

### Record of Doctoral Dissertation Screening

<b>Name</b>	TANG Huixia
<b>Degree Type</b>	Doctor of Philosophy in Asia Pacific Studies
<b>Degree No.</b>	Dr. A No. 112
<b>Date of Award</b>	March 31, 2023
<b>Requirements for Degree Conferral</b>	Persons who comply to the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Degree Regulations Article 13 Section 1
	Degree Regulations Article 4 Section 1
<b>Title of Dissertation</b>	Present Situation And Revival Of Traditional Chinese Opera In Rural Areas' Modernization Process --- A Case Study On Henan Province
<b>Examiners (Affiliation)</b>	1. YOTSUMOTO Yukio, Ph.D.; Professor, Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Supervisor)
	2. PROGLER Joseph, Ph.D.; Professor, Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Internal Examiner)
	3. Zhang Hongjun, Ph.D.; Literature Department, Luoyang Normal University

**Summary of  
Dissertation  
Contents**

This dissertation consists of 8 chapters as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION
2. CHINESE ANCIENT CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL OPERA
3. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE IN MODERNITY PROCESS
4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
5. FINDINGS AND DISSICUSSION: THE DECLINE OF  
TRADITIONAL CHINESE OPERA IN HENAN RURAL AREA
6. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION: PARTIAL REVIVAL OF RURAL  
OPERA - AN INVESTIGATION OF XINGYUANPU VILLAGE,  
XUCHANG COUNTY
7. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION: PARTIAL REVIVAL OF RURAL  
OPERA - AN INVESTIGATION OF XUN COUNTY
8. CONCLUSION

The dissertation looks at the overall decline and partial revival of traditional Chinese opera in rural China. It has three objectives: 1. To explore the reasons and the inevitability for the decline from the perspective of modernity theory; 2. To investigate the factors of the partial revival in rural Henan under the general trend of decline; 3. To discuss the inheritance and the development of the future of traditional opera based on the research on the above two objectives.

The research was guided by two types of theories: Chinese Opera Theories and Modernity Theories. The former includes Folk Culture and Traditional Opera, Ancient Chinese Philosophy and Traditional Opera, and Religious Culture and Traditional Chinese Opera. The latter includes theories of Baudelaire, Berman, Marx and Weber.

As a qualitative study, a case-oriented approach was adopted and questionnaire surveys, unstructured interviews and participant observation were carried out. The cases are Xuchang County and Xun County in Henan province.

The findings show that there are seven symptoms of the overall decline. They are: 1. sharp reduction in the number of performances, 2. decline in the number of audiences and their aging, 3. increasingly narrow space for acting, 4. low awareness of opera among young people and children, 5. drastic decrease in the number of opera troupes, 6. demise of some small opera types, and 7. loss of a large number of traditional plays. The overall decline was caused by contradiction between classical core of opera and

	<p>modern society, powerful invasion of heterogeneous culture and modern media culture, faultage and loss of the audience, and disruption of education and inadequacy of promotion. The revival of local opera was manifested in the form of traditional stage, opera film, TV opera and opera troupes in Xuchang County and folk custom, commercial performance, Xun Ancient Temple Fair and other temple fairs in Xun County. The factors for the revival are: emphasis on the discovery and utilization of local opera resources, powerful role of individuals and folk organizations, and communal life for rural communities built through traditional opera in Xuchang County and foundations of traditional temple fairs and folk culture, important role of folk societies and troupes, and existence of cultural and tourism industry in Xun County.</p> <p>Based on the findings, five recommendations were made. They are: 1. retaining traditional essence and excavating local folk art resources, 2. combining opera culture with tourism to build local brands, 3. applying scientific and technological means to innovate carrier forms, 4. accelerating the improvement of infrastructure and the construction of Community Theater, and 5. classification and management of opera types to protect endangered arts.</p>
<p><b>Summary of Dissertation Screening Results</b></p>	<p>In China, rural opera has not been studied well in social science approach. This dissertation identified causes of overall decline of traditional Chinese opera and the characteristics of its revival in rural area. Thus, it contributed to further understanding of the phenomena. For this dissertation an oral defense was held with a satisfactory result. It was the unanimous decision from all 3 examiners that this dissertation deserves to be awarded a doctoral degree.</p>

<p><b>Summary of Examination Results or confirmation of Academic Skills</b></p>	<p>Tang Huixia complies with the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Degree Regulations Article 13 Section 1. The result of final examination (dissertation screening and oral defense) was a PASS.</p> <p>Tang Huixia published five articles.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “The current state and future of Chinese opera” <i>Grand Stage</i>, CN13-1004/J, 2013.01.</li> <li>2. “The analysis of building and generality of classical women image in national opera” <i>Grand Stage</i>, CN13-1004/J, 2013.09.</li> <li>3. “The art features and successful experiences of ‘Shui goodness Luo’- A case study of Dance opera” <i>Popular Culture</i>, CN13-1129/I, 2014.02.</li> <li>4. “Development of children’s traditional opera performance training course” <i>Literary World</i>, ISSN 1007-7979, 2022.02.</li> <li>5. <i>Music Appreciation</i>, Tsinghua University Press, 2010.02.</li> </ol>
---	--