

- 1 ☐ **'War, Memory and Trauma: Anti-Utopian Narratives about Russia's War in Ukraine in Visual Art and Online Poetry across the Taiwan Strait'**
Daria Berg
Qian Cui
(University of St.Gallen, Switzerland)
Tallinn University, 13 July 2026
- 2 ☐ **Three Dreams:**
Trump's MAGA American Dream
- 3 ☐ **Putin's Dream**
Neo-Soviet Imperialist Expansion—or, Peter the Great 2.0
 - AI-artist Carl de Keyzer, "Putins Dream", art using AI
- 4 ☐ **Xi's 'China Dream' (*Zhongguo meng* 中国梦)**
29 Nov 2012
 - Xi Jinping:
 - speech at Exhibition in National Museum, Tiananmen Square
 - 'Great revival of the Chinese nation'
 - China Dreams?
- 5 ☐ **"One World, One Dream"**
= Old favourite motto of Xi Jinping who masterminded Beijing Olympics 2008:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jA78Kf1vbM>
- 6 ☐ **China's Geopolitics & the Opening of Beijing Winter Olympics**
4 Feb 2022: Beijing Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony,
China & Russia pledge 'no limits' friendship
- 7 ☐ **Joint Statement: No limits Friendship & Media Mirroring**
- 8 ☐ **National Radio & TV Administration 国家广播电视总局 (2018)**
 - 2021 NRTA under Central Propaganda Dept of CCP
 - Additional agreement with Russia's Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media: Chinese media to repeat & amplify Russian propaganda
 - Since Feb 2022: converging media narratives Russia / China
 - China amplifies Russia's fake news: Ukraine prepares biological warfare (cf. Hvistendahl & Kovalev, 2022)
- 9 ☐ **China's Mediasphere**
 - 'Mediasphere' (Debray, 1991)
 - Social media / Weibo, WeChat — February & March 2022:
 - Pro-Putin, Pro-Russia, Anti-Ukraine
 - 'Glorious Russia! Glorious Putin! They have politicians in the West, but Putin, he is a great political player who will go down in history!'
 - 'I support the disintegration of NATO! I support Russia, because when Russia falls, China is next!'

- 'Russia has done a beautiful job!'
- (Cf. Bandurski, 2022)

10 **Cao Fei 曹斐: Falling Matryoshka**

Cao Fei, Instagram, 25 February 2022: The day after Russia's invaded Ukraine:
 "Falling Matryoshka © Cao Fei 2022. Photo from the border of China and Russia. Project
 commissioned by @garagemca."
 Collaboration Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Jan 2022.

11 **'Martyrs' ('Xundaozhe' 殉道者),**

Liao Weitang 廖伟棠

为什么这乌克兰的微笑似曾相识
 原来他也曾属于那个西藏男孩。

就像一朵桃花那样的微笑。

她珍爱生命，去拯救被人类放弃的
 他珍爱自由，放弃生命去喊出它。

地球没有放弃你们，山和水奔走相告
 在炮弹开始流亡的时候，你们

只有你们知道回家的路。路也追随
 你们，渐渐涌起巨浪来。

温柔的，坚定的，一亿朵桃花那样。

12 **Liao Weitang 廖伟棠**

- b. 1975 Xinxing county 新兴县, Guangdong
- Moves to Hong Kong (Cantonese name: Liu Waitong, pun on *liuwang aitong* 流亡哀痛, 'Grief in Exile)
- Poet, photographer, writer
- Literary prizes in HK, Taiwan, abroad
- Assoc. Prof. National Taipei University of the Arts 國立臺北藝術大學 (Literature Dept.)

13 **China's Utopia: *Locus Classicus***

Tao Yuanming 陶渊明 (365-427)

'Record of the Peach Blossom Spring' ('Tao hua yuan ji' 桃花源记)

14 ☐ Utopia in China

- *Wutuobang* 乌托邦
- *Lixiangguo* 理想国
- Utopia has long indigenous tradition in China
- → pre-imperial Confucian & Daoist utopias
- Fig: Illustration for the first 1516 edition of More's *Utopia*.

