

## “Subjectivity”, “Liminality” and the Ontology of Taiwan Studies vis-à-vis Sinology

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This presentation aims at proposing to apply to geopolitics and the study of the ontology of Taiwan studies a concept originating from anthropology, liminality, with however a very different meaning of 'geopolitical threshold', based on the Latin origin of the word, *limen*. Liminality is a concept used here to replace marginality, which corresponds to a growing perception of Taiwan as increasingly marginal in front of the emergence of China as a global superpower. By crossing cross straits geopolitics, global geopolitics and China-Taiwan history, the author intends to show how interpreting Taiwan's position vis-a-vis China can be more accurately represented by the notion of liminality than the idea of marginality in describing the multiples dimensions of the China-Taiwan interaction, a paradigm shift that can lead to the reevaluation of Taiwan in a more positive/optimistic way in regions of the world, such as the United States, where the study of Taiwan appears declining. By also examining the relations between geopolitics of China-Taiwan relations on the field and the relations between Chinese studies and the study of Taiwan, the notion of liminality shows that room for cooperation instead of mutual denial or imperialistic inclusion can theoretically exist.