

## **Taiwan Historical Research in 2014-2015: Retrospect and Prospect**

Shih-yuan Hsieh, Mei-wun Wang, Yi-hung Chen, and Wei-ying Liu

### **ABSTRACT**

This article contains a comprehensive analysis of the papers presented at the conference “2014-2015 Taiwan History Research: Retrospect and Prospect” (December 9 to 10, 2016) co-organized by the Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica; Graduate Institute of Taiwan History, National Cheng-Chi University; Graduate Institute of Taiwan History, National Taiwan Normal University; and National Museum of Taiwan History. These papers cover Public history, Industrial history, Environmental history, Literary history, Medical culture history, and historical materials of Taiwan. The analysis also includes a review of *Annual Bibliography of Taiwan History 2014-2015*, focusing on recent developments and future prospects of research on Taiwan history.

Overall, research results of 2014-2015 revealed that publication of important historical materials has significant influence on certain research topics, such as the 228 Incident and Chiang Kai-shek, with new historical materials unearthed offering fresh insight and novel perspectives. This further corroborates the material-based characteristic of historical research. Moreover, some research results such as those on Chiang Kai-shek, the 228 Incident, Post-war history, and Public health history were published collectively, thus consolidating dialogues on the related topics.

The recent emergence of public history and popular life history as research trends merits attention. These trends point out the many possibilities between historical research and the public, and serve to remind the research community of Taiwan history on the relationship and importance of dialogue between the academia and society.

**Keywords:** Taiwan History, Research Review, Research Trends, Historical Data