

Taiwan Historical Research in 2010: Retrospect and Prospect

Kuo-hsing Hsieh, Ming-ju Hsieh

ABSTRACT

Reviewing the essays delivered at the “2010 Conference on Taiwan History Research,” jointly organized by the Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica, and the Graduate Institutes of Taiwan History of both National Chengchi University and National Taiwan Normal University, this article classified the Taiwan history research findings of 2010 into four categories, namely general works, politics, economics and social culture. The article also offers a comprehensive analysis on the results obtained and proposes a research prospectus for the future.

The 2010 research works on Taiwan history continued the same trend as in the previous three years with greater emphasis on modern history and socio-cultural history. These studies have explored a wide variety of topics with more sophisticated arguments expounded and diverse interpretations proposed. However, they focused too much on certain eras and insignificant themes, served more as political instruments, and gave greater priority to theories rather than historical materials. More effort should be devoted to the research on history of early times and the Qing Dynasty and to cultivating talents for related studies. In addition, cross-disciplinary approaches and theories should be adopted for longitudinal and comparative research. Of note is the advent of Geographic Information System (GIS) as a new tool of historiography. Not only can GIS facilitate the studies of regional, ethnic and environmental histories, which emphasize the interaction between human and the land, it also illustrates how integration of different disciplines can contribute to history research and has lasting impact on the research community of Taiwan history.

Keywords: Taiwan History, Review of Studies, Political History, Economic History, Socio-cultural History, Historical Materials