

Overview of Pacific Islands Studies in Taiwan

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Professor Ling Shun-Sheng (凌純聲 1901-1978), founder of the Institute of Ethnology (IOE), Academia Sinica,¹ published his first three articles related to Taiwan and Pacific Islands in 1956 (Ling 1956a, 1956b, 1956c). It included among them the first article in the debut issue of the *Bulletin of the Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica* (Ling 1956a). Ling's publications marked the commencement of Pacific Islands Studies in Taiwan after WWII, and it has been half a century since then. Although initiated by such an important figure in anthropology, the branch remains small and marginal in the fields of humanities and social sciences in Taiwan. It is only in recent years that we start to see a more fertile ground for its development. This paper aims to give a brief review of the history of Pacific Islands Studies in Taiwan in the past 50 years, and discuss its potential growth in the future.

¹ The institute was established (first as a Preparatory Office) in 1955 (Li 1971).