

Retrospection, Focus, Prospect: Comment and Analysis on Important Figures in Taiwan's History (2018-2019)

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ABSTRACT

Between 2018 and 2019, there are 186 related studies on historical figures of Taiwan. These studies are grouped under 14 categories: early period, Japanese invasion of Taiwan, politics, economy, cross-border travelers, social leaders and local elites, females, aborigines, religions, academic purposes, writers, arts, sports, and family history. Among them, there are more studies on arts, writers, politics, cross-border travelers and academic purposes.

Several studies involve in-depth exploration of events and records related to significant figures, giving a more comprehensive portrayal or a complete reversal of previous depiction. In addition, many researchers nowadays use innovative research approaches, such as digital humanities, and diverse viewpoints for historical interpretation, including longitudinal study and observation of Taiwan from a Japanese perspective. These ideas and methods can be inspirations for future researchers.

Regarding research trends, there have been fruitful studies on artistic and literary figures, signifying progress in cultural research. The National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts and the National Museum of Taiwan Literature have gathered materials for compiling biographies of famous artists and writers, respectively, and a series of books on them have been published. Research on cross-border travelers has also gained immense popularity, showing that the academic focus is no longer limited to local Taiwanese citizens but includes also overseas Taiwanese and foreigners in Taiwan.

An overall review of related papers on historical figures of Taiwan from 2018 to 2019 shed light on research trends in the studies of Taiwan history. The use of historical materials, research methods and perspectives in many papers can serve as useful references for future studies.

Keywords: Taiwan Historical Figures, 2018-2019, Retrospective Study