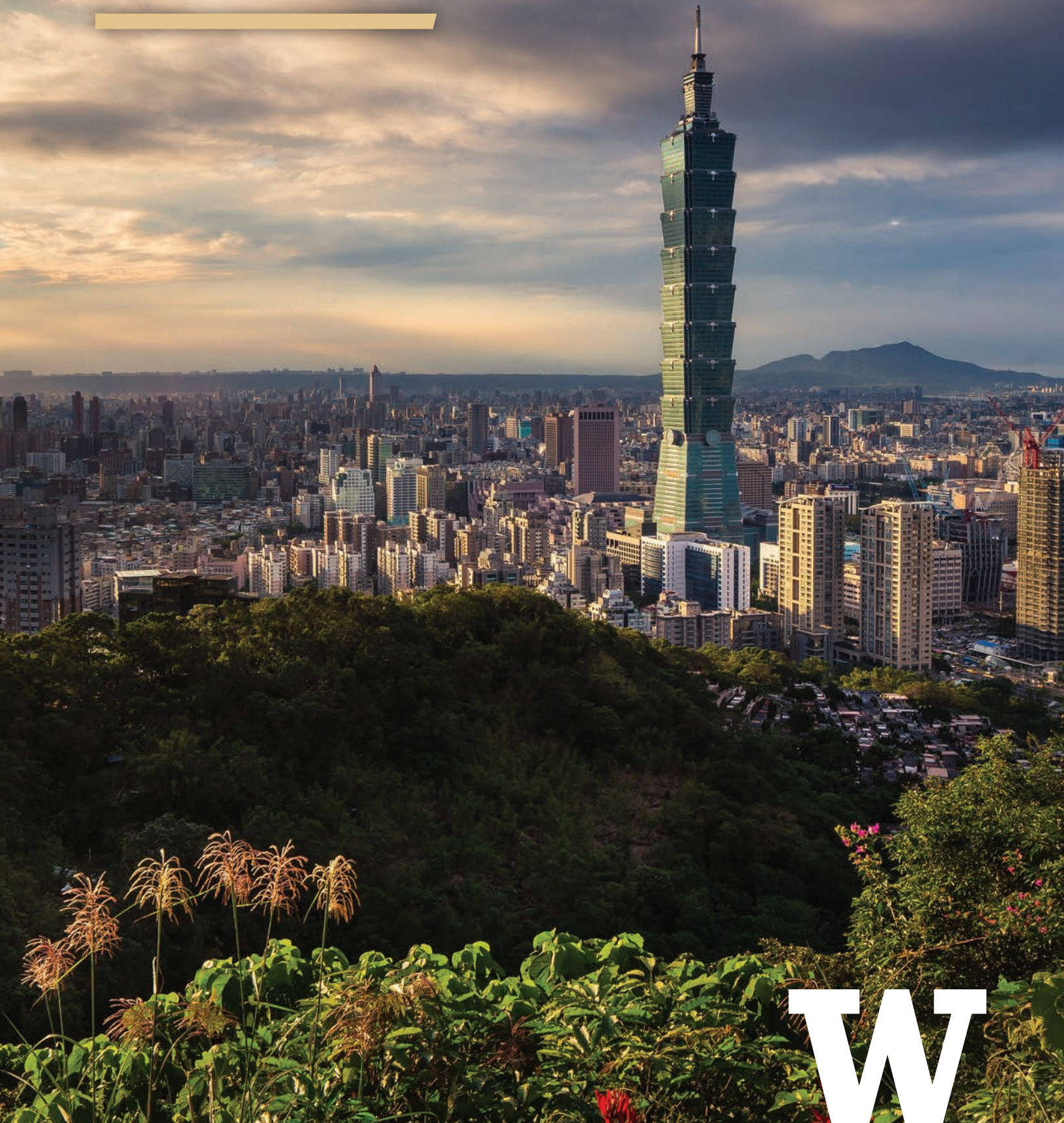


THE HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES | UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

# TAIWAN STUDIES PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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The Taiwan Studies Program at the University of Washington (UW) was established in 2017 to promote research and education on Taiwan society and culture. Located in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, the Program is the newest addition to long-standing programs in China, Japan, and Korea Studies, and a host of other global programs ranging from Jewish Studies to Latin American and Caribbean Studies. With graduate and undergraduate courses, regular academic lectures, and public roundtables, we serve as a global center of knowledge for students, scholars, and the public. By working with UW's Taiwanese student organizations, the growing ranks of UW Taiwanese alumni, and the regional Taiwanese community, the Program is also an important cultural and academic hub for the Taiwanese diaspora.



