



# *Illuminating Taiwan:* **Enhancing Visibility of Taiwan Studies in Spanish Academia through Digital Innovation**

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Digital environments as a  
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challenges

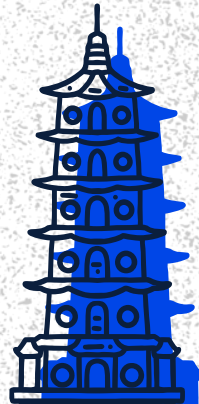




01

# Introduction

Taiwan Studies in the context of East Asian Studies in Spain and  
at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)



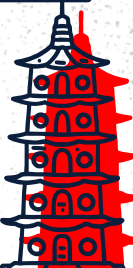
# East Asian Studies have been spreading in Spain in recent years

## 5 Universities offer degrees in EAS:

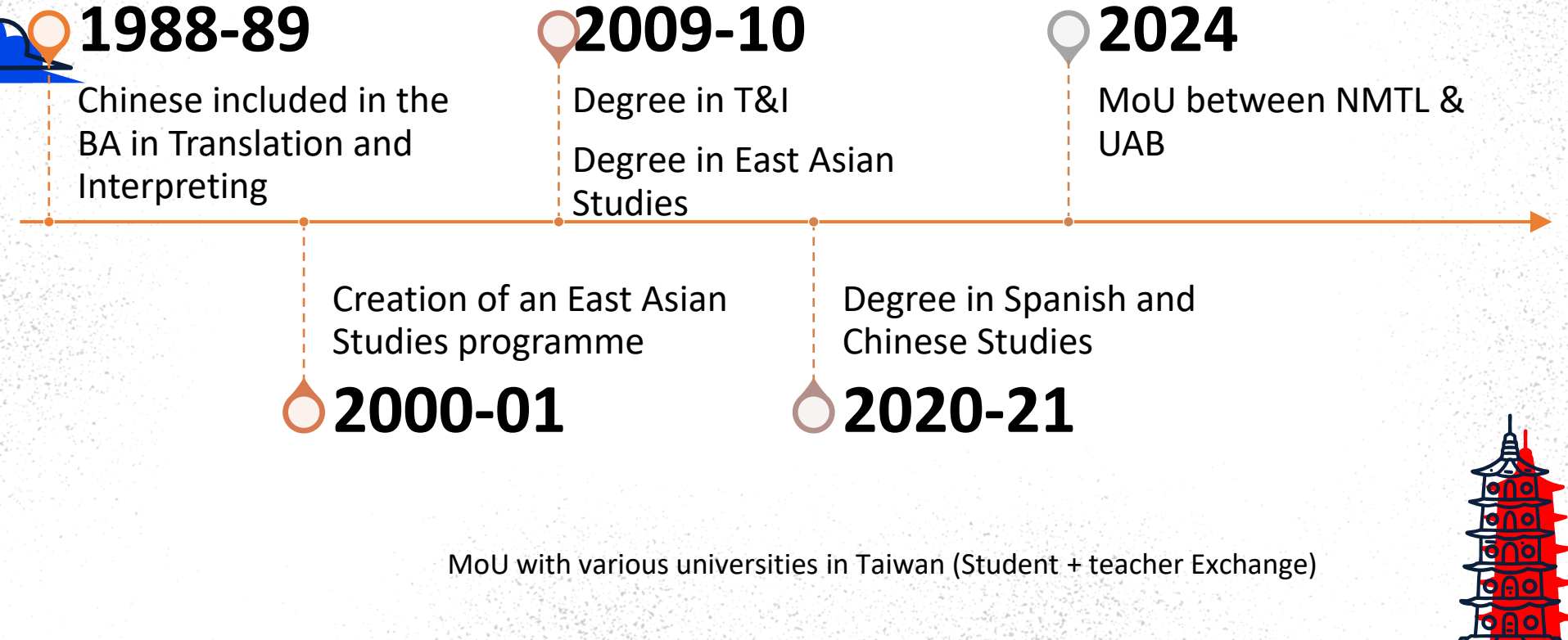
Autonomous University of Barcelona, Autonomous University of Madrid, University of Málaga/University of Seville and University of Salamanca.

