



VYTAUTAS  
MAGNUS  
UNIVERSITY  
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SPOTLIGHT  
TAIWAN 

ASC  
Centre for Asian Studies

International academic conference

## “Challenging relations with(in) East Asia”

November 3-4, 2023

Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania)

### CONFERENCE PROGRAM

#### November 3

Location: Room 310, Putvinskio str. 23, Kaunas

8:30–9:00 Registration

9:00–9:20 Introduction and greetings

9:20–10:20 **Section I: Relations Through Literature, Art and Religion I**

**Agnieszka GACH** (National Museum in Krakow) – *The History of Japanese-Korean Relations Captured in Japanese Woodblock Print. An Example of the Legend of Empress Jingū*

**Aya KIMURA** (Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine) – *Possibility of Cultural Bond Based on Painful Memories: Siberian Haiku and Its Audiences' Reaction*

**Ewa KAMIŃSKA** (Jagiellonian University) – *The Dragon Motif on Porcelain from China, Korea, and Japan: Differences and Similarities*

10:20–10:40 Coffee break

10:40–11:40 **Section II: Relations Through Literature, Art and Religion II**

**Aleksandra GÖRLICH** (Polish Institute of World Art Studies) – *Japanese Tea Ceremony as a Space for Cultural Relations*

**Nicolas LEVI** (Polish Academy of Sciences) – *What is the Image of Christianity in North Korea: National and International Aspects*

**Liga SAKSE** (Liepaja University) – *Parallels in Western and Japanese Floral Photography 2003–2023*

11:40–13:00 Lunch break

13:00–14:20 **Section III: Japan**

**Linās DIDVALIS** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *Lithuania-Japan Mutual Awareness: Examination of Early Written Records*

**Karolė MIULLER** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *The Trauma of Japanese Colonialism in South Korea's High School History Education*

**Arvydas KUMPIS** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *Challenging the National Membership: Zainichi Koreans in Japanese Right-wing Narrative*

**Beata BOCHORODYCZ** (Adam Mickiewicz University) – *The Security Consensus and the US-Japan Alliance: the Role of the Security Policy Community*

14:20–15:40 **Section IV: China I**

**Jiabin SONG** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *The Principle of China's Foreign Policy on International Conflict (1949-2021) – an Empirical Model*

**Mantas MACIKAS** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *Towards a Cycle of China's Global AI Dominance*

**Adam PAWEŁCZYK** (University of Silesia in Katowice) – *China's Relations with Ukraine and Russia in the Context of the War in Ukraine and Their Importance for East Asia*

15:40–16:00 Coffee break

16:00–17:00 **Section V: China II**

**Javad KEYPOUR** (Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Center) – *China's Game in the Persian Gulf Region: Implications for the EU's Energy Security Interests*

**Vida MAČIKĖNAITĖ** (International University of Japan) – *One Country – Two Faces: China's Turn from an Economic Partner to Security Concern for Lithuania*

**Łukasz STACH** (Jagiellonian University) – *The Philippine Naval and Air Force in the Era of Sino-U.S. Rivalry. Causes and Implications for the Philippines' Security*

**November 4**

Location: Room 310, Putvinskio str. 23, Kaunas

9:15–10:00 **Keynote speech**

**Hungdah SU** (National Taiwan University) – *Taiwan's resilience and EU-Taiwan relationship in a new geopolitical context*

10:00–10:20 Coffee break

10:20–12:20 **Section VI: Taiwan**

**Hung-yi CHIEN** (National Cheng Kung University) – *The Politics of Institutional Anniversaries in Post-War Taiwan: A History of Retcon*

**Simona KUMPĖ** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *Views on Taiwan (Republic of China) in the American Lithuanian press during the Cold War*

**Vida MAČIKĖNAITĖ** (International University of Japan) – *Taiwan Policy Entrepreneurs in Lithuania: Evolution of Policy Community and their Policy Preferences*

