

The Many Faces of a Case Study on Taiwanese Politics: A Survey of the Journal Articles

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In empirical studies, cases are explicitly or implicitly drawn from a population. However, quantitative research places too little on the possible bias of sampling, and qualitative studies rarely address the theoretical implications of their cases. This paper analyzes journal articles published in Taiwan and some representative international journals on Taiwanese politics and confirms this conjecture. First, as expected, the approaches of Taiwanese politics diverge a lot among journals, ranging between single-event narratives to a highly quantitative research. Second, single-case studies focus primarily on their cases rather than their relevance to the implicit population. Third, although small in number, some case study articles are still conscious of the theoretical contributions of their analysis. Based on these findings, this paper argues that the studies on Taiwanese politics still have a long way to go: quantitative works should be more attentive to the sampling bias problem and case studies should pay more attention to the comparability of their evidence.