## 6 Universities offer MA degrees in EAS:

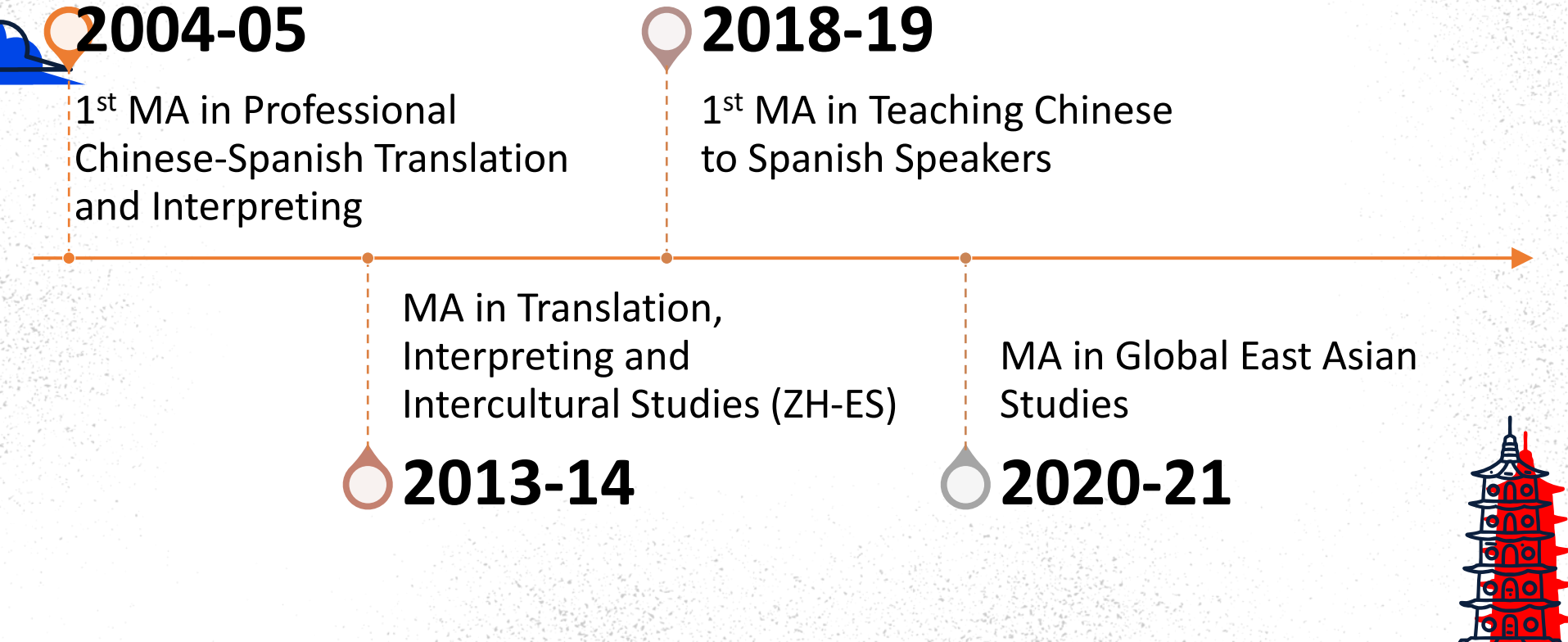
Autonomous University of Barcelona, Autonomous University of Madrid, University of Granada, University of Salamanca, University of Valladolid and Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona).



# UAB as a pioneering institution



# UAB as a pioneering institution





# What do students learn about Taiwan?\*

	Some examples of the inclusion of Taiwan in broader courses covering East Asia
Applied economics in East Asia (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	<b>Unit 4.</b> The four Asian tigers: South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore
East Asian politics (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	<b>Unit 6.</b> "One country, two systems": Politics in Taiwan and in Hong Kong
Modern and Contemporary East Asian History (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)	<b>Unit 6.</b> The Second World War in Japan, Korea and Taiwan <b>Unit 12.</b> Vietnam and Taiwan (1955-1988): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vietnam War (1955-1975)</li><li>• Taiwan: Chiang Kai-shek's (1949-1975) and Chiang Ching-kuo's (1975-1988) dictatorship</li></ul> <b>Unit 14.</b> South Korea and Taiwan from the 90s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The struggles on the street: the process of democratization in South Korea and Taiwan.</li></ul>

\*according to study guides for the course 2024-25



# What do students learn about Taiwan?\*

	Some examples of the inclusion of Taiwan in broader courses covering East Asia
Linguistics of East Asian Languages (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)	The current sociolinguistic situation in the different Chinese (Sinophone) communities
Chinese literature (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)	<b>Unit 2.9.</b> Sinophone literature: Taiwan and South-East Asian Literature
East Asian International Relations	<b>Part 4.</b> East Asia today: conflict, cooperation and future prospects - The question of Taiwan (among other topics)
Case Studies in East Asian Politics and International Relations	(...) the systemic rivalry between the US and China: political, economic and security implications for the Asia-Pacific region (...)

