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ABSTRACT

Sex Revolution and Sex Rights Movement in Taiwan¹

Asia's new democracies may be gradually liberalizing their political arena, yet with regard to other realms of social space, there has been an intensifying degree of surveillance and regulation, especially in regard to sexual matters. Increasingly, sex rights movements are emerging in many locations as a radical response and resistance to this tendency. This paper traces the development of sex rights movements in Taiwan in an effort to demonstrate the ramifications of this developing phenomenon. It will be shown that the historical convergence of mainstream feminism and the conservative right has resulted in an infantilization of social space, mobilized through an imaginary motherly protectionism, which is creating serious infringements on civic freedom and human rights. Against such stringent measures exerted by developing exclusive societies, sex rights movements remain the staunchest force of resistance.

BIOGRAPHY

A native of Taiwan, Josephine Ho has been intensely involved in the burgeoning counter-cultural movements since her return to Taiwan in 1988 after receiving two doctorates from US universities. As perhaps the best-known feminist scholar in Taiwan, she later founded the Center for the Study of Sexualities at National Central University in 1995, widely-recognized for both its activism and its intellectual stamina. Josephine Ho herself has been writing both extensively and provocatively on many cutting-edge issues in the Taiwanese context, spearheading sex-positive views on female sexuality, gender/sexuality education, queer studies, sex work studies and activism, transgenderism, and most recently body modification. Her theoretically informed but discursively accessible books, all written in Chinese as timely interventions into Taiwanese gender/sexuality politics, include *The Gallant Woman--Feminism and Sexual Emancipation* (1994), *Gendered Nations--Sexuality, Capital and Culture* (1994), *Sexual Moods: A Therapeutic and Liberatory Report on Female Sexuality* (1996), *Radical Sexuality Education: Gender/Sexuality Education for the "New Generation"* (1998), and *The Admirable/Amorous Woman* (1998). She has since written and edited another eight volumes of Taiwanese gender/sexuality research in sex work studies, queer studies, and transgender studies which greatly enhanced and challenged Taiwanese academic research into marginal gender/sexualities. Her present research interests lie with extreme bodies and sexualities as well as modern emotions.

APPENDIX

¹ This paper was originally published as "Sex Revolution and Sex Rights Movement in Taiwan," in Jens Damm and Gunter Schubert (eds.), *Taiwanese Identity from Domestic, Regional and Global Perspectives* (Chinese History and Society/Berliner China-Hefte 32/2007), LIT: Münster, 2007, pp. 123-139. I would like to thank Jens Damm for his encouragement in writing this paper and for his meticulous help in editing it for publication.