

Quando cœli movendi sunt et terra: The study of funerary epigraphs within the ThakBong project

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The Title: The Allegory of a Requiem

- Requiem: A mass in the Catholic Church offered for the repose of the souls of deceased persons. It is usually celebrated in the context of a funeral.
- Fixed Latin text, variation in music (Mozart, Gabriel Fauré)
- e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WvHDrcA084>
- hinting here at the death of memory of past deaths
- background them in 10 years ThakBong project

The ThakBong Project: Fieldwork

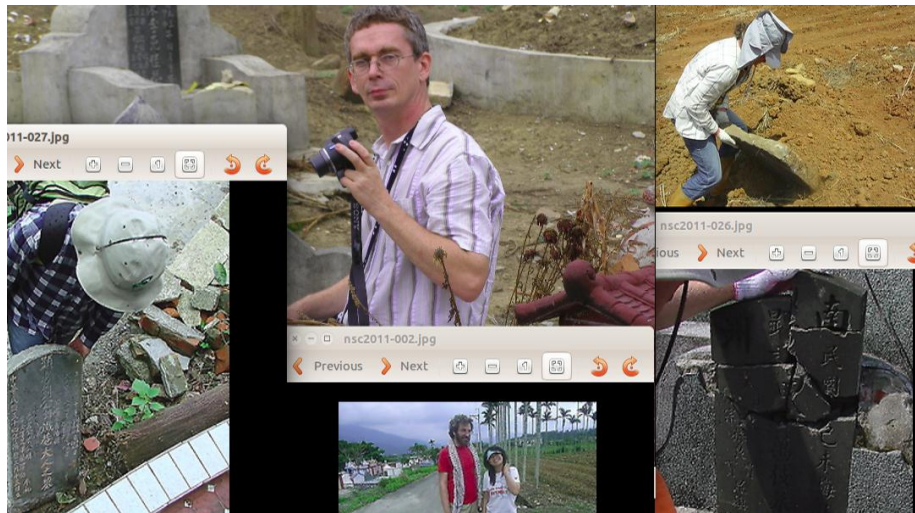


Figure 1

The ThakBong Project: Annotation



Figure 2

The ThakBong Project: Transcription

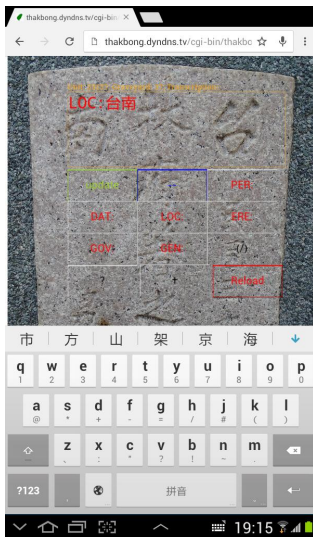


Figure 3

Data Analysis: Treemaps



Figure 5

Data Analysis: Timelines

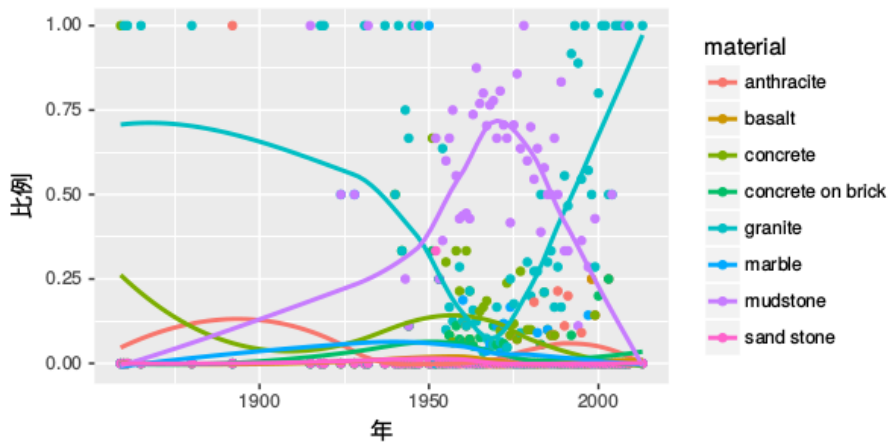


Figure 6

Data Analysis: Maps,

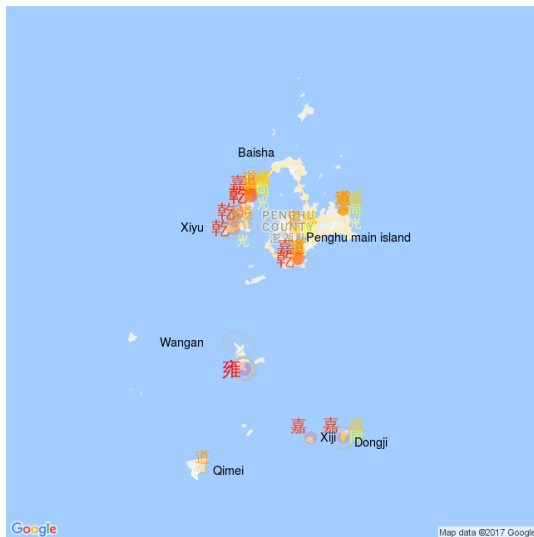


Figure 4

The ThakBong Project: Archiving


Data Archiving and Networked Services