\*according to study guides for the course 2024-25





# What do students learn about Taiwan?



Some examples of the inclusion of Taiwan in broader courses covering East Asia	
Genre, literature and society in East Asia (4 <sup>th</sup> year)	Sinophone literature (e.g. Li Ang, Chi Ta-wei)
Chinese language (1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> year)	Aspects regarding Chinese in Taiwan (e.g. Traditional orthography, linguistic variation)

+ mentions of Taiwan included in other subjects depending on the teachers



# Taiwan topics in students' final degree projects (minor theses)

## Some examples:

### Society

Identity and LGBTI expression in Taiwan

### Cinema

Taiwan Black Movies

### Language

Contrastive Study between Chinese in Taiwan and Mainland China

### International Relations

China's soft power politics towards Taiwan; Russia and Ukraine, China and Taiwan

### Literature

Translation of pieces of Sanmao and Huang Chun-ming

### Politics

Policies for the recognition of Taiwan's aboriginal peoples

### History

Social history of KMT migration to Taiwan



# In brief, Taiwan Studies are...



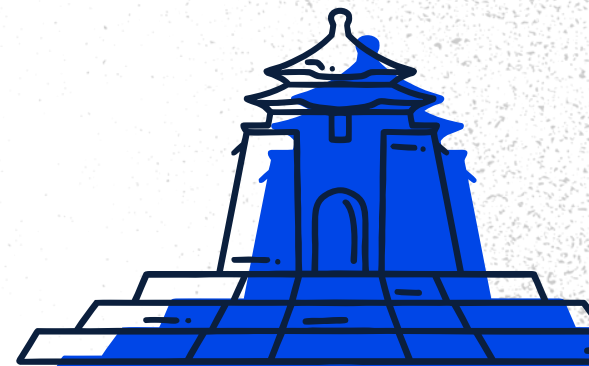
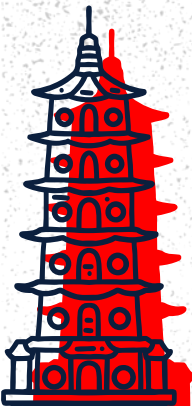
- integrated tangentially within broader East Asia-focused courses
- in most instances, subsumed under the broader category of 'Chinese'—encompassing Chinese language, literature, and cultural production—which tends to obscure their distinct identity





# 02 The TXICC group

<https://webs.uab.cat/txicc/>



# The TXICC group

## Research lines:

- Critical discourse analysis on the Chinese language and the Chinese other
- Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (TCFL)
- Chinese for specific purposes (language for translators)
- Intercultural Communication between Spanish and Chinese cultures
- Contrastive Linguistics between Catalan/Spanish and Chinese
- Chinese to Catalan/Spanish Translation and Interpreting





# TXICC's databases & projects



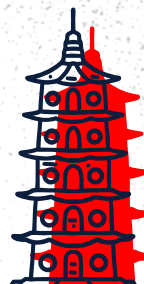
Chinese & Sinophone cinema



Chinese & Sinophone literature



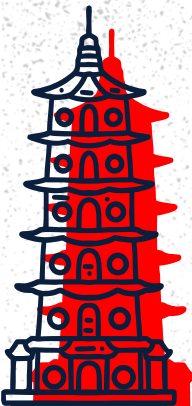
e-Chinese Plus:  
open Moodle  
with activities







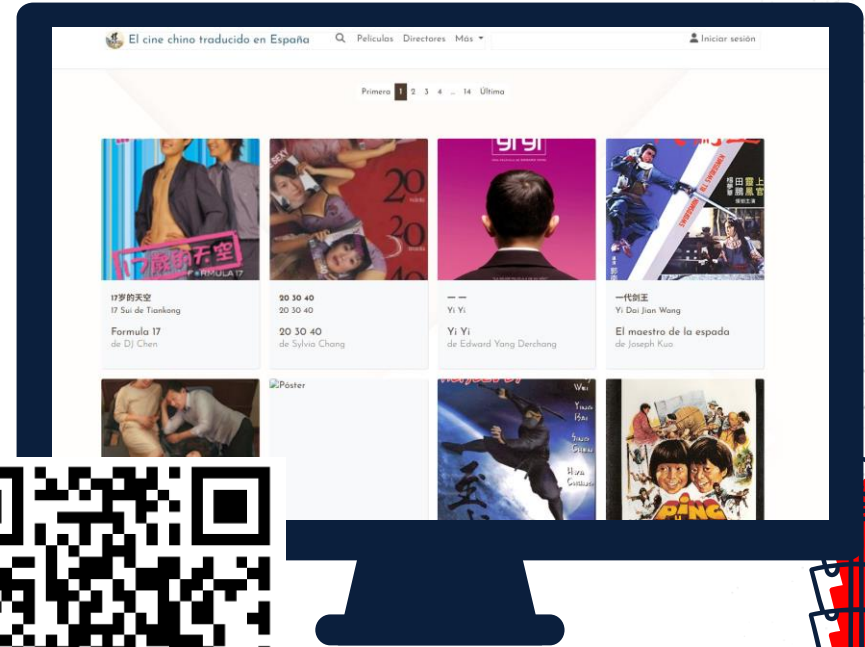
# 03 Taiwan in our databases



# #TXICCine

- A catalogue of all Chinese + Sinophone films translated in Spain up to 2022
- 1162 films in total
- Detailed information in each entry

