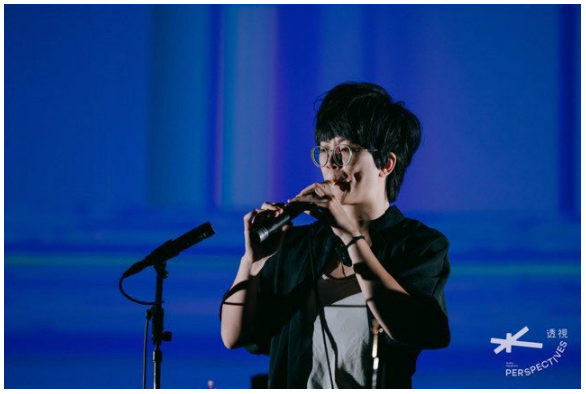
DAS INSTITUT FÜR OSTASIENWISSENSCHAFTEN/ SINOLOGIE

The Department of East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies is pleased to invite to the lecture of



YA-NUNG HUANG

Artist and Musician, Taiwan

維也納大學漢學系

Bubble Beats: From Taiwanese Tea Culture to DIY Instruments

A creative workshop blending the sounds and tastes of Taiwan – from traditional instruments to DIY straw music, let's sip culture and play sound.

Keywords: Sound · Bodily Memory · Movement · Signal · Suona · Abudara

This immersive workshop explores sound, movement, and taste as interconnected carriers of cultural memory. Drawing from Taiwanese musical traditions and the everyday rituals of bubble tea culture, it invites participants to discover how the body stores, transmits, and reactivates cultural and sonic knowledge.

The session begins with an introduction to traditional Taiwanese double-reed instruments such as the Suona and Abudara. Through demonstrations and embodied practice, participants explore how breath, vibration, posture, and coordination shape sound production and musical expression. Sound is approached not only as something we hear, but as something we physically generate and feel.

Everyday gestures—chewing tapioca pearls, sipping, biting straws, and playful interactions with bubble tea—are reimagined as sources of sonic memory and creative material. Through hands-on straw instrument making and collective improvisation, these familiar actions transform into tools for nonverbal communication, rhythmic exploration, and shared play.

By weaving together sound, movement, taste, and social interaction, the workshop highlights how culture travels beyond language—through signals, bodily habits, and shared sensory experiences. Sound emerges as both a physical vibration and a powerful carrier of identity, memory, and emotion.

Let’s turn tea time into a sound party!

YA-NUNG HUANG (she/her) is a Taiwanese interdisciplinary artist and suona player working across video, sound, found objects, and embodied performance, informed by a Social Work degree from National Taiwan University. Her practice merges experimental sound, theatrical improvisation, and reimagined traditional music around bodily experience, everyday rediscovery, and collecting fragments, with a strong focus on cultural inclusion and marginalized communities. In 2024, she launched “The Way Back,” tracing suona routes along the Silk Road to foster ongoing intercultural dialogue.

VCTS
VIENNA CENTER FOR TAIWAN STUDIES
维也納台灣研究中心

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2026
TIME: 16:45-18:15
LOCATION: OAW room, at the Department of East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies, Altes AKH, Campus, Spitalgasse 2, Yard 2, Entrace 2.3