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Abstract: This article provides a historical and critical overview of Sino-Japanese studies in Hong Kong from the early postwar era to the present. By dividing its history into three periods, it aims to demonstrate the role of Hong Kong in Sino-Japanese studies as a bridge for Japanese, Chinese and Western academic traditions. Equipped with language skills and global perspectives, Hong Kong scholars can research issues in Sino-Japanese studies in a different manner from their Mainland Chinese and Taiwanese counterparts. This article also looks into a number of pressing issues that have undermined the further development of the field.

Sino-Japanese Studies in Hong Kong: History, Characteristics and Problems

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Introduction:

China, Japan and the United States are the three major research hubs in Sino-Japanese studies. Although Hong Kong is geopolitically a part of China, research in the field of Sino-Japanese lies in the orbit of these three centers. While it is no match for the “Big Three” in terms of numbers of publications and impact, it plays an important role as a melting pot for different academic traditions. This article is a historical overview of Sino-Japanese studies in Hong Kong from the early postwar era to the present, highlighting major trends in scholarship and academic networks with Chinese, Japanese and American scholars. It divides the development of Sino-Japanese Studies in Hong Kong into three periods, introducing representative scholars and their works and identifying the characteristics and problems in scholarship.

The Formative Stage: 1950s and 1960s

The research environment for Sino-Japanese studies in Hong Kong was harsh in the early postwar period when anti-Japanese sentiment remained strong and most scholars did not have a secure academic position from which to conduct research. First-generation scholars (such as Wei Tingsheng 卫挺生, 1890-1977, and Zuo Shunsheng 左舜生, 1893-1969) were mostly anti-Communist historians or bureaucrats from the Mainland who had fled to Hong Kong when the Communists took over China in 1949. They had a strong background in traditional learning and some proficiency in Japanese. They used mostly Chinese sources and published in Chinese. Influenced by their anti-Japanese attitude, they stressed the importance of Chinese culture in Japan historically and overlooked the role of Japan in making modern Chinese culture. Although their works were widely read in Mainland China, they did not have any personal ties with Chinese scholars and did not visit the Mainland. They maintained close ties with Taiwanese scholars and visited Taiwan for conferences, data collection and networking.

Wei Tingsheng, a native of Hubei Province, received his education at Taisei Middle School in Japan and Harvard University. Before the war, he was a member of the Legislative Council of the Nanjing National Government and a professor of economics at Fudan University in Shanghai. After the war, Wei moved to Hong Kong and lectured at New Asia College. He went to Taiwan often to make use of the library resources at Taiwan National University for pioneering research on Xu Fu 徐福, a legendary cultural icon of ancient China. He published *Riben Shenwu kaiguo xinkao : Xu Fu ru Riben jianguo kao* 日本神武开国新考: 徐福入日本建国考 (A new investigation of founding Emperor Jinmu: Xu Fu established a nation in Japan) (Hong Kong: Commercial Press, 1950) and *Xu Fu yu Riben* 徐福与日本 (Xu Fu and Japan) (Hong Kong: Xinshijie chubanshe, 1953). Citing ancient sources and archeological findings, Wei alleged that Xu Fu went to ancient Japan and became Emperor Jinmu. This theory had an impact in Japan, Taiwan and Mainland China.¹

Zuo Shunsheng, a native of Hunan Province, was a leader of the Chinese Youth Party, the third largest political party in prewar China. In 1947, he was appointed Agriculture Minister of the National Government in Nanjing. He came to Hong Kong in 1949 and lectured at New Asia College. He maintained a close relationship with Taiwanese officials and scholars. In 1956, Zuo served as a member of the Taiwanese delegation to Japan. In 1969, he was appointed policy advisor to the Office of the President in Taiwan. A historian of modern Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations, Zuo wrote *Jindai Zhong-Ri guanxi shi gangyao* 近代中日关系史网要 (An outline of the modern history of Sino-Japanese relations) (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 1935).