<https://dtieao.uab.cat/txicc/cine/>



# Sample entry

 El cine chino traducido en España  Películas Directores Más  Iniciar sesión

## 青梅竹马 (Qingmei-zhuma)

Una historia de Taipei | Taipei Story

de 杨德昌 (Edward Yang Derchang) | 1985 | Drama | Taiwán | Mandarin • Taiwanés



Galería

Debido a la imposibilidad de ascender laboralmente, Chin decide buscar otro trabajo. Su ambición contrasta con la de su pareja, un comerciante cuya única pasión es el béisbol y quizá también una antigua novia, con la que se ha vuelto a encontrar en un viaje de negocios en Tokio. (FilmAffinity)

### Datos de la traducción

Año de estreno en España: 2008  
Traducida al inglés para subtitulación  
Traducida al español para subtitulación

### Festivales y filmotecas

2008 Filmoteca Española (Español)





**Some quantitative data**

**186**

Films from Taiwan translated in Spain

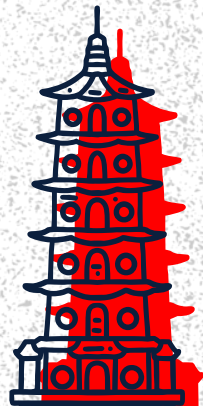


**1972**

First translation of a Taiwanese film into Spanish

**14**

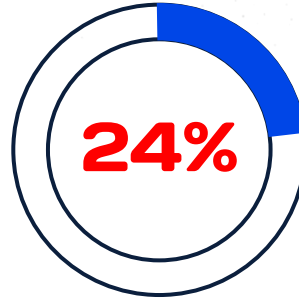
Films by Hou Hsiao-Hsien and by Tsai Ming-Liang  
(14 each)





**Films directed  
by women (13)**

Lisa Chen, Zero Chou &  
Mag Hsu, the female  
directors with more films  
translated in Spain (two  
each)



**Films where  
Taiwanese is  
spoken (45)**



**Films  
screened in  
festivals (67)**





# Some qualitative data



## 喜怒哀樂

(King Hu, Lee Hsing,  
Li Han-Hsiang, Pai  
Ching-Jui, 1970)

**the first Taiwanese  
film** translated in  
Spain (1972)

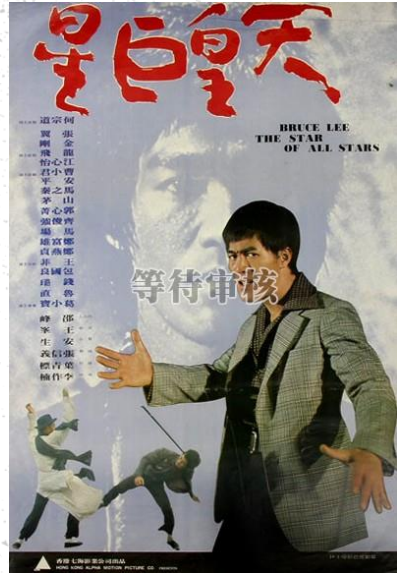
**Translated as  
*Four Moods***

and screened in  
**SITGES** –  
International  
Fantastic Film Festival  
of Catalonia





# Potential research with qualitative data



天皇巨星

(Lee Tso-nam, 1976)



## Discourse analysis of titles and synopses + semiotic analysis of posters

For example, 1970s + 1980s:

- Wuxia films became very popular
- Frequent orientalisation of titles and posters



# Potential research



**Horror**



**Drama**



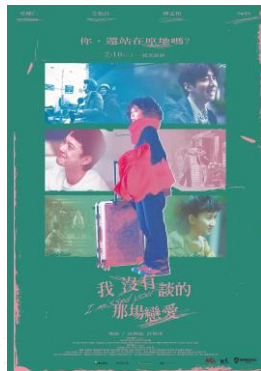
**Sci-fi**



**Action**



**Comedy**



**Romance**

## Longitudinal analysis

Films screened in 2021:

- Diversification of genres
- Evolution of posters (less orientalising, less adaptation of posters)



# #TXICCine



## Potential

- Great resource for courses dealing with Taiwanese cinema and cultural products
- Great resource for research (quantitative, qualitative, longitudinal, comparative studies) on Taiwanese cinema, translation, reception, circulation of cultural products...