**Jusif SEIRANOV** (Mykolas Romeris University) – *Taiwan Economy Decoupling from China: Ambition and Reality*

**Yung LIN** (Leiden University) – *How Has Taiwan Strategized Public Diplomacy as a Conflict Resolution in the 21st Century East Asia?*

**Jeffrey GUO** (National Applied Research Laboratories) – *Hi-tech does Matter for Foresight to Peace, Prosperity and Freedom: Taiwan Experience of Democratic Alliance with Asia, Europe, and America*

12:20–12:30 Closing remarks

## LIST OF ABSTRACTS

(in the order of presentation)

**Agnieszka GACH** (National Museum in Krakow) – *The History of Japanese-Korean Relations Captured in Japanese Woodblock Print. An Example of the Legend of Empress Jingū*

The aim of the presentation is to discuss relations between Japan and Korea in the context of the beginnings of relations between these two countries. The research point will be the figure of the empress Jingū, the legendary ruler of Japan, who is considered in terms of her alleged invasion of the Korean Peninsula in the third century. The phenomenon of the spread of the image of the empress in Japanese art, especially in *musha-e* "warrior pictures", taking place in the Edo period (1603-1868) and continuing in the 20th century, suggests that during these times Jingū was used as an illustration to discuss and comment on relations between Japan and Korea, as well as the advisability of overseas expansion and invade Korea. The analysis of the legendary tales and the way of presenting the figure of empress will show how the Japanese perceived the relationship with Korea, as well as the country itself. It will also allow us to determine how big role *ukiyo-e* woodcuts played in developing these relationships.

**Aya KIMURA** (Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine) – *Possibility of Cultural Bond Based on Painful Memories: Siberian Haiku and Its Audiences' Reaction*

Siberian Haiku (Original title: Sibiro haiku) is a graphic novel by Lithuanian authors (Jurga Vile and Lina Itagaki) that conveys the misfortune of the Soviet deportation in 1940 for younger readers. The book was published in 2016, and the Japanese translation was published in 2022. In the book, there are scenes where protagonists find imprisoned Japanese soldiers. When President Gintanas Nauseda gave a lecture at Gifu University, Japan, referring to Siberian Haiku, he said, "Even in the expanses of Soviet Siberia, common misfortune sometimes combined the fates of Lithuanians and Japanese in paradoxical ways." But a question arises: Can this sad common memory build a bilateral relationship between two countries?

This paper attempts to answer the question by analyzing young Japanese audiences' comments on Sibiro haiku. In December 2022, Lina Itagaki, one of the authors of Siberian Haiku, visited Japan and lectured on the graphic novel. One of the venues was Tuchizawa Junior High School in Hiratsuka City, and more than 140 pupils listened to the lecture. After the lecture, they commented on their thoughts about the book and the lecture.

This paper analyzes the comments regarding how young Japanese pupils think and accept the exile to Siberia, a shared history between Lithuania and Japan. The comments are anonymous and written in Japanese, so the author first translated them into English. Then, for the qualitative analysis, the author adopted the Thematic Analysis.

The analysis indicates that the comments were from two aspects: an episode of the author and the book's motif (the deportation). The comments categorized as "the book motif" show that most reactions to the historical event were "surprised." The result implies the possibility of deepening understanding of counterparts, but building a relationship from scrap would be challenging.

**Ewa KAMIŃSKA** (Jagiellonian University) – *The Dragon Motif on Porcelain from China, Korea, and Japan: Differences and Similarities*

Among the products of handicrafts from East Asia, ceramics attract special attention, including decorative and utility porcelain wares. In Europe, porcelain is most often associated with China because large quantities of porcelain were produced there for the internal and external markets, reaching markets far beyond the borders of China. In addition, we know the imperial kilns producing porcelain of the highest possible quality at that time, as well as export porcelain that delighted European rulers and aristocracy.

As intercultural relations developed between the countries of East Asia, there was an intensive exchange in the field of art, which is also visible in the case of ceramic vessels. The forms and decorative motifs created in China were reproduced in Korea and Japan, where they underwent changes in accordance with the aesthetics of each of these cultural areas and often returned to China, undergoing subsequent changes.