15 ☐ Ancient Confucian Utopia

- Great Sharing (*da tong* 大同)
- *Li ji* 禮記 (*Book of Rites*), 21.3a/b

16 ☐ Ancient Daoist Utopias

- Daoist 'Supreme Harmony' (*tai ping* 太平)
- *Lüshi chunqiu* 呂氏春秋 (*Spring and Autumn of Lü Buwei*), 1.44-45.
- *Zhuangzi* 莊子, 13.471.

17 ☐ Anti-Utopia: The Deluge

- Dystopia: Inversion of Utopia
- Under legendary ruler Emperor Yao: Water flows upstream → Deluge floods central states
- 'Snakes and dragons appear, disturb humans.' Mengzi, 3A.4; Lau, 1987, 102.

18 ☐ A Confucianist's Dystopia

- Xi Zhou sheng 西周生 (fl. 1630s/40s) (Scholar of the Western Zhou) / Late Ming
- *Xingshi yinyuan zhuan* 醒世姻缘传 (*Marriage Destinies that will Bring Society to its Senses*)
 - -> Berg, *Carnival in China*, 2002

19 ☐ China's Dream?

- Art / poetry on taboo topics in China's media sphere: Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong
- Ai Weiwei: 'There is no Chinese Dream, only Chinese nightmares.'

20 ☐ Voice from Beijing:

Cao Fei

- b. 1978 Guangzhou,
- Beijing & Singapore
- Cao Fei: 'Comments on China's society, not criticism' (NYT, 2015)

21 ☐ Voice from Taipei:

yAnG xiaObiN 杨小滨: 'Post-Epitaph Quatrain: On the Steps of Odessa' (Hòu juéjù: Áodésà táijiē shàng 後絕句: 敖德薩台階上), Instagram, 2022

你不是刺刀下的第一個死者，也不是最後一個反抗者。

你不是滑落台階的第一個嬰兒，也不是滾下的最後一顆頭顱。

你不是第一個驚恐的母親，也不是最後一個美少女戰士。

你不是第一個轟然倒塌的雕像，也不是歷史懸崖下的最後一個瘋子。

22 ☐ **'Post-Epitaph Quatrain: On the Steps of Odessa'**

- Title: Lament / Post-Epitaph *jueju* 絕句: in classical Tang poetry 4 lines, 5 or 7 characters, rhyme, strict tonal pattern.
- but explodes rules: more & irregular number of characters, no rhyme
- 'Post': frames poem not only as a eulogy for a single event or individual, but a meditation on pattern of suffering and resistance.

23 ☐ **Allusion to Potemkin Stairs, Odessa**

- iconic for their role in Sergei Eisenstein's 1925 film *Battleship Potemkin*.

24 ☐ **yAnG xiaObiN: 'Post-Epitaph Quatrain: On the Steps of Odessa'**

- *Battleship Potemkin* (1925) dir. Sergei Eisenstein.
- Fictional massacre of civilians

25 ☐ **yAnG xiaObiN: 'Post-Epitaph Quatrain: On the Steps of Odessa'**

- *Battleship Potemkin* (1925)
- including the image of a baby carriage tumbling down the steps.

26 ☐ **yAnG xiaObiN: 'Post-Epitaph Quatrain: On the Steps of Odessa'**

- *Battleship Potemkin* (1925)
- Stairs as a symbol of: revolution, martyrdom, state violence, trauma, memory, cinematic myth-making.

