

## **Retrospective Review on Legal History of Taiwan (1995-2017)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article is a retrospective review of master theses and doctoral dissertations on legal studies archived at the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan. The analysis aims to shed light on the generation of content knowledge over the past two decades and traces the evolution in these legal studies from the normative research perspective of the country and the legal system to the social empirical research orientation of the people and the social/legal life in response to social changes and development needs of Taiwan.

In contrast to the established narratives of legal history in Taiwan and past research emphasis on legal history of China, these analyzed theses and dissertations focus more on contemporary legal history with local perspectives developed from Taiwan. Their discussion, in addition to abstract legal norms, has gradually expanded to political, economic and social conditions consequent to implementation of laws. Moreover, their research approaches have also become more varied emphasizing both norms and facts of legal practices.

Research findings on legal history of Taiwan in the past two decades reveal distinct features of Taiwan including its geographical location, multi-ethnic origins and diverse cultures. The different legal cultures and lives arising from ethnicities, political parties, genders and ideologies in different eras and regions have opened up a new research horizon.

**Keywords:** Legal History of Taiwan, Theses and Dissertations, Fundamental Legal Studies, Content Knowledge