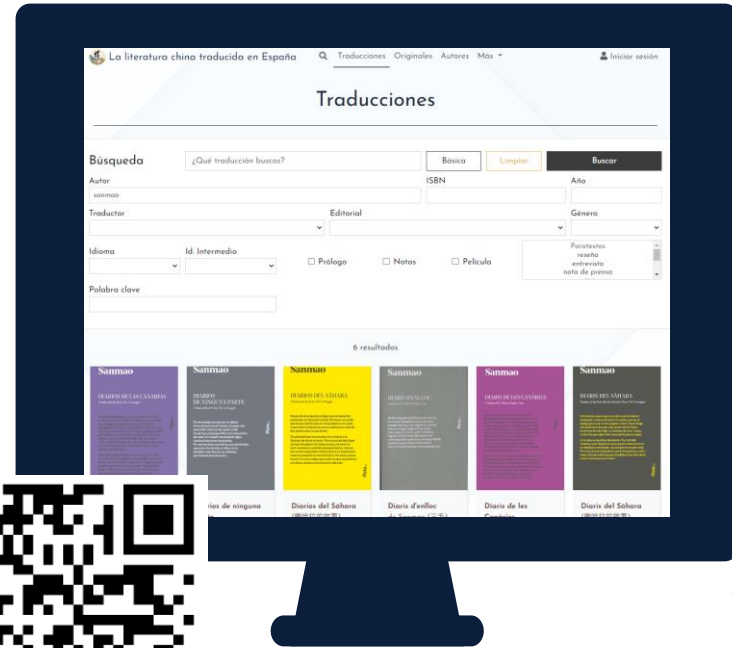
## Limitations

- Updated until 2022
- Information about platforms might be incomplete

# #TXICCLite

- A catalogue of all Chinese + Sinophone literature translated in Spain up to today
- 865 books (regularly updated)
- Focus on translation (mostly into Spanish and Catalan)

<https://dtieao.uab.cat/txicc/lite/>







Some quantitative data

58

Books by Taiwanese authors (6,7%)

