

Taiwan Historical Research 2009: Retrospect and Prospect

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ABSTRACT

Under the concerted efforts of researchers in Taiwan history, the third Symposium of Taiwan Historical Research was held with the objectives of establishing the tradition of scholastic critique, exploring directions for future research and forming communities for academic discussion and exchange. With reference to the “2009 Symposium of Taiwan Historical Research,” co-organized by the Graduate Institute of Taiwan History, National Taiwan Normal University; Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica; and Graduate Institute of Taiwan History, National Chengchi University, this article describes the research findings of 2009, which are classified into six main categories, namely general, political, economic, social, cultural and overseas research findings. This article also comments on these findings and proposes directions for future research.

On the whole, the research on Taiwan history in 2009 had made significant progress and gained in-depth understanding in modern history and history of social and culture. Issues worth further exploration and continuous efforts include the problems of research era and wide variations in quality of dissertations, how to maintain the balance of historical data and discipline theory, how to keep strict distinction between politics and academic research, and how to create dialogue between different historical viewpoints and establish consensus.

Keywords: Taiwan History, Oral History, Political History, Industrial History, Aboriginal History, Regional History, History of Education, Religion History, Art History, Music History, Medical History, History of Sports and Leisure