One of the ornaments often found in porcelain dishes in China, Korea and Japan is the dragon motif. In all three cultures, it carries deep symbolic content. The dragon is depicted on the dishes as an independent motif or in the company of other real or mythological animals, plants and objects. However, the way it is presented as an ornament may differ depending on the artistic traditions of each of these cultures, both in terms of details of the dragon figure, colours, its symbolic meaning, and the selection of accompanying motifs.

Based on ceramic vessels from selected museum collections, the objective of my research is to analyze the mutual influences between these three cultures and to consider whether there are significant differences and similarities in the dragon motif found in China, Korea, and Japan.

**Aleksandra GÖRLICH** (Polish Institute of World Art Studies) – *Japanese Tea Ceremony as a Space for Cultural Relations*

Japanese culture is famous for the traditional art, such as painting, ceramics, chanoyu. We are delighted by paintings on silk in a form of scrolls or screens. While studying Japanese art we can often point out the time and circumstances when a specific art technique was introduced into Japan and where it came from. One would ask whether these arts are really Japanese if they were inspired by another culture. The answer is always a matter of interpretation.

In my paper I would like to present aspects of Japanese tea ceremony, chanoyu, that are borrowed from Chinese and Korean cultures along with Japanese elements, and answer to another question: Is it possible to create such a unique art and way of life without cross-cultural relations?

The traditional Japanese arts history presents clearly how creative and important are the international contacts even though the relations between neighbouring countries are challenging.

**Nicolas LEVI** (Polish Academy of Sciences) – *What is the Image of Christianity in North Korea: National and International Aspects*

By scientific hypothesis, we can imply that the North Korean state and its affiliated organizations consider that religion constitutes a threat to the existence of North Korea in its current model and representation. This threat is symbolized and materialized by the destruction of some tangible and intangible assets of the religious heritage that may have existed on the North Korean territory since 1948. Religion has however become a complex and useful tool for North Korean state organizations, through Buddhist organizations that raised funds through their partner in South Korea.

In such a context, is there a place for Christianity in North Korea? The answer is yes to some extent. Officially Christianity is discussed through the Department of Religious Studies at Kim Il Sung University. There are also a few tangible assets related to Christianity in this country. Hence the paradox: can we talk about what constitutes an existential threat to the North Korean state? The proposed subject will aim to provide some answers to this question by proposing a historical approach toward the development of Christianity on the Korean Peninsula and the place of this religion in contemporary North Korea. The delivered output will be completed with an analysis of the consequences of dropped leaflets by South Korean activists. Finally we will see whether it tends to have an impact on the approach of North Koreans toward Christianity.

**Liga SAKSE** (Liepaja University) – *Parallels in Western and Japanese Floral Photography 2003–2023*

Flowers are attractive, especially when they are represented in modern works of art. Comparing Western examples with specific works of art from Japanese contemporary photography gives an idea of the artistic performance, the range of subjects, the use of technical tools, and the involvement of new technologies. Tillman Crane, Elspeth Diederix, Michael Filonow, Alexander James Hamilton, Nicklas Hultman, Kathrin Linkersdorff, Arie van Riet, and others represent the Western visual art space in a limited selection, which is compared to Japanese artists Makoto Azuma (AMKK), Hiroyuki Arakawa, Nobuyoshi Araki, Yukari Chikura, Luna Ikuta, Wataru Yamamoto, Rinko Kawauchi, Jiro Konami, Shinya Masuda, Macoto Murayama, Mika Ninagawa, Kenji Shibata and Yoko Shimizu (Ars Electronica Futurelab) for ambitious projects and individual works. The paper examines the thematic and stylistic evolution of the photographic representation of the flower over the past twenty years, as well as the application of technology, bringing together more than forty works from European and Japanese art institutions, galleries, and private collections

**Linas DIDVALIS** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *Lithuania-Japan Mutual Awareness: Examination of Early Written Records*

The presentation will introduce new data about the early written records that mention Lithuania in Japan and vice versa. The findings suggest that the earliest records of such kind are almost a century earlier than it was thought before. These historical records reveal that knowledge about Lithuania reached Japan through several incidents and was not a systemic attempt by Japanese scholars to gather such information. On the other hand, first mentioning of Japan in Lithuania was based on knowledge already accumulated in other European countries. The presentation contributes to the growing pool of research focused on early Japan-Europe relations.