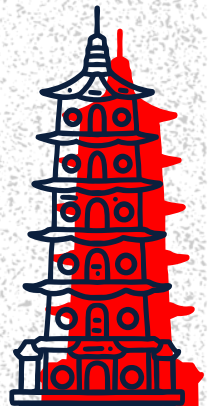


16

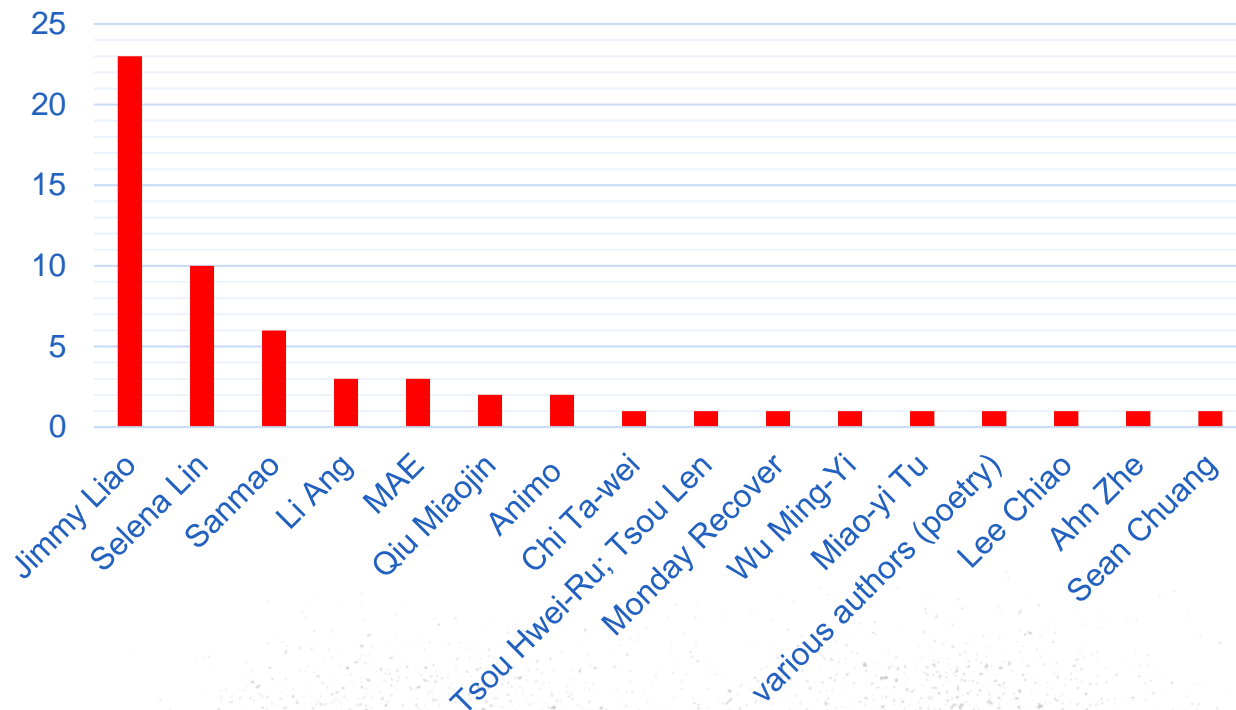
Taiwanese authors

23

Books by Jimmy Liao translated  
into Spanish

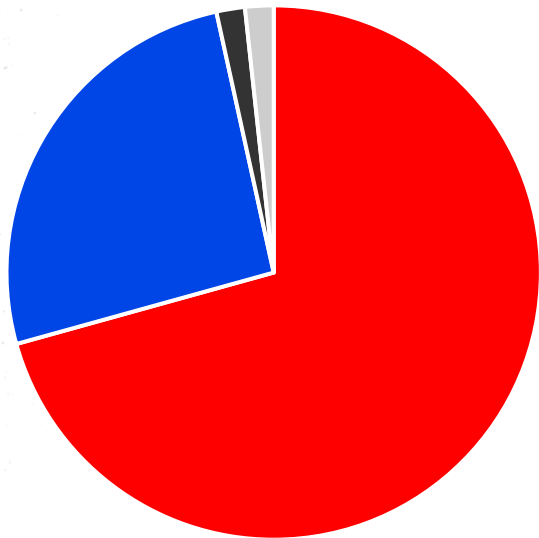


# Taiwanese authors and number of books published in Spain



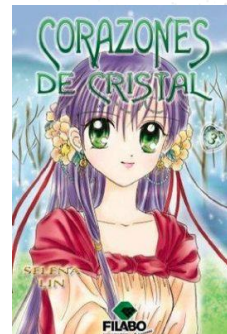
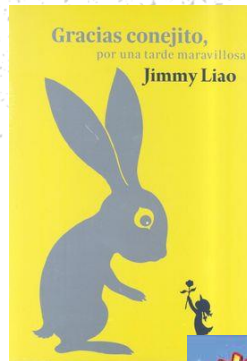
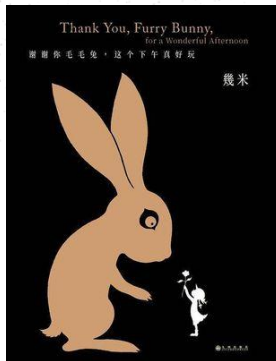


# Genres



■ manhua, picture books ■ fiction\* ■ poetry ■ non-fiction

\*Sanmao's diaries have been considered fiction



# Qualitative data: book covers, paratexts, reviews

## Diarios del Sáhara

撒哈拉的故事 (Sahala de Gushi)

三毛 (Sanmao) ♀ | 1976 | cuento

Publicada por 皇冠出版社 (Huangguan Chubanshe)



Galería

Sanmao es camino, es búsqueda y es vida, pero sobre todo es libertad. Chen Ping, Echo, Sanmao: tres nombres, tres condiciones errantes de la autora, de quien hizo del camino y los que lo transitan su hogar. Sanmao, caminante incesante, que la valía y cuantía del tesoro son siempre ínfimas si se las compara con la aventura que las precedió; por lo que significa lo mismo: la llegada a un final, a un punto de no retorno, a nuestro destino. Sanmao hizo del camino y su vida la más grande de sus obras. La voz de Sanmao está destinada a ser universal por lo que de particular hay en ella, "Diarios del Sáhara", publicada por primera vez en el año 1976, recoge los años que la autora y su marido, José Quero, pasaron en el continente africano. Rata\_ descubre y publica por primera vez en nuestro país a una de las voces más enigmáticas y cautivadoras del continente asiático. Por méritos propios, Sanmao debe ser considerada un clásico del siglo XX. (Amazon)

## Datos de la traducción

Traducción directa al español de Irene Tor Carroggio.

## Edición

Sanmao. 2016. *Diarios del Sáhara*. Barcelona: Rata. ISBN: 9788494489174.

## Paratextos

La traducción incluye 26 notas de Irene Tor Carroggio y un prólogo de Gabi Martínez y Henry Chen.

Incluye una biografía de la traductora, un manuscrito de la autora y un escrito de la editora.