The role of New Asia College in promoting Sino-Japanese studies is noteworthy. It is a private neo-Confucian academy founded by the famous historian Qian Mu 钱穆 (1895-1990) in 1950. Though politically anti-Japanese, Qian respected Japanese scholarship on Chinese learning and encouraged his students to study in Japan. Tam Yue-him 谭汝谦, perhaps the most important scholar of Sino-Japanese studies in postwar Hong Kong, was sent to study at Kyoto University from 1968 to 1970 by Qian. It is no coincidence that second-generation scholars of Sino-Japanese studies in Hong Kong such as Tam Yue-him, Lam Kai-yin 林启彦 and Chow Kai-wing 周佳荣 are

¹ *Riben Shenwu kaiguo xinkao* has a Japanese edition, entitled *Jinmu tennō=Jofuku densetsu no nazo* 神武天皇=徐福伝説の謎 (Emperor Jinmu: The mystery of the legend of Xu Fu) (Tokyo: Shinjinbutsu ōraisha, 1977). This theory was further elaborated by the Taiwanese scholar Peng Shuang-song 彭双松 in *Xu Fu jishi Shenwu Tianhuang* 徐福即是神武天皇 (Xu Fu was Emperor Jimmu) (Miaoli: Fuhui tushu chubanshe, 1983) and the Mainland Chinese scholar Yu Jinhong 于锦鸿 in *Xu Fu dongdu zhi mi xintan* 徐福东渡之谜新探 (A new investigation of the mysetry of Xu Fu's journey to the east) (Nanjing: Jiangsu renmin chubanshe, 1990).

all graduates of New Asia College.

The Maturity Stage, 1970s and 1980s

Second-generation scholars such as Tam Yue-him, Lam Kai-yin, Chow Kai-wing and Lincoln Li 黎令勤 were mostly historians raised in Hong Kong who studied in Japan or the English-speaking world. They had advantages over their predecessors in terms of methodology and language. Tam Yue-him completed his Ph.D. thesis, *In Search of Oriental Past: Life and Thought of Naitō Konan* (East Asian Studies, Princeton University, 1975) under the tutelage of Marius Jansen (1922-2000). Lam Kai-yin and Chow Kai-wing studied at Hiroshima University and Osaka University, respectively, and they both received their doctorate from the University of Hong Kong. Lincoln Li, a University of Hong Kong graduate, acquired his doctorate from Australian National University in 1970. His dissertation was published as *The Japanese Army in North China, 1937-1941* (Tokyo: Oxford University Press, 1975). Tam taught at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, whereas Lam and Chow taught at the Hong Kong Baptist College (now Hong Kong Baptist University). Li taught in Australia and Hong Kong during this period. From full-time academic positions, they offered courses on Sino-Japanese studies and trained graduate students. Third-generation scholars such as Ng Wai-ming 吴伟明 and Lee Pui-Tak 李培德 studied in the Department of History at New Asia College, Chinese University of Hong Kong under Tam.

Second-generation scholars were historians of modern Sino-Japanese relations. With the exception of Tam, they paid less attention to Hong Kong-Japan relations.² Unlike their predecessors, they had wider academic perspectives, seeing Sino-Japanese relations as two-way interactions rather than a one-way line of traffic. For instance, Tam compiled two highly valuable reference books on Sino-Japanese translation, namely *Zhongguo yi Riben shu zonghe mulu* 中国译日本书综合目录 (A comprehensive index to Chinese translation of Japanese books) (Hong Kong: Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, 1980) and *Riben yi Zhongguo shu zonghe mulu* 日本译中国书综合目录 (A comprehensive index to Japanese translation of Chinese books) (Hong Kong: Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, 1981). He published many articles on Sino-Japanese cultural interchange and selected pieces were included in *Jindai Zhong-Ri wenhua guanxi yanjiu* 近代中日文化关系研究 (Studies in modern Sino-Japanese cultural relations) (Hong Kong: Xianggang Riben yanjiusuo, 1988).

² Tam compiled the first edited volume on Hong Kong-Japan relations, *Gang-Ri guanxi zhi huigu yu qianzhan* 港日关系之回顾与前瞻 (Hong Kong and Japan: Growing cultural and economic interactions, 1845-1987) (Hong Kong: Japanese Society of Hong Kong, 1988).