**Karolė MIULLER** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *The Trauma of Japanese Colonialism in South Korea's High School History Education*

This presentation is built upon the ongoing study on the Korean colonial period on history education for middle and high school students, exploring unresolved historical tensions between South Korea and Japan in context of trauma and collective memory. These tensions continue to affect their contemporary political, economic, and diplomatic relations. The Japanese colonial period in Korea from 1910 to 1945 left a lasting mark, characterized by collective trauma and a rupture in traditional collective memory. This historical dispute revolves around issues such as the comfort women problem and forced labor. South Korea views these issues as unresolved, while Japan argues that compensation settled them in 1965 under the influence of the United States. This dynamic perpetuates a victim-perpetrator sentiment, hindering closer international relations. These historical conflicts are most evident in history education, where the South Korean system's ties to the government blur the line between official narratives and personal interpretations. This research examines the national curriculum and state-recognized textbooks used in high school, as well as using interviews with middle and high school history teachers so shedding light on the dominant narratives shaping historical understanding.

**Arvydas KUMPIS** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *Challenging the National Membership: Zainichi Koreans in Japanese Right-wing Narrative*

For more than 20 years, Zainichi Koreans in Japan have been in a spotlight of local and international media because of anti-Korean activities, conducted by Japanese Far-Right groups. Such an activity is only a tip of an intricate ideological structure, where historical revisionism, social realities of post-economic bubble and Right-wing mentality intertwine.

The phenomenon of so-called “special privileges” is one of the reasons behind the increased activities against Koreans in Japan. As a term and as a set of benefits, “special privileges” were constructed in online discussions and far-right literature in early 2000’s. Although it was never a legal or normative term, “special privileges” seems to have become sufficiently powerful to solidify a disperse group of discontent internet users, some of them eventually forming the infamous Zaitokukai group.

Zaitokukai, a far-right group, has garnered attention for its controversial stance on Zainichi Koreans, a community of ethnic Koreans residing in Japan. Andreas Wimmer's (1997) theory posits that a reluctance to share public goods can lead to heightened far-right activities, making it an apt framework for understanding Zaitokukai's actions. Zaitokukai employs egoistic claims to deny Zainichi Koreans their national membership, further exacerbating societal divisions.

Egoistic claims by Zaitokukai revolve around the idea that public goods, such as citizenship, should be reserved for the ethnic Japanese population exclusively. They argue that Zainichi Koreans, even those who have lived in Japan for generations, should not be granted full national membership or the associated privileges. In this context, “special privileges” come into play as an integral part of the exclusionist far-right discourse.

In this presentation, I will explore how Zaitokukai's egoistic claims are a manifestation of Wimmer's theory, demonstrating how the group's unwillingness to share public goods intensifies far-right activities. The empirical data for this research was taken from a largely overlooked resource – the blog “Doronpa no hitorigoto” by a former Zaitokukai leader Sakurai Makoto.

**Beata BOCHORODYCZ** (Adam Mickiewicz University) – *The Security Consensus and the US-Japan Alliance: the Role of the Security Policy Community*