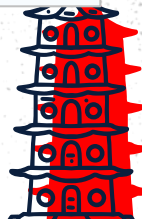
Reseña | Reseña 2 | Reseña 3 | Reseña 4 | Reseña 5 | Noticia | Noticia 2 | Noticia 3 | Noticia 4 | Estudio | Otros | Otros 2 | Otros 3 | Otros 4 | Otros 5

## Enlaces

Presentación en la Fundació Institut Confuci de Barcelona

## Observaciones

La obra original forma parte de la colección "Echo legacy".



# #TXICCLite



## Potential

- Great resource for the study of Chinese + Sinophone literature in translation
- Great resource for research (quantitative, qualitative, longitudinal studies) on translation, reception, circulation of cultural products...



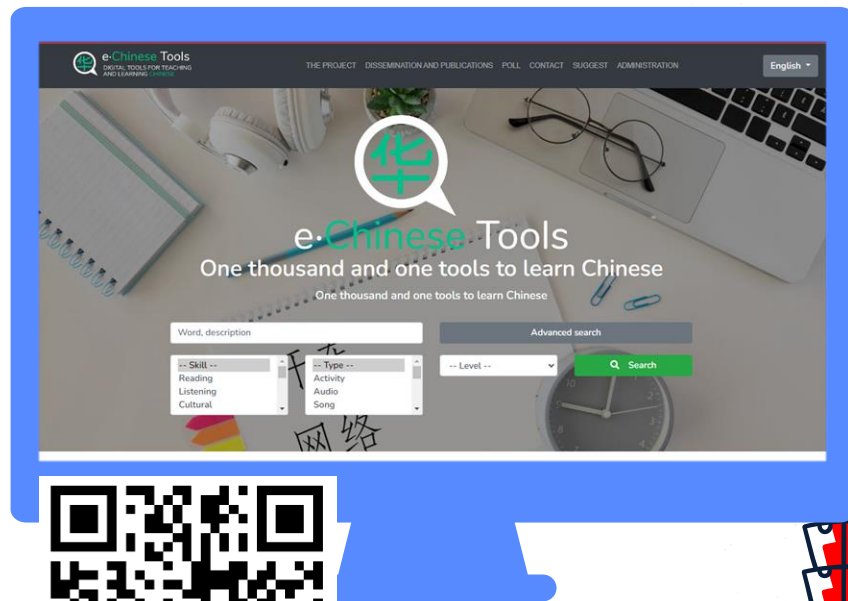
## Limitations

- Focus on translation: no filter by region/country → Taiwanese authors not always easy to find
- Data curation prior to AI irruption → reviews are difficult to process due to their current format

# #e-Chinese Tools

- A database of digital tools and resources to learn Chinese
- 449 resources in total
- Detailed information in each entry
- Covering various skills and linguistic variants

<https://dtieao.uab.cat/txicc/echinese/en/>





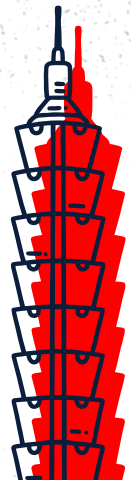
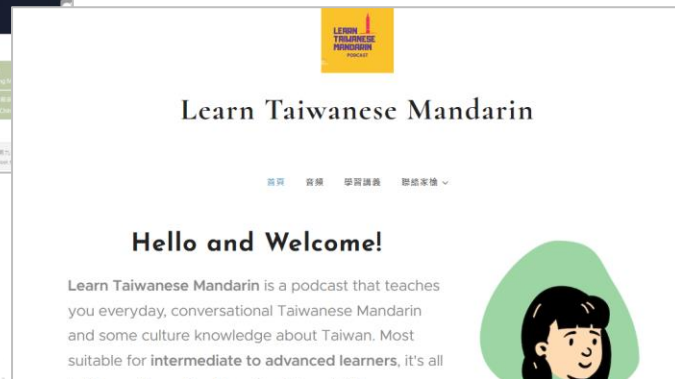
# e-Chinese Tools: Focus on language learning

## 9 resources for 'Taiwanese'

Different formats and approaches:

- Huayu World (website)
- Learn Taiwanese Mandarin (podcast)
- MDBG Chinese Dictionary (online dictionary)
- Aiong Taigi (Youtube)
- ...

But language resources often cover cultural content too (soft power):



# #e-Chinese Plus

- Open Moodle platform with activities to learn Chinese
- 80 activities (work in progress)
- Covering various skills and levels
- For now, 3 activities about Taiwanese Mandarin: 台灣的垃圾文化 (culture + listening) + activities about vocabulary (variation, traditional characters)

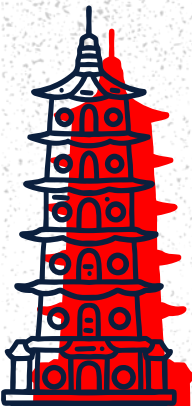






# 04

## Further dissemination activities in digital form



# YouTube video channel



**TXICC**

@TXICC · 173 subscribers · 52 videos

Canal del grup de recerca TXICC (Traducció del xinès al català i al castellà), del Departament de Llengües i Literatures Extranjeres de la Universitat de València.

