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Issue 35

HSTCC

Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China, Bi-annual Newsletter



2026 Conference Entrance at Archives Building, Academia Sinica

The Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China (HSTCC)

is the premier international professional organization for modern Chinese studies. Founded in 1983, the HSTCC has held its biennial meetings in Asia, Europe, and North America. The HSTCC has also sponsored and co-organized a dozen symposia and numerous panels at the meetings of the Association for Asian Studies and the American Historical Association. The HSTCC members include many of the most eminent modern China scholars worldwide. The HSTCC is affiliated with the Association for Asian Studies and the American Historical Association. We host a joint reception annually at AAS with the PRC History Group. Membership benefits include a subscription to the journal of the HSTCC, *Twentieth-Century China* and eligibility for the biennial conference as well as HSTCC-sponsorship of panels at the Association for Asian Studies and American Historical Association annual conferences. *Twentieth-Century China* is published by Johns Hopkins University Press and hosted online at Project MUSE. Members can also access the journal through the HSTCC website.

Report on Taipei Joint Conference at Institute for Modern History, Academia Sinica

August 4-6 2026 Biennial HSTCC Conference

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Plans for 2028 Conference at Duke in North Carolina

Co-Hosted by Yidi Wu (Elon)

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New Board members

Du Chunmei (Lingnan University)
Christian Hess (Sophia)
Ke Ren (Holy Cross)

HSTCC Executive Board 2026-

Yidi Wu *President 2026-28*

Yidi received her PhD from University of California, Irvine in 2017, and has been teaching at Elon University since 2020. She helped organize the 2026 conference in Taiwan and looks forward to co-hosting the 2028 conference at Duke University. As incoming President, she also plans to establish book awards and paper prizes and organize sponsored panels for AAS and AHA.

Benno Weiner (Carnegie Mellon), Vice President; AAS/AHA Conference Liason

David Luesink (Sacred Heart) Past P*resident 2026-28; Temporary Treasurer*

Ke Ren (Holy Cross), Secretary

Anne Reinhardt (Williams) *Editor of TCC*

Du Chunmei (Lingnan), Webmaster

Christian Hess (Sophia), board member-at-large



Taipei Joint Conference at Institute for Modern History, Academia Sinica

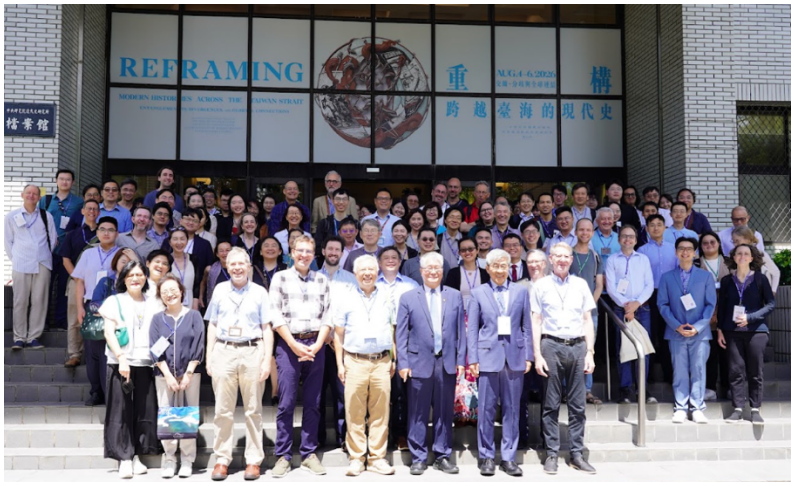
Conference Program QR Code

Reframing Modern Histories Across the Taiwan Strait: Entanglements, Divergences, and Global Connections

The conference in Taipei was extremely successful thanks in large part to our partners on the ground at the Institute for Modern History at Academia Sinica who devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to making it successful and a great experience for everyone. There were about 250 presenters and more locals who attended one or more session. The weather was very hot and humid and we got hit by Typhoon Dolphin toward the end of the three-day conference, but I think overall this photo that includes the new president of HSTCC and a past president captures the overall mood for most participants.



A light moment. Rongci Liao, IMH, Academia Sinica



Group photo on day 1. Chao-shun Lee, IMH, Academia Sinica



A question from the floor. Rongci Liao, IMH, Academia Sinica



Panel members contemplate. Rongci Liao, IMH, Academia Sinica

Taiwan-related Topics at the Conference

Out of the 52 panels I counted, Taiwan was a presence on over half of them. That presence took many forms: there were a couple of panels devoted entirely to Taiwan's history, some that looked at cross-strait relations, and others that included a focus on people or institutions that have substantive histories on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Other panels that addressed general issues in modern history included one or more papers that took Taiwan as a site for studying those subjects or historiographies. These facts, coupled with an open discussion in the final plenary roundtable, show that a potentially productive examination of Taiwan's place in China's history, and China's place in Taiwan's history, is underway. *-Evan Dawley (former HSTCC board member)*



A hybrid panel. Rongci Liao, IMH, Academia Sinica



The audience in focus. Rongci Liao, IMH, Academia Sinica

A unique roundtable at the conference focused on the **pedagogy of role-playing games in teaching Chinese history**. Organized by Melissa Brzycki, the panel asked attendees to play as rural peasants in a game of labeling class status during the communist land reform. Each participant received a role sheet with secrets, and they must make their case in front of a group of work team members to earn the best class label possible. The roundtable was engaging, entertaining at times, and educational for all participants. More pedagogical panels like this will follow suit in the next HSTCC conference.



Reception. Rongci Liao, IMH, Academia Sinica

Some other highlights of the conference were the significant number of panels and participants speaking on aspects of Taiwan history; the history of science; history of medicine and health; borderlands history. IMH hosted parallel conferences after August 6 on both the history of medicine and science.

With permission, I would like to share a ***message from IMH Director Sean Hsiang-lin Lei*** *about the conference significance:*

"Dear David,

Thank you and HSTCC so much for helping bring so many excellent scholars to IMH. I really cannot thank you enough for making this gathering possible.Quite a few people have told me that they saw our conference as a significant breakthrough in bringing historians of modern China and modern Taiwan together. Without your support, I really do not know whether we could have made this happen… I wanted to share this with you because I hope you will take pride along with me in what we have made possible together…"

Other 2027 HSTCC Events



- **Joint Reception at Boston AAS**: At the annual AAS meeting in Vancouver in 2027, HSTCC's major event will be the joint reception we are hosting with the PRC History Group. Please join us for drinks—watch for more information!
- **HSTCC Meeting Boston AAS**: There will also be a meeting for members and prospective members announced early in 2027
- **Annual Membership Meeting on Zoom** will occur in the first half of April, date and time TBA. There will be an option to submit short comments that will be included in the discussion, and any votes will occur virtually in the week after the meeting and meeting minutes are circulated so that those who cannot attend can have their voices heard.

2028 Conference News

HSTCC will host the 2028 conference at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. In addition to research presentations, we welcome panels that focus on teaching and pedagogy, as well as joint presentations with undergraduate students. Conference participants are invited to see the China collections at the Duke University Library and visit the Duke Garden.