UW students walking across a suspension bridge in the Taiwan Indigenous Culture Park in Pingtung during a 2019 Study Abroad Program in Taiwan.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In the short time since our founding, we have had an active schedule of courses, academic lectures, conferences, workshops and public events.

## COURSES

We offer regular courses that explore Taiwan through a variety of disciplines including history, sociology, anthropology, environmental studies, film, economics, and urban studies. Professor James Lin, historian of modern Taiwan, offers annual courses that ground students in Taiwan's colonial legacy, geography, and peoples, and how these forces shape Taiwan's identity, democracy, and economic development. Dr. Yen-Chu Weng, a geographer in the Program on the Environment, leads an annual five-week summer study abroad course to Taiwan entitled "Exploring Environmental and Social Resilience," which allows students to delve into important contemporary issues such as indigenous communities, ecotourism, renewable energy, and rural revitalization.

Examples of recently offered and planned Taiwan Studies courses:

- Modern Taiwanese History and Contemporary Taiwanese Society
- Exploring Environmental and Social Resilience (UW Study Abroad in Taiwan)
- Making Modern Taiwan
- Taiwan Cinema and Cross-Asian Film Genres
- Science, Technology, and Innovation Policies in East Asia: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan
- East Asian Economies: Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China



UW students visiting Sanpuku tea farm in Pinglin District of New Taipei City during a 2019 Study Abroad program in Taiwan.

## STUDENTS

The Taiwan Studies Program provides an engaged interdisciplinary community for UW undergraduate and graduate students. Our PhD students regularly participate and present in the Program's public events and academic programs. For example, Jackson School PhD candidate Steve Li, an active Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, participated in the public roundtable, "The Taiwan Relations Act at 40: Retrospect and Prospect" at UW in April 2019. Our MA and PhD students are integral in the planning of upcoming academic workshops in 2020 and 2022. We also support the research of our graduate students, through grants for graduate students to travel to national conferences to present their research on Taiwan and receive feedback from other scholars.

"This course presented the history of Taiwan in a way that made even very distant events feel relevant and applicable to current-day understanding of the human condition and intra and international relations."

— Student enrolled in *Modern Taiwanese History and Contemporary Taiwanese Society* (Winter 2018)

"Taiwan is a fascinating place because even in the face of captivating natural beauty, the human influence is always evident. It takes just a turn in the road, a shift in perspective to see how humans have negatively affected the land and local residents alike here in Taiwan. Perhaps this is why many Taiwanese citizens and the government have been trying to lead the change for the future."

— Students J.T. and Madison in *Exploring Environmental and Social Resilience* study abroad program in Taiwan (Summer 2019)



UW Jackson School PhD Candidate Lt. Col. Steve Li (left) showcased his research on US-Taiwan relations in the public event, "The Taiwan Relations Act at 40," along with Taiwan expert Shirley Kan (right) and UW Professor David Bachman (center).



Students in *Exploring Environmental and Social Resilience* study abroad course assembled a solar PV module and learned about the technical aspect of solar energy generation at the National Changhua University of Education's Renewal Energy Research Center.

## RESEARCH ON TAIWAN



Participants of the Global Island Workshop discussing National Taiwan University Professor Hung Po-Yi's presentation on transplanting Taiwanese tea in the Southeast Asian highlands.

In October 2018, we convened a two-day academic workshop titled "Global Island: Taiwan and the World," which featured 20 junior and senior scholars from the US, Canada, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, and Australia selected from nearly 100 applicants to discuss ongoing research projects across the humanities and social sciences.. UC Berkeley Professor Wen-hsin Yeh's keynote examined Taiwan as a global island, integrated into maritime networks and understood from frontier vantages. The featured research papers covered topics ranging from an examination of Taiwanese music festivals as a form of youth political action, to Taiwan as a model for global LGBTQ discourse, to representations of Southeast Asian migrants in Taiwanese cinema. These papers will be published as a special issue in the journal *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review* in January 2020.



Attendees of the North American Taiwan Studies Association annual meeting, hosted by the Taiwan Studies Program at the University of Washington in May 2019.