27 ☐ **yAnG xiaObiN 杨小滨**

- Poet & Artist, born in Shanghai
- 1980s joined avantgarde movement in Beijing
- 1985 BA Fudan University, Shanghai
- 1985-89 Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences
- 1996 PhD Yale, Chinese Literature
- 1998-2004 University of Mississippi
- 2006- Academia Sinica, Taipei

28 ☐ **Taiwan's Indigenous Peoples' & Ukrainian Voices: Iversen Rangi & Yana**

'Ukrainian Lion & Taiwanese Bear', Fundraising Exhibition for Ukraine, Epic Taipei Nightclub, Taipei, July-Aug 2022

29 ☐ **Multiple layers of trauma & memory**

Solidarity (Ukrainian/Chinese, 'fallen character') - infinity symbol - Taiwan indigenous peoples - graffiti subversive street art
mocking Putin and Xi's no-limits friendship by applying solidarity & endless friendship to Ukrainian-Taiwanese context.

30 ☐ **Iversen Rangi**

- Iversen Rangi Miciq
 - indigenous artist from the Taroko (Truku) tribe, Taiwan

- Yana
 - Ukrainian artist,
 - LBWS Ukrainian artist group
- Picture: Iverson Rangi Instagram

31 ☐ **Voices from Taipei and Ukraine:**

Collaboration between photographer Sean Wang and painter Mariia Kazanets, Ukraine

Art exhibition

- "There is no war here"
- Taipei
- 3–31 May 2025

32 ☐ **Sean Wang & Mariia Kazanets**

Art exhibition

- "There is no war here"
- Taipei
- 3–31 May 2025

33 ☐ **Sean Wang & Mariia Kazanets**

34 ☐ **2025 Interview with Sean Wang**

- Interview,
- Taipei,
- Sep. 2025
- Photo: AI-generated artwork, Sean Wang, 2025

35 ☐ **Sean Wang / Wang Cheng-Hsiang**

- *Taipei
- M.A., History, National Taiwan University
- Masters course, Art Practice, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (unfinished).
- Visually impaired artist / macular degeneration
- Career in photography despite disability

36 ☐ **Sean Wang: Collaboration with Mariia Kazanets**

"During my collaboration with the Ukrainian artist Mariia Kazanets, I had a strong feeling: that we are unable to truly express how we feel about the war. Perhaps it is because there is no war yet where we are; perhaps out of fear of causing controversy; or perhaps because we do not know how to describe it. But regardless of the reasons, our language about the war ultimately always led to a delay." (Sean Wang)

37 ☐ **Sean Wang**

38 ☐ **Voice from Hong Kong:**

Liao Weitang 廖偉棠, 'Winter on Fire'

Winter on Fire

二二八連假前夕
我坐在路邊
用手機看紀錄片
Winter on Fire:
Ukraine's Fight for Freedom

39 ☐ **'Winter on Fire', Liao Weitang 廖伟棠**

Winter on Fire

二二八連假前夕
我坐在路邊
用手機看紀錄片
Winter on Fire:
Ukraine's Fight for Freedom

40 ☐ **'Winter on Fire', Liao Weitang 廖伟棠**

41 ☐ **'Winter on Fire'**

我想截圖給我防火牆內的朋友看
但只截下來字幕
圖像變成一片漆黑只剩下：

42 ☐ **'Winter on Fire'**

「我的朋友和我
開始搖響所有的鐘」
「聖米迦勒修道院的人
正在阻止這件事發生」
「上一次這些鐘敲響
是在1240年蒙古韃靼人
入侵基輔之時」
我不確定他們能否猜到什麼回事

43 ☐ **'Winter on Fire'**

而我住在基輔、第聶伯的朋友
鐘聲盈耳，無暇寫詩
她們忙於撬開
十字架之上
針孔一般狹窄的天空
就像我住在九龍、港島、大嶼山

每天都經歷著二二八前夕
的朋友一樣

44  To Conclude:

'Anti-Utopian Narratives of Russia's War in Ukraine reveal connected voices of trauma and memory across Taiwan Strait'

- Russia's war in Ukraine invokes memories of local traumata across Taiwan Strait
- Sinophone poets & artists react
- Literary & visual art narratives portray Ukraine trauma in Sinosphere
- linking local memory places in China & Taiwan with global memory spaces
- Provide rare insights into Sinophone vernacular cultures
- -> looking forward to your comments & questions!