Hong Kong scholars produced a number of important translated works during this period. Tam and Lim translated Sanetō Keishū's 实藤惠秀 (1896-1985) *Chūgokujin Nihon ryūgaku shi* 中国人日本留学史 (History of Chinese studying in Japan) (Tokyo: Kuroshio shuppan, 1960), published as *Zhongguoren liuxue Riben shi* 中国人留学日本史 (Hong Kong: Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1982). It remains one of the most influential translated works in the study of modern Sino-Japanese cultural relations. Lim also translated Miyazaki Tōten's 宫崎滔天 (1870-1922) autobiography, *Sanjūsannen no yume* 三十三年の夢 (Thirty-three years' dream) as *Sanshisannian zhi meng: huiyilu* 三十三年之夢: 回憶錄 (Thirty-three years' dream: A memoir) (Hong Kong: Joint Publishing, 1981). Tam and his colleagues translated public lectures given by Ogawa Tamaki 小川环树 (1910-1993) at New Asia College as *Lun Zhongguo shi* 论中国诗 (On Chinese poetry) (Hong Kong: Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1986). These above-mentioned translated works have all been reprinted in Mainland China.

Two international conferences on Sino-Japanese studies were organized during this period. The Institute of Chinese Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong organized the International Symposium on Sino-Japanese Cultural Interchange in 1979, the first conference on Sino-Japanese Studies in Hong Kong. Some fifty-six scholars from all over the world including such prominent figures as Marius Jansen, Sanetō Keishū, Ōba Osamu 大庭修 (1927-2002) and Donald Keene (b. 1922) participated. Tam Yue-him put the conference papers into the following three edited volumes, *Sino-Japanese Cultural Interchange: Aspects of Archaeology & Art History*, *Sino-Japanese Cultural Interchange: Aspect of Literature & Language Learning* and *Sino-Japanese Cultural Interchange: The Economic & Intellectual Aspects*, all published by the Institute of Chinese Studies in 1985. In 1985, the Center of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong held an international conference on East Asian medieval history and the papers were published as *Gudai Zhong-Han-Ri guanxi yanjiu* 古代中韓日关系研究 (Studies on relations among China, Korea, and Japan in ancient times) (Hong Kong: Center of Asian Studies, 1987).

Second-generation scholars in Hong Kong worked closely with their counterparts in Mainland China and Taiwan. During these decades, Sino-Japanese Studies experienced tremendous progress in Mainland China. In particular, Beijing and the Northeast region were the two bases. Hong Kong scholars frequently participated in academic conferences and published in Mainland China. Tam was an executive member of the *Zhongguo Zhong-Ri guanxi shi yanjiuhui* 中国中日关系史研究会 (Association for Sino-Japanese Studies in China), a Beijing-based academic body that was most

active in publication and conference organizing in the 1980s.

The Transformation Stage, 1990s and 2000s

This period is characterized by the rise of Hong Kong-Japan studies and a multi-disciplinary approach in Sino-Japanese studies. While maintaining a strong impact on the field, second-generation scholars either moved to other countries (such as Tam to the United States and Li to Japan) or are retiring (such as Lim and Chow).³ Third-generation scholars (such as Ng Wai-ming, Lee Pui-Tak and Lim Chuan-tiong 林泉忠) were raised in Hong Kong and then studied in Japan or the United States. They have a strong sense of belonging to Hong Kong and a good understanding of Japanese and Western scholarship. Using their international exposure and language abilities, they maintain a strong academic network with their Western, Japanese, Mainland Chinese and Taiwanese counterparts.

Although third-generation scholars may not have mastered traditional knowledge as well as their predecessors, they have successfully explored uncharted research territory and added new elements to Sino-Japanese studies. Ng Wai-ming studied in Hong Kong, Japan and the United States and acquired a doctoral degree from Princeton University, the last student of Marius Jansen. His book, *The I Ching in Tokugawa Thought and Culture* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2000) was chosen as "Choice Outstanding Academic Book 2000" by the American Library Association. Its expanded edition in Chinese is *Yixue dui Dechuan Riben de yingxiang* 易學對德川日本的影響 (Hong Kong; Chinese University Press, 2009). Ng is an historian of Sino-Japanese intellectual interactions in the Tokugawa period (1603-1868) and a professor of Japanese studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Lee Pui-Tak and Lim Chuan-tiong received their doctorates from the University of Tokyo. Lee is a research assistant professor in the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong, while Lim is an associate professor of international relations at the Ryukyu University. The former researches Sino-Japanese relations and Japan-Hong Kong relations within the framework of modern Chinese economic history, whereas the latter focuses on postwar Sino-Japanese relations from the perspective of international relations. Lee is the editor of a collection of articles on Hong Kong-Japan relations, entitled *Riben wenhua zai Xianggang* 日本文化在香港 (Japanese culture in Hong

³ For example, Chow Kai-wing's *Jindai Riren zai-Hua baoye huodong* 近代日人在華報業活動 (The activities of the Japanese in newspaper publishing in modern China) (Hong Kong: Joint Publishing, 2007) and Lincoln Li, *The China Factor in Modern Japanese Thought: The Case of Tachibana Shiraki, 1881-1945* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1996) are significant works.

