

Pioneering and Prospering: Symposium of 30th Anniversary Celebration of Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica

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ABSTRACT

In celebration of its 30th anniversary of establishment, the Institute of Taiwan History held a symposium on August 1, 2023, presided by Director Hsueh-chi Hsu and Associate Research Fellow Rwei-ren Wu, convener of the Cultural History Research Group. The symposium started from reviewing the early history of the Institute, with the Taiwan History Field Research Project proposed by Academician Kwang-chih Chang (1931-2001), through the different stages of development over the past three decades from the Taiwan History Field Research Office to the Preparatory Office and finally to the formal establishment of the Institute. From diverse perspectives, the symposium assessed how the Institute evolved over the years, pointing out that some changes were gradually accumulated from past trajectories, some were developed along the path of knowledge production within the discipline, some were academic practices that answered social concerns, and some were new research areas in response to important issues of the times.

The symposium comprised four sessions in total. In the first session, "Fieldwork and Multiple Origins," Associate Research Fellow Su-chuan Chan talked about the Taiwan History Field Research Project, the predecessor of the Institute of Taiwan History, and the founding spirit, academic practices, and continued developments of the Taiwan History Field Research Project; and Associate Research Fellow Lung-chih Chang, now the Director of the National Museum of Taiwan History, reviewed the position of the Institute of Taiwan

History in the history of Taiwan historiography with multiple origins from the social context of historiography and historical knowledge. In the second session, “Pioneers and Prospects,” Academician Ts’ui-jung Liu, Adjunct Research Fellows Fu-san Huang and Teng-fu Shih, all seniors of the Institute who have made great academic achievements, shared their respective academic journeys. Interdisciplinary dialogue and practice are traditions established by the Institute of Taiwan History since its beginning. Therefore, in the third session, “Interdisciplinary Dialogue and Practice”, Associate Research Fellows Rwei-ren Wu, Wen-kai Lin and Wen-liang Tseng shared their experiences, achievements and reflections in studying Taiwan history with a background of non-traditional history discipline. The fourth session is “Historical Perspectives and Interpretation of Historical Materials”. Research Fellows Pei-feng Chen and, Tsung-jen Chen, and Yu-ju Lin and Associate Research Fellow Jungwon JIN, who all have recently published important research findings and initiated novel research fields from fresh perspectives and with historical materials other than written materials, shared their respective academic experiences.

Keywords: Institute of Taiwan History, 30th Anniversary, Historiography, Retrospect and Prospect