Editorial

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After the publication of three issues, we are delighted that the *International Journal of Taiwan Studies* (IJTS) has now been indexed by the European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS).¹ This achievement recognises the quality of output by the many researchers who have contributed to our journal over the last two years and is of great encouragement to the editorial team in its efforts to help extend and increase the visibility of Taiwan studies. We are grateful to everyone who has helped make this happen.

In this, our fourth issue, we have again sought to expand our scope. Thung-Hong Lin and Bowei Hu's 'Subcontractors' Dilemma: the Expansion of Taiwanese Firms 2002–2015' is the first research paper we have published in the field of political economy and its subject matter is echoed by James Lin's review of Hamilton and Kao's *Making Money: How Taiwanese Industrialists Embraced the Global Economy* (2017). Kharis Templeman's 'Blessing in Disguise: How Authoritarian Legacies and the China Factor Have Strengthened Democracy in Taiwan' applies the concept of party system institutionalisation and offers a fresh and positive perspective on the health of Taiwan's democracy. Hon-min Yau's 'An Assessment of Cyberpower within the Triangular Relations of Taiwan–US–China and Its Implications' tackles an innovative and critical area: cybersecurity. It provides readers with a solid overview of some of the cybersecurity challenges facing Taiwan, and how the cyberpower dynamics in its three-way relationship with China and the US is changing. Frédéric Krumbein's 'Human Rights and Democracy in Taiwan's Foreign Policy and Cross-Strait Relations' employs role theory and addresses an understudied area: the role of human rights and democracy in Taiwan's foreign policy and identity on the global stage. In a ranging discussion the paper touches upon the issue of same-sex marriage, which was legalised in Taiwan on 17 May 2019; a historical first in Asia. We are thus particularly pleased to also include a paper which

1 See <https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/erihplus/periodical/info.action?id=496779>.

devotes an entire discussion to this topic: 'Explaining Support for Same-Sex Marriage: Evidence from Taiwan' by Timothy Rich, Andi Dahmer, and Isabel Eliassen. The final research paper, Rik De Busser's 'The Influence of Christianity on the Indigenous Languages of Taiwan: a Bunun Case Study', presents a valuable insight into the linguistic choices that were made while translating the Bible into Bunun. It is another first for our journal: the first research article we have published on social linguistics in indigenous Taiwan.

Another special feature of this issue is the research note written by Emeritus Professor J. Bruce Jacobs. A veteran scholar of Taiwan and a member of the *IJTS* Advisory Board, Bruce was named a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2019 'for significant service to higher education, particularly in the field of Asian studies'.² Just seven months previously he received 'the prestigious Taiwanese award of the Order of Brilliant Star with Grand Cordon for his enduring work on Taiwan's democratisation and to foster Australia–Taiwan relations'.³ This has certainly made him one of the few Australians, if not the only Australian, to receive top awards from both the Australian and Taiwanese governments. Bruce's research note demonstrates his immense intellectual curiosity, broad scholarly interests, and ability to make links between different subjects and between the past and present.

We have also included six book reviews covering a plethora of topics in history, colonialism, literature, art, political economy, democracy, and identity. The quantity and quality of these publications is testimony to how prolific colleagues in Taiwan studies are right now. I wish to highlight here the review written by Wen-chi Li of Lim and Kong's *Studying Hong Kong: 20 Years of Political, Economic and Social Developments* (2018) because we believe that the study of Taiwan should not focus only on the island itself. As Li points out, Lim and Kong's book uses 'the example of Taiwan as a yardstick against which the progression of human rights in Hong Kong can be measured'. As this issue goes to press, we are witnessing massive protests against the extradition bill and authoritarianism in Hong Kong. Li's review is one of several contributions that reflect on this recent development and discuss its implications for Taiwan. Indeed we hope that the *IJTS* will continue to be at the forefront of discussions of events as they unfold and publish research that is as timely as it is scholarly.

We always welcome original research articles that analyse a specific historical or current event or forge links between Taiwan and wider international,

2 See <https://honours.pmc.gov.au/honours/awards/2004486>.

3 See <https://twitter.com/AusOfficeTPE/status/1063347073360121856>.

cultural, or theoretical contexts.⁴ We also believe in the value of the book review to keep our growing readership up to date with current scholarship. While we only accept reviews in English, the books themselves can be published in any language. If you are a publisher wanting to have a book reviewed or an author wanting to review one, get in touch with our Book Review Editor, Professor Gary Rawnsley.⁵ For the *IJTS* to continue to be successful and sustainable, we depend on and value your input.

4 Please submit through our portal: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/IJTSBRILL/default.aspx>.

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