[grupsderecerca.uab.cat/txicc](https://grupsderecerca.uab.cat/txicc) i 1 enllaç més

Personalitza el canal

Gestiona els vídeos

Inici Videos **Llistes de reproducció** Comunitat Q

Llistes de reproducció creades

Ordena per



Píldoras de lengua y literatura chinas (segunda...  
Mostra la llista de reproducció completa



Píldoras de lengua y literatura chinas (primera...  
Mostra la llista de reproducció completa



Proyectos  
Mostra la llista de reproducció completa



Conferencias  
Mostra la llista de reproducció completa



Entrevistas a traductores de chino  
Mostra la llista de reproducció completa

**18 video capsules on  
Chinese language,  
culture and literature**

**Interviews with 15 Chinese-  
Spanish/Catalan translators  
(2013-2020)**



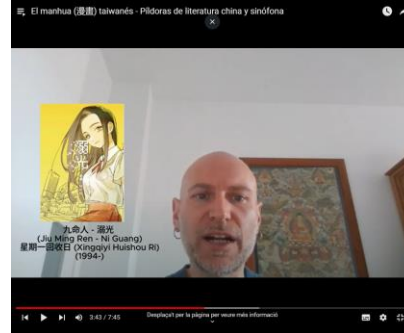


# YouTube channel

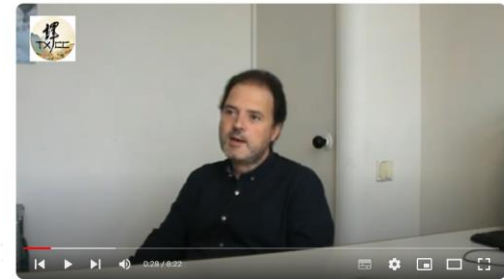
Despite covering a wide range of themes, some specific videos are excellent to approach Taiwanese literature or to better understand how translators of Taiwanese authors work.



Alberto Poza on  
Sinophone Queer  
Literature



Antonio Paoliello on  
Taiwanese Manhua



Jordi Ainaud on  
translating Jimmy Liao

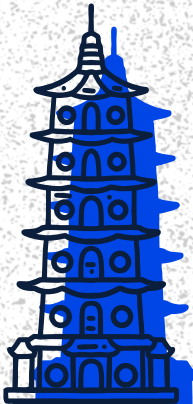




# 06

## Concluding remarks

Digital environments as a catalyst for Taiwanese Studies at UAB:  
potential and challenges





# Taiwan Studies at UAB

- Taiwan Studies are still very much under the umbrella of East Asian Studies or Chinese Studies, both in university courses and in digital research outputs
- TXICC's creation of databases has been conditioned by several factors:
  - Scope and objectives (translation, languages)
  - Funding
  - Technical limitations
- However, specific strategies in digital databases provide an opportunity to retrieve specific information about Taiwan:
  - E.g. using tags for 'Taiwan' or 'Taiwanese' in general databases







# Taiwan Studies at UAB

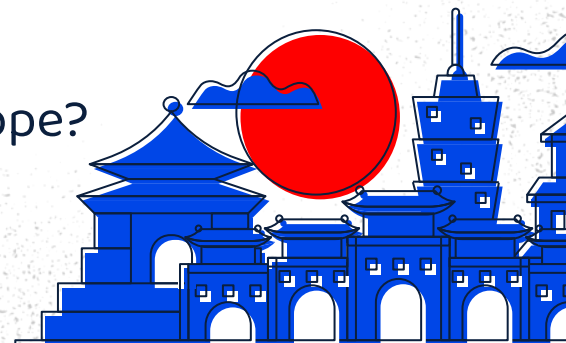
- The creation of databases has given us valuable experience:
  - Careful planning of data collection is very important to identify what 'tags' or categories will be needed.
  - Data curation is extremely important to facilitate the analysis and exploitation of databases (especially now with AI tools).
- All our databases can be exported into excel files which are shared in our institutional repository → contribution to open science and open educational resources (OER)
- All our materials (databases and videos) have direct application in classes and can be excellent source materials for minor and PhD theses.





# Taiwan Studies at UAB

- Future challenges
  - Map of resources regarding Taiwan based on the information already collected by the team → e.g., to promote more minor theses in Taiwan Studies
  - Specific video capsule series on Taiwanese culture and sociolinguistic situation → to increase dissemination and compensate for lack of space in curriculum
- Cooperation with other research groups in Europe?





# Thanks!



**Do you have any questions?**

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On behalf of the TXICC group



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