

Recent Developments of Taiwan Studies in Japan (2012-2017)

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ABSTRACT

Shigaku zasshi (“Historical Journal of Japan”), first published in 1889, is the most time-honored and prestigious academic journal on historical science. Its annual May issue, devoted to review articles summing up recent developments in the academic field of history within Japan, is of particular interest and a must-read to researchers of Japan history. Studies of Taiwan history has been made a sub-branch since the May issue of 2003 (Issue 112, no. 5).

Literature reviews of Japan-based Taiwan studies have been available in both countries. The Japan Association of Taiwan Studies put emphasis on significant academic publications within each decade, while other organizations such as Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica held symposiums with retrospect and prospect regrading certain years or specific topics in order to portray the academic activities in Japan in a more detailed manner. In view of the frequent exchanges between Taiwanese and Japanese researchers and a shared focus on the subjectivity of Taiwan and the continuity of history, this study aims to add to the cumulative efforts to demonstrate the involvements and trends in the Japanese academic circles of recent years.

This study takes the year 2012, the 40th anniversary of Japan severing diplomatic ties with the Republic of China, as the starting point, and combs through the Japanese publications regarding “Taiwan study” up to 2017, as well as feedback from the Japanese academic circles, based on monographs, proceedings, and papers included in the “Retrospect and Prospect” section in *Shigaku zasshi*.

Keywords: *Shigaku Zasshi* (Historical Journal of Japan), Subjectivity of Taiwan, Continuity of History, Cultural Diversity, Transitional Justice, Taiwanese Aborigine