

## Taiwan Studies in Japan: 1995-2014

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In my presentation, entitled “Taiwan Studies in Japan: 1995-2014”, I would like to briefly introduce the transition of the major trends in Taiwan Studies in Japan from 1995 to 2014 by reviewing the most important book publications during the period and possible future prospects.

Taiwan Studies in Japan from 1995 to 2014 can be divided into two periods. One is from 1995 until the middle of the 2000s, which can be identified as a “Paradigm shift in Taiwan Studies”; and the next is from the mid-2000s to 2014, which can be on the other hand identified as the “Evolution of Taiwan Studies”. For both periods, one of the noteworthy changes in Taiwan Studies in Japan is the gradual shift in demarginalization, which is directly affected by the political and social changes in Taiwan after 1987, especially by the rapid liberalization, democratization, and two turnovers of political power in a decade.

Triggered by those dynamic and unpredictable changes, three remarkable “rises” can be found during both periods. First is the increased numbers of publications focusing on contemporary issues rather than those of the Japanese Colonial Era. Second are the works and publications by new generations of authors who are free from the influence of the negative image of Taiwan under 38 years of martial law; who have experienced studying abroad in Taiwan after 1990s; who have attained proficiency in Chinese; and who are able to utilize easily accessible digital databases and archival materials. At last, new research and publications are going beyond the long dominant framework which often presupposes a binary opposition between the colonizer and the colonized, oppressor and oppressed.

In previous generations, the focus of research traditionally revolved around the Japanese Colonial Era; however, now contemporary issues and themes are increasingly examined by the scholars of new generations who have studied abroad in Taiwan. Especially after 2000, in addition to the publications of senior researchers, those scholarly works of younger generations using new archives, perspectives and approaches have brought an increasing number of book publications and broadened the horizon of Taiwan Studies in Japan. Those book publications based on Ph.D. dissertations by young scholars and their remarkable achievements can be observed in the numbers of award-winning publications during the two decades. Further reviews will be discussed in the presentation.

**Roundtable 1 Taiwan Studies in Comparative Perspective**

Nowadays, Taiwan has become the new center of Taiwan Studies, and the advantages which were long held by Japanese academic circles, especially on the Japanese Colonial Era, are no longer the same. In this globalized era of Taiwan Studies, the role of Japanese scholars is also changing; nevertheless, despite the decreasing advantages compared to the previous generations, there are still advantages left based on our historically accumulated knowledge and academic traditions, and we as Japanese scholars must continue to strive and pursue the uniqueness of our own contributions to the advancement and development of Taiwan Studies in the global arena.