The Making of Ethnic Diversity and Ethnic Movements in Taiwan: Process and Impacts

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Lecture in English
Open to Public / No Registration Required

In this lecture, I will first explore the significant shift from “minority rule” to “majority rule” as the consequence of political-democratic transformation in the 1990s. The reconstruction of the ethnic re-composition of Taiwan has also been made by civil society and liberal scholars. The conception of “four-five ethnic groups” was then quickly becoming popular and widely acknowledged by the public. Taiwan’s newly defined ethnic minority groups are Austronesian groups, Hakka, and new cross border labor and marriage immigrants from Southeast Asian countries.

Then I will discuss the origins, formation, and political practices of the two ethnic movements led by Austronesian and Hakka activists and their own advocacy civil society organizations, and the other one initiated by local Taiwanese service NGOs for the protection of human rights for the two kinds of new immigrants.

Finally, some visible and important policy impacts of the above three ethnic movements are to be identified, and the eventual paradigm shift from “provincial division” to “ethnic diversity” will also be discussed.

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