Kong) (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2006). Lim is the author of *Henkyō Higashi Ajia no aidentiti poritikusu: Okinawa Taiwan Honkon* 「辺境东アジア」のアイデンティティ・ポリティクス：沖縄・台湾・香港 (Identity politics in “peripheral East Asia”: Okinawa, Taiwan and Hong Kong) (Tokyo: Akashi shoten, 2005).

Adding Hong Kong elements to Sino-Japanese studies is one of the most distinguishing features of the scholarship of this stage. Third-generation scholars pay attention to historical and cultural topics in Hong Kong-Japan relations; in particular, Hong Kong under the Japanese occupation, Hong Kong-Japan relations in prewar times and the impact of Japanese culture in postwar Hong Kong have attracted scholarly attention.

Quite a number of books about the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong were published in this period. They are mostly works of history written for general readers, such as Kwan Lai-hung's 关礼雄 *Rizhan shiqi de Xianggang* 日占时期的香港 (Hong Kong during the Japanese occupation period) (Hong Kong: Joint Publishing 1993) and Cheng Po-hung's 郑宝鸿 *Xiangjiang lengyue : Xianggang de Rizhi shidai* 香江冷月：香港的日治时期 (Cold years in Hong Kong: Hong Kong under the Japanese occupation) (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Art Museum, 2006); and oral history records, such as Cheung Wai-chun 张慧真 and Kung Kang-sang 孔强森, eds., *Cong shiyiwan dao sanqian: lunxian shiqi Xianggang jiaoyu koushu lishi* 从十一万到三千：沦陷时期香港教育口述历史 (From 110,000 to 3,000: Oral history of education in Hong Kong under the Japanese occupation) (Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, 2005) and Liu Chi Pang 刘智鹏 and Chow Ka-ken 周家建, eds., *Tunsheng renyu : Rizhi shiqi Xianggangren de jiti huiyi* 吞声忍语：日治时期香港人的集体回忆 (Quiet mouth: A collective memory of Hongkongers under the Japanese occupation) (Hong Kong: Chunghwa Book, 2009).

Chan Cham-yi 陈湛颐, a lecturer in Japanese studies at the University of Hong Kong, has done pioneering works on prewar Japan-Hong Kong relations. He compiled several useful reference books including *Xianggang Riben guanxi nianbiao* 香港日本关系年表 (Chronicle of Hong Kong-Japan relations) (Hong Kong: Hong Kong Education Publishing, 2004), *Ribenren yu Xianggang : shijiu shiji jianwenlu* 日本人与香港：十九世纪见闻录 (Japanese and Hong Kong: Records by the Japanese on what they observed in nineteenth-century Hong Kong) (Hong Kong: Hong Kong Education Publishing, 1995) and *Ribenren fang Gang jianwenlu (1898-1941)* 日本人访港见闻录 (1898-1941) (Records of Japanese visiting Hong Kong, 1898-1941) (Hong Kong: Joint Publishing, 2005). Chan Cham-yi and Ng Wai-ming have published articles on the Japanese community in prewar Hong Kong. Ng is currently supervising a

graduate student to conduct research on the medical history of Hong Kong during the occupation period.

The presence of Japanese culture in postwar Hong Kong is a popular research topic. Dixon Wong and Yoshiko Nakano, both associate professors of Japanese studies at the University of Hong Kong, have conducted several relevant research projects. Wong is the author of *Japanese Bosses, Chinese Workers: Power and Control in a Hong Kong Megastore* (London: Curzon Press, 1999), while Nakano has written *Where There are Asians, There are Rice Cookers: How 'National' Went Global via Hong Kong* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009). Kinnia Yau, an associate professor of Japanese studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, published a book on the impact of Japan on Hong Kong cinema, entitled *Japanese and Hong Kong Film Industries: Understanding the Origins of East Asian Film Networks* (London and New York: Routledge, 2009). Ng Wai-ming received the following two research grants from the Research Grant Council of the Hong Kong government to conduct research on the interaction between Japan and Hong Kong in popular culture: *Hong Kong-Japan Interactions and Collaborations in the ACG (Animation-Comic-Game) Industry: A Historical and Cultural Analysis* (project duration, 2005-2007) and *Japanese Elements in Hong Kong Entertainment Industry: A Historical and Ethnographic Survey* (project duration, 2002-2005).

