

Social Movement Study in Taiwan: A State-of-the-field Report

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Abstract:

The academic interest on Taiwan's social movements emerged in the wake of popular upsurge after the lifting of martial law in 1987. Over the nearly three decades, social movement study has established itself as a legitimate subfield in sociology, political science, anthropology and legal study. This paper will trace its development by a critical review on the relevant publications both in Chinese and English. I will be primarily looking at the following issues: (1) is there a methodological and theoretical improvement in this period? (2) has a shift concerning research questions occurred? (3) are there emerging issues or agendas that can be claimed as unique to Taiwan? (4) compared to the research elsewhere, what are the less studied dimensions of social movements in Taiwan?