The US-Japan alliance has been the linchpin of Japan's security architecture since the end of Japan's occupation. The demise of the Cold War has not changed that policy line. All major diplomatic and security documents have confirmed the importance of the alliance. The Japan's National Security Strategy of 2022 further underlines among its five Fundamental Principles that “The Japan-U.S. Alliance, including the provision of extended deterrence, will remain the cornerstone of Japan's national security policy” (NSS 2022, p. 5). The security consensus on the US-Japan alliance thus seems firm. The social protests that occur in Japan sporadically, especially with regard to the US bases in Okinawa, do not seem to have major effects on the alliance. In this context, the paper addresses the questions of Why the security consensus regarding the US-Japan alliance has survived the end of the Cold War amidst changing international environment? Methodologically, the paper employs the concept of security policy community (SPC), and drawing upon the data obtained from the field works in the US in 2019 and Japan in 2022, official documents and other sources, it analyzes the structure and activities of SPC and traces its influences on the security policy. The main hypothesis developed at this stage of the research is three-fold, first, one of the major forces behind the continuity and enhancement of the security consensus on US-Japan alliance has been the formation of the SPC that comprises members from the US and Japan; second, since the end of the Cold War the SPC developed a dense network of members, institutions and practices that supports the advocacy of the alliance enhancement, the community cohesion and nurturing of new members; and third, the think tank- and university-based experts play an important role in the formation and dissemination of the security consensus.

**Jiabin SONG** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *The Principle of China's Foreign Policy on International Conflict (1949-2021) – an Empirical Model*

This paper aims at shedding light on the *raison d'etat* behind The People's Republic of China (PRC)'s foreign policies upon different international conflicts. Given the rising China's influences in affecting the dynamics of international politics, it is hardly ignoring the Chinese factor in the analysis of any international conflict for the political practitioners. This research through modelling the past seven decades' Beijing's foreign policies with regard to the 623 international conflict, it statistically uncovers the criteria behind China's decision-making on its different foreign policy options.



Drawing upon the Long Cycle Theory proposed by Modelski and Thompson, this article examines the factors that have contributed to China's rise as a dominant force in AI and explores the potential for a sustained long cycle of Chinese AI dominance. The Long Cycle Theory posits that great powers experience cyclical patterns of rise and decline over extended periods of time, shaped by their economic, technological, and geopolitical dynamics. Applying this theory to China's AI development, the article analyzes the country's significant investments in research and development, robust manufacturing capabilities, and government support. These factors have laid a solid foundation for China's ascension in AI, echoing the initial stages of a long cycle. Moreover, the article explores how China's expanding market presence and strategic partnerships contribute to its position of dominance in the global AI landscape. However, the article acknowledges potential challenges and risks that could impact China's long-term AI dominance, such as data privacy, intellectual property protection, and geopolitical tensions. These factors, when viewed through the Long Cycle Theory, could represent potential pitfalls during the decline phase of a long cycle if not adequately addressed. This article combines the Long Cycle Theory with an analysis of China's AI development to examine the potential for a sustained long cycle of Chinese AI dominance. China's strategic investments, thriving ecosystem, expanding market presence, and adaptable regulatory environment form the basis for its ascension in the global AI landscape. By understanding and addressing challenges in areas such as ethics, privacy, and international cooperation, China can potentially extend its dominance and shape the trajectory of the long cycle in the global AI arena.

**Adam PAWELCZYK** (University of Silesia in Katowice) – *China's Relations with Ukraine and Russia in the Context of the War in Ukraine and Their Importance for East Asia*

It is difficult to clearly define the Chinese attitude to the war in Ukraine. On the one hand, People's Republic of China (PRC) considers itself neutral and proposing itself as a mediator of the conflict, on the other hand, it maintains friendly relations with Russia (including this year's meeting of the leaders of the two countries) and in its political rhetoric it does not refer to the Ukrainian events as a "war". Regardless of the position of the PRC in the face of the ongoing conflict, it is almost certain that in the coming years Ukraine, increasingly distancing itself from Russian influence, will become an important area for Chinese political and economic activities. The ongoing war may also bring many answers about China's relationship with Russia. Especially, whether PRC considers Russia as its key neighbor and partner or whether they want its position in international politics to be less significant.

The aim of the speech is to present PRC's political and economic relations with both Russia and Ukraine during the ongoing conflict. To understand and place the aim in a broader context, it is also necessary to analyse how these relations developed before the war. On the basis of these aspects, the speech will also include an attempt to bring the answers to the questions about the potential possibilities of further course of Sino-Ukrainian and Sino-Russian relations in the period after the end of the war, along with their significance for the entire area of East Asia - the war in Ukraine can not only have a huge impact on Chinese-Russian relations, which are one of the most important in this region but also may affect the further course of the tensions between PRC and Taiwan.

