

Unravelling the Anarchism of Fan Ben-Liang from the Perspective of Intellectual History: Kōtoku Shūsui and Ōsugi Sakae as Methods

CHAN Ya-Hsun

Regarding the development of anarchism in East Asia during the post-WWI period, Taiwanese anarchism has barely been explored in most narratives due to the lack of materials. Amongst which, Fan Ben-Liang, a Taiwanese anarchist who was active in the early 1920s, and his New Taiwan Anarchist Society are constantly mentioned in the context of transnational anarchist movements, while his thoughts and ideas remain understudied. From the perspective of intellectual history, this paper establishes an analytical framework consisting of the Meiji theory of imperialism, the Taisho anarchism, and the colonial anti-imperialist anarchism. By probing into works of Kōtoku Shūsui and Ōsugi Sakae, it delineates a close relation between Kōtoku's *Monster of the 20th Century: Imperialism*, Ōsugi's discourses of the 'facts of conquest', and Fan's anti-colonial anarchism. Instead of focusing solely on the context of post-WWI anarchism, this paper indicates the anti-imperialist and anti-colonial characteristics prompted by the legacy of Meiji socialism in Fan's arguments. It is through this approach that this research contributes to filling in the missing piece of the existing narratives, and readdresses the potential of East Asian anarchism studies.