

Marriage, household formation and social mobility in colonial Taiwan: A  
new occupational database for Taiwanese family history.

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Abstract

Taiwanese family history during the Japanese colonial time has been studied with various aspects. The relationship between marriage and social mobility is one of them and faced a technical perplexity for a long time. The occupational information was mixed trades and occupations on household registers. Moreover, the transformation between occupation and social class was simply divided into three classes in the past studies. In this paper, we utilize the information from household registers and Taiwanese Historical Information of Social Class and Occupations Database (THISCO) which is established based on *LinShi Taiwan HuKou DiaoCha ZhiYe MingZiHui* (臨時臺灣戶口調查職業名字彙, Collection of occupational titles from the 1905 Provisional Household Census of Taiwan) and referred to HISCO (Historical international classification of occupations) and HISCOM (World Historical Class Scheme). In this case, we can analyze the people behavior by individual and universal social class standard.

In our earlier studies, we found that the uxori-local marriage age of brides and grooms were older in Taipei (urban) than in XinChu (rural). In addition, either daughters or adopted daughters, if they had fewer siblings or no brothers, had a

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higher probability to enter into uxori-local marriages. Moreover, uxori-local marriages were found less prevalent in later birth cohorts while ethnic groups and parent's marriage types had no direct effect on uxori-local marriage. What about the family background of uxori-local marriage brides and grooms? Would uxori-local grooms take marriage as a channel for upward social mobility? Besides upward social mobility, would conjugal alliance exist among certain social classes in Taiwan?

According to James Wilkerson (2010), marriage presents an elite model among literati families in Xinchu during the Qing Dynasty. In this research, marriage types, social economic status (SES) of bride and groom's family, household formation system, urban-rural difference are the main issues. In addition, the viewpoints of Wilkerson will be rechecked by regional difference and time variation.

**Key Words:** Household registers, historical demography, family history, Colonial Taiwan