**Javad KEYPOUR** (Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Center) – *China's Game in the Persian Gulf Region: Implications for the EU's Energy Security Interests*

China's expanding presence in the Persian Gulf region, along with its efforts to enhance energy relations with neighbouring Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, traditionally considered a Western ally, as well as its strategic cooperation agreements with the Islamic Republic of Iran, has garnered significant attention. Concurrently, the European Union (EU) has pursued a policy of diversifying its oil and petroleum product supplies, including heightened imports from the Persian Gulf region, in response to Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine. This study aims to assess the efficacy of the EU's external energy policy in safeguarding its energy security interests in the Persian Gulf region, with a specific focus on Saudi Arabia and Iran, given China's growing influence. The research endeavour seeks to identify the pivotal factors and challenges that have impeded the EU's attainment of its energy security objectives in the region and put forth recommendations for future policy formulation and implementation. The proposed methodology encompasses a mixed-methods approach, combining document analysis and expert interviews. The research findings shed light on how the conduct of the four primary actors can be rationalized through the lenses of realism and constructivism. Additionally, the deepening of EU relations with regional powers is justified by relying on the security dilemma concept rather than efforts to foster mutual interdependence for achieving security. Consequently, this study suggests that the EU should adopt a more pragmatic approach to safeguard its energy interests in the region while expediting endeavours to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

**Vida MAČIKĖNAITĖ** (International University of Japan) – *One Country – Two Faces: China's Turn from an Economic Partner to Security Concern for Lithuania*

The major purpose of this paper is to demonstrate how the perception of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has evolved in Lithuania since early 1990s, when bilateral diplomatic relations were formally established. The paper surveys the dynamics of relations between PRC and Lithuania over the course of three decades. Using Lithuanian-language materials from the media and government institutions, also the database of the Lithuanian parliament in addition to other resources, the paper reveals the evolution of the perception of China in Lithuania from that of an economic opportunity toward security concern. It shows that this change occurred due to a number of factors: unjustified expectations toward economic relations with the PRC, China's activities in Lithuania and even more importantly due to the implications of China's rise to the international order more broadly. The chapter also reveals the role that the Taiwan issue has played in the change of this perception and in the shift in Lithuania's China policy recently. Moreover, it exposes the latent Taiwan-support networks in Lithuania since 1990s. By looking at both internal and external factors, the paper reveals how the PRC-Lithuania relations have evolved from the point when the PRC recognized Lithuania as a newly independent state in 1991 to Beijing's unilateral downgrade of bilateral relations to the level of charges de affairs in 2021.

This presentation is based on the following publication: Mačikėnaitė, Vida. “.” In Andžāns, Māris and Una Aleksandra Bērziņa-Čerenkova (eds), *China in the Baltic States – from a Cause of Hope to Anxiety*. Rīga Stradiņš University, 2022, pp. 55-88. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.25143/China-in-the-Baltic-States\\_2022\\_ISBN\\_9789934618154\\_55-88](https://doi.org/10.25143/China-in-the-Baltic-States_2022_ISBN_9789934618154_55-88).

**Lukasz STACH** (Jagiellonian University) – *The Philippine Naval and Air Force in the Era of Sino-U.S. Rivalry. Causes and Implications for the Philippines' Security*

The Philippine Navy (PN) and the Philippine Air Force (PAF) are among the weakest in the Southeast Asia region, which has significant consequences for the Philippines in the era of great powers rivalry in Western Pacific. It is surprising how the Philippines, an archipelago country involved in some maritime territorial disputes, could ignore the development of its maritime and air forces. As a result, the position of the Philippines in regional territorial disputes is weak and its power projection capabilities are very limited. Meanwhile, the Philippines deals with the People's Republic of China's (PRC) presence in the South China Sea (e.g. Scarborough Shoal). Tensions between Taiwan and China's also arouse, which poses significant threat for the Philippines security.

