

The Power of Spirituality: The Experience of the Swiss Bethlehem Mission Society in Taiwan

Authors : Weihsuan Lin

Abstract : The Swiss Bethlehem Mission Society (BMS) in Taiwan has influenced and made an important contribution to religion and social work in Taidong. This German-speaking Catholic missionary society is located in Taidong, which is the political and economic periphery of Taiwan but is the cultural center of the Chinese and many different Austronesian ethnic groups, including Amis, Paiwan, Puyuma, Yami, Bunun, and Rukai. Through document analysis and fieldwork, this research aims to explore the result of the confrontation, exchange, and innovation between the BMS and other ethnic groups. Further, based upon Michael Foucault's discussion of two modalities of constructing individuals, namely 'discipline' and 'care of the self,' this research will analyze the 'discipline' and 'care of the self' mechanisms of and between BMS Fathers, Brothers, and Church followers at the scale of individuals. At the scale of groups, the 'autonomy' and 'been governed' of the BMS in relationship to the Catholic Church in Taiwan and the world will also be examined.

Keywords : Bethlehem Mission Society, Religion and Geography, Spirituality, Foucault

Conference Title : ICCG 2020 : International Conference on Cultural Geography

Conference Location : Oslo, Norway

Conference Dates : June 25-26, 2020