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19 Sep

Figure 7

The ThakBong Project: Center of Taiwan

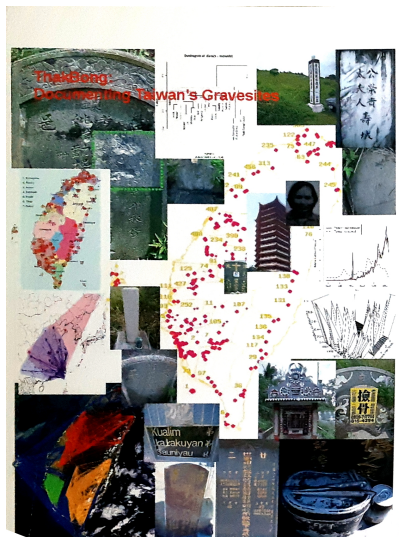


Figure 8

Fieldwork History

Sampled per Year, Cumulative

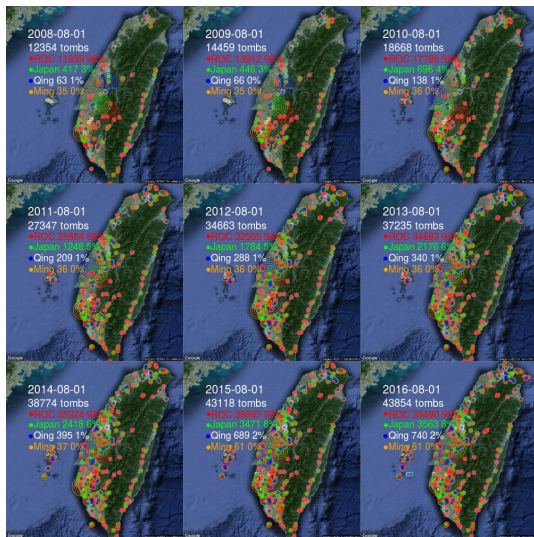


Figure 9

The ThakBong Project: Documentation of Burial Sites

- since 2007
- 496.000 photos (with GPS, compass)
- 107.600 tombs (52.000 transcribed)
- 1180 days of Fieldwork
- <http://thakbong.dyndns.tv>
- Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17026/dans-zvy-rtju>
- Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17026/dans-zmh-2jjs>
- R library

The ThakBong Project: Growing in Different Dimensions

- Extending the set of regions researched
- Extending the set of objects researched
- Transforming our digital representations
- Extending the repertoire of research methods

The ThakBong Project: Extending the Regions Researched

- Penghu
- Jinmen, Mazu
- China
- Japan
- Ryukyu Islands
- Hong Kong, Macau
- Chinese Communities in Southeast Asia (SEA)

