

Dutch Formosa and Spanish Hermosa in Taiwan: Scope of the Field and Its Contribution to Taiwan Studies in Europe

Ann Heylen 賀安娟

Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages and Literature,
National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan
國立臺灣師範大學臺灣語文學系

Taiwan has experienced a resurgence of interest in 17th Century Dutch Formosa. In particular, the Chen administration of 2000-2008 sponsored cultural and public policy promoting exhibitions, commemorations and historical research aimed to place this historical experience in a contemporary perspective. My presentation is a discussion of how we can understand public interest in the historical revisitation of this period of pre-modern (Dutch Formosa and Spanish Hermosa) history in Taiwan. The focus of attention will be on the tremendous efforts that have been put in consolidating the field, with particular reference to the input from the outside. By this is meant the efforts by Dutch universities and research institutions, as well as the more recent interest from Spain in uncovering the Spanish presence in Taiwan.

The analysis will be evaluated against the background of the development of Taiwan Studies in Europe. What can and/or need to be done, not only to strengthen the cooperation between academics in Europe and in Taiwan on the subject matter, but also to stake out research angles and approaches that will enable to deepen the understanding of this geopolitically important epoch for the future development of Taiwan.