North American Taiwan Studies Association(NATSA)
Application Form for the President of 2023

Candidate Name

Chee-Hann Wu 吳稚涵

Have you worked with NATSA before? If yes, year/position?

- 2020-21 Co-program Director
- 2019 Program Committee Member

Education

	Name	Year(from/to)	Degree	Major
University	National Taiwan University	2010-14	B.A.	Foreign Languages and Literatures
Graduate School	University of Alberta	2014-16	M.A.	Drama
Graduate School	University of California, Irvine	2017-	Ph.D.	Drama

Experience (ex. work experience, organizing conference experience)

SERVICE (SELECTED)

- Graduate Student Representative 2020-22
  Association for Asian Performance.
- (Senior) Peer Mentor 2020-22
  Graduate InterConnect Program, Graduate Division, UC Irvine.
- Program Director 2020-21
  North American Taiwan Studies Association Annual Conference Online
- President 2019-20
  Taiwanese Graduate Students Association, UC Irvine.
- Student Representative 2019-20
  DECADE (Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience), UC Irvine.

- Program Commissioner 2018-19
  North American Taiwan Studies Association Annual Conference, University of Washington.

WORK EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

- Teaching Associate/Instructor, *Development of Drama* 2018-21
- Teaching Assistant, *Performance Now*, *Performing Rock n Roll*, *Intro to Theatre*, *Culture in Performance* 2014-21
- Researcher in Theatre, Arts and Humanities
- Dramaturg
  - *The Refugee Hotel* (2019) by Carmen Aguirre, directed by Juliette Carrillo, UC Irvine.
  - *Model Minority Syndrome* (2018) by Deni Li, part of "From 626 to 949: Exploring Stigma, Mental Health, and Healing in Asian American Communities", Medical Humanities Initiative, UC Irvine.
- Director (Theatre)
  - "US Census Pop-up Show" (2020) with Irvine Playwrights Workshop, UCI Counts Initiative.
  - *Almost, Maine* (2017) by John Cariani, 2017 Taipei Fringe Festival, Taiwan.
- Performer (Theatre)
  - *I Dream Therefore I Am: Asian Immigration as Creative Muse* (2019), "(Im)Migrant Series, Part II," UC Irvine Illuminations.
  - *Babel en Bhablóin* (2015) by Josh Clendenin, University of Alberta.
- Project Specialist
  - 2016 Asia Pacific Traditional Arts Festival, hosted by National Center for Traditional Arts, Ministry of Culture, Taiwan; organized by Puppet & Its Double Theater.

Manifesto

I am Chee-Hann Wu and currently Ph.D. candidate in Drama at the University of California, Irvine. My work uses performance as a lens to look at diverse aspects of the world with a special focus on Taiwan.

I am asked a lot what drama, theatre or performance studies is. It is always tough to answer, just like the question about what Taiwan studies is. Diana Taylor, professor at New York University, explained in her book that performance is about *doing* and *something (to be) done*. It is "not simply an act, or an action, but an existential condition. An ontology." To me, Taiwan studies shares similar features. Taiwan is an existential condition, a living reality. The doing/done lens provides a means for people to understand Taiwan across temporalities—past, present and future, spatiality and across disciplines. The *doing* is a living practice: Taiwan is something to be rehearsed, to be practiced and to be done, just like performance.

NATSA conference was the first conference that I attended, and was, directly and indirectly, the reason why I decided to embark on the journey as a scholar. I was fortunate to have a chance to be a part of the conference program committee in 2019, 2020 and 2021, and meet all the amazing people from diverse disciplines through NATSA. Efforts have been made to make NATSA an academic organization without prejudice and hierarchy that welcomes scholars and participants with distinct interests, backgrounds, titles and in different stages of study and life. I would like to sustain the collective and organizational efforts generated by former and current NATSA members and friends, and continue NATSA's mission to promote Taiwan studies in North America and create a space for networking.

While appreciating the community, I also noticed the lack of presence and engagement with some traditionally underrepresented research fields and topics on stage with arts being one of them. My hope is that NATSA can become a hub that facilitates conversations between artists and art scholars that are making arts for or about Taiwan, as well as providing a platform for cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary dialogues. This conversation and connection that go beyond the binary between scholars and practitioners should also be expanded to other fields. I would also work to build connections and seek collaborations with non-academic groups in the hope that NATSA can foster a robust and sustainable community.

Lastly, if elected, in addition to being a leader of the organization, I will also be a facilitator, connector and a listener. I will value the works that NATSA has been doing, recruit new members and build new connections, and be a support of the community.

Signature 

Date 11/26/2021