Regions: Penghu, Jinmen, Mazu

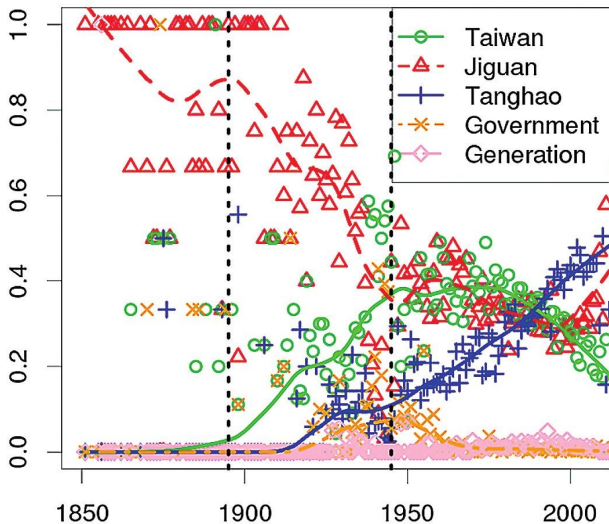
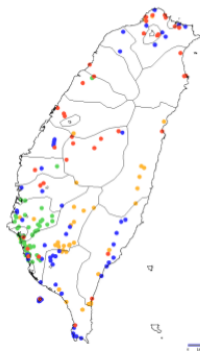


Figure 10

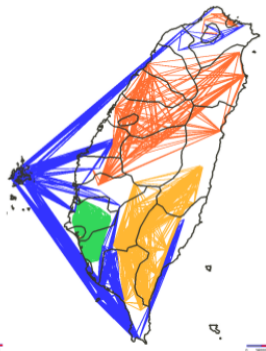
Regions: Penghu, Jinmen, Mazu



(a) Places of shared histories: 1661-83 Penghu and Tainan, 1683-1901 Penghu and west Taiwan, after 1901-45 all Taiwan, after 1949 with Jinmen.

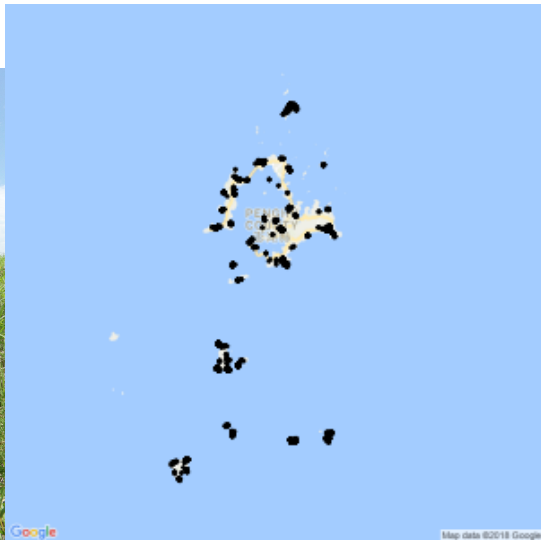


(b) Generalizing placename types for each sampled graveyard using the most frequent type.



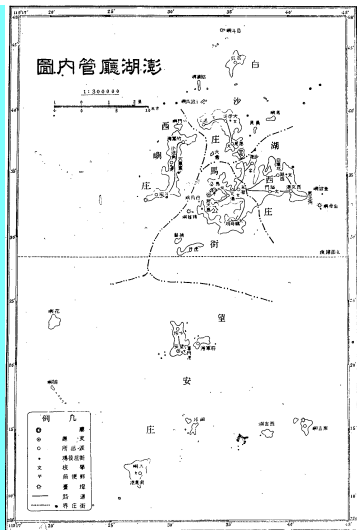
(c) Generalizing across graveyards, connecting graveyards of one type without crossing different type lines.