This study analyses the factors which have led to this situation, as well as the PN and PAF modernisation process. The presentation will be divided into four main parts. The first analyse analyses the Philippines' security challenges, especially connected with China-U.S. rivalry and with the U.S. military return to the Philippines (February 2023). The second one explain the reasons which lead to the current weakness of PN and PAF. Thirdly, the PN and PAF modernization process will be analysed. Finally, the implications of the PN and PAF weakness for the Philippines security will be discussed, especially in the context of growing Beijing assertiveness in the Western Pacific and growing U.S. military presence in the region. The study employs descriptive methodology and uses data from readily accessible sources to assess critically the conditions of the PN and PAF and its impact of the Philippine's position in the age of growing China-U.S. rivalry.

**Hung-yi CHIEN** (National Cheng Kung University) – *The Politics of Institutional Anniversaries in Post-War Taiwan: A History of Retcon*

Shortened from “retroactive continuity,” retcon is a literary device to change the previous narrative and enable the author to expand the story without conflict. As a historian of Taiwan's modern education, I would introduce retcon to describe the revisions of institutional histories by Taiwanese schools and universities in recent decades, especially after the lift of martial law in 1987. These institutions were established in Japanese colonial Taiwan (1895-1945), but the Chinese Nationalist Government, which took over Taiwan in 1945, ordered them to count their anniversaries from 1945. Some complied with the order, but some resisted it. While Japanese-established institutions in Taiwan faced difficulties counting their anniversaries, universities that fled from Communist China to Taiwan after 1945 encountered no problem recognising their history in China. Some even date their establishments back to the late Qing dynasty, demonstrating a recognised continuity supported by the Chinese Nationalist Government. The historical continuity of Japanese-built institutions was gradually restored in democratising Taiwan, but disagreements and debates continue. This study takes a microscopic approach by examining the histories of educational institutions with different backgrounds, including primary schools, secondary schools and universities across Taiwan. By analysing their accounts of recognising the past, this study would address a broader issue in identity politics in contemporary Taiwan. Nevertheless, this study also intends to create a possibility to compare the institutional histories in the Baltic States, such as the University of Tartu and the institutes derived from Riga Polytechnical Institute (today's Riga Technical University).

**Simona KUMPĖ** (Vytautas Magnus University) – *Views on Taiwan (Republic of China) in the American Lithuanian press during the Cold War*

The opening of the Taiwanese Representative Office in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2021 has attracted significant attention not only in Lithuania but also internationally. It marked the transition from the relations with PRC to relations with Taiwan, a turn which is not often seen in today's international relations. In retrospect it is interesting to delve into the past and see how Lithuanians saw Taiwan before the 1990's (the beginning of bilateral relations with the PRC). Or more precisely, what image of Taiwan was formed in Lithuanian-language media. As there was no free media in Lithuania during the Soviet period, a newspaper published in the United States by the Lithuanian diaspora was chosen for the research.

In this paper I will present the results of the pilot research dedicated to the image of Taiwan in Lithuanian diaspora media in the USA during a short period of 1971 October-November, a crucial period for Taiwan being replaced by the PRC in the United Nations General Assembly. The aim of this research is to see how the image of Taiwan is presented in the chosen newspaper articles and how this image is different from that of the PRC.

**Vida MAČIKĖNAITĖ** (International University of Japan) – *Taiwan Policy Entrepreneurs in Lithuania: Evolution of Policy Community and their Policy Preferences*

The main purpose of this paper is to explain the change that occurred in Lithuanian foreign policy around 2021, when the government of Lithuania started openly distancing itself from Beijing, at the same time pursuing closer relations with Taipei. This paper focuses on the foreign policy change as a major object of analysis and seeks to offer an answer to the research question what enabled this particular change in Lithuania's foreign policy. There have been some Taiwan supporters in Lithuania since 1990s, Taiwan has been able to maintain and expand its network in the country for decades. Moreover, earlier research demonstrates that the Taiwanese side has actively sought to push for a particular policy in Lithuania as early as the first year of independence. However, Lithuanian foreign policy embraced Taipei more openly only in 2021. Adopting a particular theoretical model to explain foreign policy changes, this paper examines how and what different factors eventually led to a significant foreign policy change.