In May 2019, we hosted the North American Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA) annual conference at the University of Washington campus. As the largest academic organization on Taiwan Studies in North America, NATSA annual conferences bring around 100 scholars, students, and researchers together to meet, present, and discuss cutting-edge scholarship on Taiwan. This year's theme, "Destabilizing Empires from the Margin: Taiwan Studies in Reflection," included several roundtables on major themes in Taiwan such as development and democracy, in which UW Professor James Lin was one of the speakers.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

One of our core missions is to produce and disseminate an understanding of Taiwan society. The Program hosts a quarterly lecture series that invites authors of current, innovative scholarly books on Taiwan to give public talks on their research. In 2018, this series brought Gary Hamilton, a UW Emeritus Professor, and Professor Kao Cheng-Shu from Feng Chia University to Seattle to discuss their book on Taiwanese small and medium firms and their bosses, titled *Making Money: How Taiwanese Industrialists Embraced the Global Economy*.

In 2019, Professor Lan Pei-chia, a sociologist from National Taiwan University, presented on her book, *Global Parenting in Taiwan: How Globalization Shapes Family Lives Across Class Divides*, which explores the parenting strategies of middle and lower-class Taiwanese families in Taiwan and the US. Professor Paul Barclay from Lafayette College also lectured on his new book examining indigenous peoples under Japanese colonialism, *Outcasts of Empire: Japan's Rule on Taiwan's "Savage Border," 1874-1945*.

We host regular public roundtables on a major theme, with the inaugural 2018 public roundtable posing the question "Why Taiwan?" It featured Taiwanese public intellectual Chang Tieh-chih in conversation with UW Professors Jeff Hou and James Lin, to discuss activism, scholarship, and politics in contemporary Taiwan. In 2019, we marked the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act by inviting Shirley Kan, former Congressional Research Service expert on Taiwan, to discuss US-Taiwan relations with UW PhD Candidate Steve Li and UW Professor David Bachman.



National Taiwan University Professor Lan Pei-chia (center right) after discussing her new book with UW graduate students.



Professor Paul Barclay presenting on the importance of indigenous peoples in understanding Taiwanese history.

## WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In 2018 and 2019, we partnered with the Taiwanese American Professionals (TAP) of Seattle to produce the Taiwanese American Film Festival, showcasing recent Taiwanese cinema. UW Professor Yomi Braester and UW PhD students Ellen Chang and Belinda Qian He participated in panel discussions of the films.

Along with the UW East Asia Library (EAL), we work with a local community of Taiwanese-Americans who have contributed to the EAL's Taiwanese-American oral history project. We also partner with the Pacific Northwest Taiwanese diaspora to host events such as lectures on the history of Taiwan Studies and moderated discussions of Taiwanese politics.

Through the UW East Asia Resource Center and the World Affairs Council's Global Classroom Program, we have offered a workshop for Seattle area secondary and community college educators on how Taiwan can be used to understand major historical and social science issues.



UW study abroad students along with students from National Pingtung University before departing on field trips exploring Hakka and indigenous communities in southern Taiwan.

## LOOKING FORWARD

We have ambitious plans to make our program a leading global center of Taiwan Studies. We aspire to build a new graduate degree program in Taiwan Studies, followed by an undergraduate major in Taiwan Studies. As part of this vision, four new undergraduate courses on Taiwan will be offered in the 2019-20 academic year, on Taiwanese cinema, the environment and Taiwan, science and technology innovation across Taiwan and East Asia, and comparative economies across Taiwan and East Asia.

Under the editorial direction of Taiwan Studies Program faculty, the University of Washington Press has inaugurated a scholarly monograph series, "Taiwan and the World", with the first publications expected in 2021.

Our public events in the 2019-2020 academic year will feature a book talk by Professor Jeff Martin about his new book, *Sentiment, Reason, and Law: Policing in the Republic of China on Taiwan*. For our next feature roundtable, we will invite experts on Taiwanese elections and party politics following the presidential election in January 2020 for a post-election analysis and discussion.

In 2021, we will host a workshop entitled, "Land/scaping Taiwan, which will seek to attract junior scholars working on cutting edge Humanities and Social Sciences research that critically analyzes Taiwan's relationships with people, place, and communities. For this workshop and beyond, we are actively seeking collaboration with Taiwan-based universities and institutions to host joint workshops, conferences, and research projects.

Also in 2021, we plan to host the Fourth World Congress of Taiwan Studies, which will bring to UW over 100 scholars from the major Taiwan Studies networks across Europe, North America, Japan and Taiwan. The UW Taiwan Studies Program would be the first North American host of the World Congress, with previous events taking place in Taipei and London.



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## LEARN MORE

To learn more about the UW Taiwan Studies Program and upcoming events,  
visit us at [jsis.washington.edu/taiwan/](https://jsis.washington.edu/taiwan/)