Survey of Tombstones



Penghu, Making Sense of 80something Islands

Xiaomen Yu, Jiangmei, Wang'an, Qimei



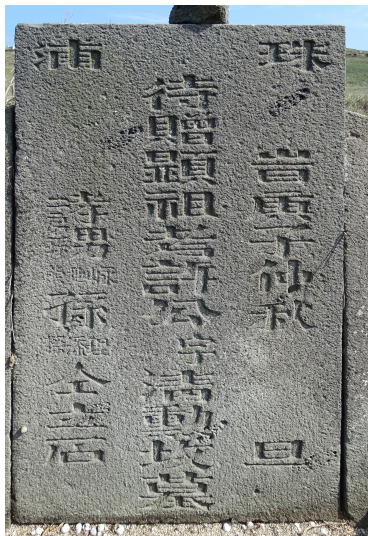
Geological Differences, e.g. the Quality of Basalt

Baisha, Watong vs. e.g. Dongji



Cultural Difference, e.g. on Tombstone Inscriptions

Wang'an uses the Jiguan, Xiyu uses the Tanghao



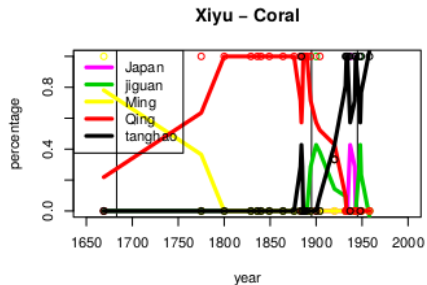
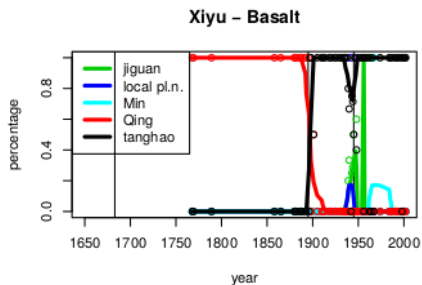
Cultural Difference, as a Consequence of Previous Cultural Differences

