

# LECTURE 21



## **Professor Timothy J. Dowd**

- Professor and Department Chair of Sociology, Emory University
- Chair, Sociology of Culture Section, American Sociological Association, 2015-2016
- Editor-in-Chief, *Poetics: Journal of Empirical Research on Culture, the Media and the Arts*, 2010-2014
- Fulbright Specialist; University of Amsterdam, 2013
- Erasmus Chair of the Humanities; Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2007-2008

**Date: 2023.04.27**

## **INTRODUCTION**

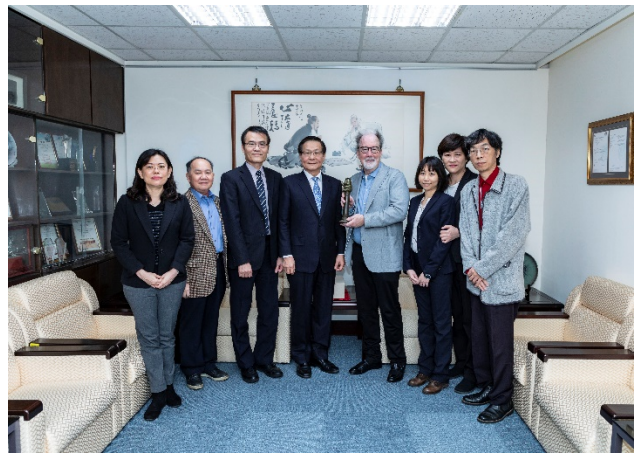
- On April 26th, Dr. Timothy J. Dowd visited Tamkang University with the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Ji Hui-Jun, the Director of the Department of Chinese, Zhou De-Liang, the Director of the Department of Library and Information Science, Lin Wen-Yao, the Director of the Department of Mass Communication, Tang Da-Lun, and Assistant Professor Tai Yun. They met with President Ge Huan-Zhao and Chairperson Chang Chia-Yi. President Ge expressed his welcome and explained the origin of the Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair Lecture, thanking Dr. Dowd for his willingness to share his academic experience with faculty and students at Tamkang University. The first Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair Lecture after the pandemic is of great significance to the university, and he hoped to have more opportunities to exchange ideas with faculty and students at the university. He also recommended visiting the Lanyang Campus and enjoying the beautiful scenery of the Lanyang Plain, or arranging a 2-3 week round-island tour to appreciate the beauty of Taiwan. Dr. Timothy J. Dowd, who visited Asia for the first time, praised the environment of the Tamsui campus and was very happy to give a lecture at the university. He also expressed his willingness to take this opportunity to exchange ideas with faculty and students and to get to know and appreciate Taiwan more.
- Chairperson Chang then introduced the relevant information of the university to Dr. Dowd, including the current situation and future planning of the four campuses, how the university assisted students in learning online during the epidemic, and suggested that he visit the historical archive room to learn more about the university. She also explained that although the university does not have art-related departments, it still values the cultivation of students' artistic accomplishments. The university hires faculty members with relevant academic expertise to teach courses

in general education and the core curriculum center. She also informed the faculty and students of the core curriculum center and the College of Education to take the opportunity to listen to the lecture.

- Professor Dowd expressed his gratitude to the university for arranging a comfortable suite for the Lecturer, and said that he would learn and appreciate the campus

during his stay. President Ge and Chairperson Chang presented Professor Dowd with a "Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair Trophy," calligraphy by Masters Chi-Mao Li and Ping-Huang Chang, and a vase with the lyrics of the Tamkang University song and scenery on it, expressing their gratitude to Professor Dowd.

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**Professor Dowd visited President Keh on April 26th, and President Keh presented Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair Trophy to Professor Dowd as a commemoration.**



**Professor Dowd visited Chairperson Chang on April 26th, and Chairperson Chang presented him with a vase carved by Master Chi-Mao Li as a souvenir.**

Topic :



## ABSTRACT

- Professor Dowd was fascinated with the processes by which classifications and practices become widely accepted. Thus, he has studied such things as (a) aesthetic classifications (e.g., the rise of the R&B genre in the early to mid 1900s; the evolving orchestral canon from the early 1800s to the present; the designation of "all time greats" in music and the arts); (b) business strategies (e.g., decentralized production of multinational record companies; post-antitrust merger strategies of railroad companies; the wholesale shift to online music); and (c) careers in creative industries (e.g., how musicians and artists make a living in settings where sustained employment is scarce and where racial and gender boundaries are commonplace).
- His studies have taught him to emphasize the importance of historical context, to acknowledge how inequality gets built into that context (especially along racial and gendered lines), and to recognize the benefits of bringing multiple theories into dialogue.
- While much of his current research addresses music and creative careers, his interests are much broader than that. As editor of *Poetics*, for example, He enjoyed featuring cultural sociology that runs the gamut in terms of methodologies, theories, and traditions. As a professor, He often reminds his students that sociology is defined by a diversity of topics and approaches.