The rise of Hong Kong-Japan studies can be explained in terms of local identity and funding. Third-generation scholars have a stronger local identity than their predecessors and thus they are interested in Hong Kong-related topics. In addition, the government is the largest research grant provider in Hong Kong, and it has a preference for research proposals with local relevance and social impact. Equipped with knowledge, data and interest, Hong Kong scholars have the advantage of conducting research on Hong Kong-Japan relations. Locating Hong Kong-Japan relations within a larger academic framework of Sino-Japanese studies is no easy task. Some Hong Kong scholars may not have this sense. This kind of research sounds marginal to Mainland Chinese and Japanese scholars.

Third-generation scholarship is more diversified, multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural. Scholars of Sino-Japanese studies are no longer exclusively historians, but also include people from such disciplines such as literature, philosophy, international relations, anthropology, sociology, business management, education, linguistics, archeology, cultural studies and media studies. Many examine Sino-Japanese issues from multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives. One such example in publication is Dixon Wong, ed., *Riben qingse, Huaren yuwang* 日本情色,

华人欲望 (Japanese pornography and Chinese desires) (Taipei: Yuanliu chuban, 2008), an edited volume on the impact of Japanese pornographic culture in Hong Kong. This kind of diversification can also be found in conferences. In June 2008, the Japanese Studies Department at the University of Hong Kong organized “Sino-Japanese Relations Research Symposium 2008” in which scholars from the United States, Canada, Japan, Singapore, Korea and Mainland China joined Hong Kong scholars to address issues in contemporary Sino-Japanese relations from the perspectives of international relations and political economy. In November 2010, the Japanese Studies Department at the University of Hong Kong will hold an international workshop on “Searching for Modernity and Identity in Japan-China Cultural Flows in the Modern Period.” Fourteen overseas participants and five local scholars from such various disciplines as history, archeology, philosophy, calligraphy, and popular culture, will examine the role of Sino-Japanese cultural interaction in shaping the perceptions of modernity and identity in last-century China and Japan.

Concluding Analysis

Through a historical overview, this article has identified structural changes in Sino-Japanese studies in Hong Kong over the past sixty years. First, research approaches have expanded from largely historical to multi-disciplinary. Second, language of publication has been expanded from solely Chinese to trilingual (Chinese, Japanese and English). Third, the scope of investigation has switched from Sino-Japanese relations to Hong Kong-Japan relations and Hong Kong-Japan-China triangular relations.

Hong Kong scholarship in Sino-Japanese studies has the following advantages: First, Hong Kong scholars have a good command of Chinese, Japanese and English languages and cultures. Hong Kong can serve as a bridge for different academic traditions in Sino-Japanese studies. Second, Hong Kong scholars are relatively free of political interference and ideological ties, and thus can study Japan and China in an evenhanded manner.

At present, Sino-Japanese Studies in Hong Kong has a number of issues to address. First, following the rise of Sino-Japanese studies in Mainland China, the role of Hong Kong in this field has become smaller. The trend of shifting to Hong Kong-Japan relations also alienates mainstream scholars in China and Japan. Hong Kong scholarship has become somewhat marginalized. Second, Hong Kong does not train young scholars in Sino-Japanese studies. There have been no Hong Kong students working on Sino-Japanese Studies for a Ph.D. degree for more than a decade locally or overseas.

Whether Hong Kong can produce fourth-generation scholars is in doubt. Third, there is no academic organization concerned with Sino-Japanese studies in Hong Kong. Individual scholars work on their own, and there are few dialogues or collaborations among them. Fourth, Hong Kong is short of primary sources for Sino-Japanese studies, and scholars must travel to Japan or China to gain access to primary materials. The future of Sino-Japanese studies in Hong Kong depends on whether the above-mentioned problems are properly handled.