**Jusif SEIRANOV** (Mykolas Romeris University) – *Taiwan Economy Decoupling from China: Ambition and Reality*

The start of market reforms in China since 1979 opened great opportunities for Taiwanese-Chinese economic relations. Businesses from Taiwan were among pioneers of foreign direct investments in mainland China. For three following decades China became leading destination for Taiwanese exports and outbound investments. However, since 2016 Taiwan started to stress the need of diversification of its economic ties focusing on South East Asia, South Asia and Pacific countries. Taiwan accepted New Southbound Policy seeking to diversify its ties in the region and diminish dependence from mainland China. The aim of the paper is to assess how far the declared process of decoupling of Taiwan economy from mainland China has gone. For this purpose, the structure and trends of Taiwanese-Chinese mutual trade and investments for the last decade are analysed, as

well as relative weights of other major economic partners of Taiwan. Some additional indicators reflecting involvement of Taiwanese businesses in operations in mainland China are investigated. The results of the study show that Taiwanese total exports to China and Hong Kong nearly doubled in past decade while their relative weight was remaining stable. Taiwan enjoys positive trade balance with China, however imports from China continued to grow. At the same time there is a trend of reduction of Taiwanese outbound investment in China and redirection of investment flows to other neighbouring economies.

**Yung LIN** (Leiden University) – *How Has Taiwan Strategized Public Diplomacy as a Conflict Resolution in the 21st Century East Asia?*

East Asian countries have been developing public diplomacy strategy as they found that their attraction to each other do not prosper as the Asian economic miracle. Despite efforts seen in countries' employment of public diplomacy in 21st century, disputes and threats are still generating so cast a doubt over East Asia's security and conflict resolution. Hence, this paper established an analytical framework of East Asia security, which reveals that East Asian conflicts should not be understood as a patchwork of all security approaches that are conceptualized as conflict resolution but contextualized in the local historical knowledge. This paper drew a specific focus on Taiwan's public diplomacy from 2008 to 2020 to investigate the causal relation of the island's identity formation on public diplomacy as a conflict resolution. This research used the qualitative content analysis on Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs annual report from 2008 to 2020 and supplemented with selected 14 semi-structured interviews on the Taiwanese generation who have been through 2014 Sunflower Movement. The result revealed the increasing involvement of Taiwanese public in the policy sphere of diplomatic strategy and the context of public diplomacy is therefore the result of the development of Taiwan's identity formation as well as democratization since 2014 Sunflower Movement. By projecting the image of democracy, liberty and independence, it is to counter-act the threat perception of China's rising power in East Asia. Therefore, I argued that Taiwan's focus on public diplomacy strategy since 2014 is the tactic to appease the conflict with China and to enhance Taiwan's strategic role in East Asia.

**Jeffrey GUO** (National Applied Research Laboratories) – *Hi-tech does Matter for Foresight to Peace, Prosperity and Freedom: Taiwan Experience of Democratic Alliance with Asia, Europe, and America*

The occurrence of COVID-19 and the Russo-Ukrainian War have made democratic states around the world realize that the systemic threat from totalitarian regimes are comprehensive, and people can no longer willingly believe that economic development may lead the progress of transformation to democratization. To ensure international peace, prosperity, and freedom, Taiwan has the strategic necessity in geopolitics to align itself with democratic states. This article refers to Nicholas John Spykman's concept of containment to analyze Taiwan's democratic alliance relationship with Asia, Europe, and America in the development of high-tech semiconductors and chips, and further extends it to national security strategies that making the importance of Taiwan from so-called the north corner of "Asiatic Mediterranean" to the center of "Asiatic Hi-tech Chain."