**Professor Dowd gave a brilliant speech at the Hsu Shou-Chlien International Conference Hall. After Professor Dowd's lecture, Dean Huei-Chun Chi presented him with the Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair Trophy.**

- After an absence of nearly three years, the Tamkang Clement and

Carrie Chair Lecture returned today (4/27), once again invited by the Department of Mass Communication at the College of Liberal Arts, to host the first post-epidemic Lecture at the Hsu Shou-Chlien International Conference Center of Tamkang University. The invited speaker was Professor Timothy J. Dowd, the Director of the Department of Sociology at Emory University in the United States. His topic was "Music and Musician Careers in the Digital Era."

- In this talk, Professor Dowd draw upon previous research (including his own research) to offer an overview that relates changing aspects of musical worlds more broadly with the implication those changes have for musician careers -- particularly the changes associated with the digital era. This overview will stress both the challenges that typical musicians have faced over the years and the agentic ways that typical musicians can navigate those challenges. Among other things, we will see that, even in the current digital era, the performance of live and in-person music remains important to the careers of musicians, particularly those musicians who are not superstars.
- In his lecture, Professor Dowd mentioned that few people would think that sociology is related to music. Little do they know that the

content of music and the performance and creation of music itself are all worthy of sociological research. People use music to differentiate themselves from others while connecting with each other, which is a subject of sociological concern. Professor Dowd reviewed the changes in the recording industry in the United States over the past century and pointed out that the industry was once monopolized by large corporations and superstars, but due to the evolution of digital technology, the industry has become decentralized, with various new types of music groups emerging. Today, large companies have restructured themselves by absorbing all kinds of music groups, and the way revenue is generated has also changed. These changes in the music industry can be used as a microcosm to understand social changes.

- The realm of music has changed notably over the years. Over the last two to three centuries, music expanded beyond being a communal activity based in tradition, becoming "organized" and "industrialized" in the process. In that span of time, for instance, we see the rise of the publishing and live performance industries, as well as the recording and radio industries. As the 20th century has given way to

the 21st century, we see other notable changes: the digitization of music and the online circulation of that digital music. Amidst all of these

changes, musicians have attempted to build and sustain careers- careers that are often "precarious."



**Professor Dowd gave a speech on "Music and Musician Careers in the Digital Era." and at the end, all the teachers on stage took a group photo.**

## MINUTE

- On April 27th, 2023, the College of Liberal Arts of Tamkang university held the Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair Lecture. Professor Timothy J. Dowd, Director of the Department of Sociology at Emory University in the United States, was invited by the Department of Mass Communication to be the keynote speaker. His expertise includes cultural sociology, music sociology, media sociology, organizational sociology, and creative career development. His research focuses on how culture is constructed, represented, transformed, influenced, and disseminated in society from a sociological

perspective. On the afternoon of April 26th, accompanied by Dean Ji Huijun of the College of Liberal Arts, Tang Dalun, Director of the Department of Mass Communication, Assistant Professor Tai Yun, and Lin Wen Yao, Director of the Information and Library Science Department, Professor Timothy J. Dowd visited the university's history museum, where they were guided by Chief Shi Qiuxia(石秋霞) of the Library's Historical Archives Group and Librarian He Zhengxing(何政興). In addition to introducing the university's major events and its



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Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair*

"Three Transformations" education philosophy of internationalization, informatization, and futurization, the first-floor exhibition area of the museum specifically highlighted the significance of a concert held at our university on December 3, 1976, which featured Western folk songs. At the concert, Li Shuangze, a mathematics student at the time, called on young people to inherit

folk songs by "singing their own songs," a message that has profound significance for future generations.

- Professor Timothy J. Dowd praised the School History Museum as a very beautiful university museum. He was impressed by the school's culture of freedom and innovation, and admired the founder's trip to the United States.



**Professor Dowd visited the School History Museum and left a handwritten signature card.**



**On April 26th, Professor Dowd had lunch with Dean Huei-Chun Chi of the College of Liberal Arts, Dalun Tang, Chair of the Department of Mass Communication, Assistant Professor Yun Tai, and Wen Yao Lin, Chair of the Information and Library Science Department, and others at the QP Restaurant.**