Xiyu used the Loyalty Expression under the Qing

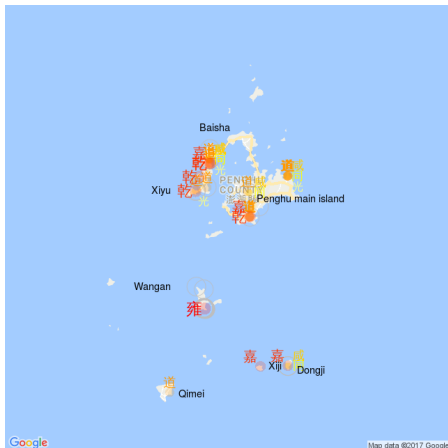


Cultural Change depending on the Material

Xiyu, Basalt vs. Coral



Absence of Carvers and Granite Tombstones



Arrival of Carvers

Abandoning Granite, using Basalt

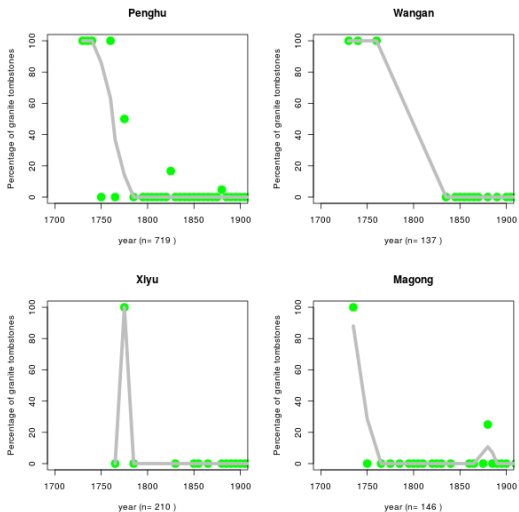


Figure 1

Second Transformation

Mapping the etic to the emic



Second Transformation

Tombstone size: Yin and Yang auspicious

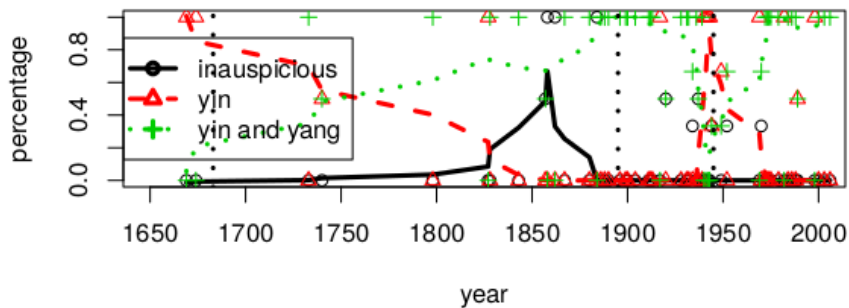


Figure 2

Extending the Repertoire of Research Methods

- Counting (Sheng-lao-bing)

生	老	病	死	苦
1	2	3	4	5
OK	OK	NO	NO	NO

Third Transformation

Character number: Auspicious vs non-auspicious

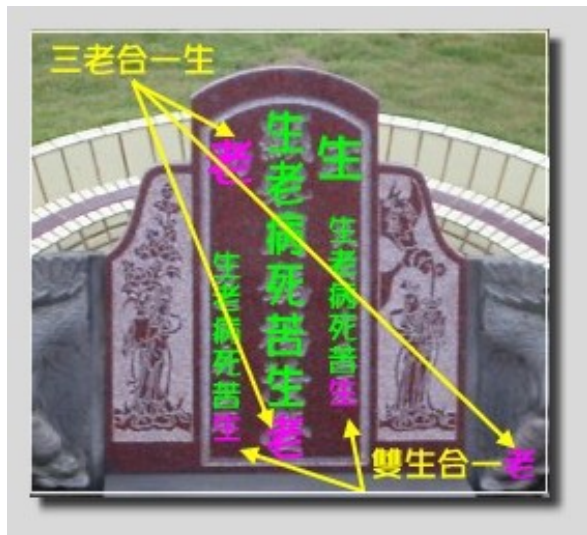


Figure 5

Third Transformation

Character number: Auspicious vs non-auspicious

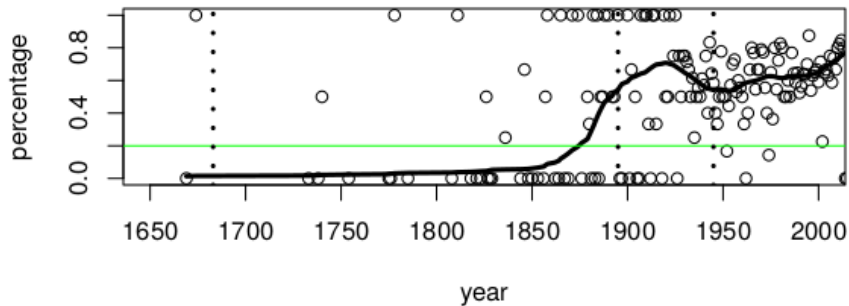


Figure 6

Third Transformation

Character number: Shift of paradigm

- 興旺死絕
- xing2 wang4 si4 jue2
- flourish prosper die terminate
- ok ok bad bad

Cultural Difference, as a Consequence of Previous Cultural Differences

Xiyu used the Loyalty Expression under the Qing



Method: Modelling (Monte-Carlo Sampling)

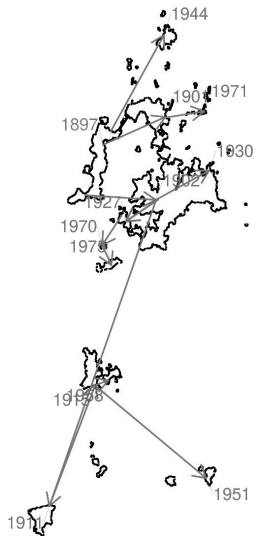


Figure 7 A model of the spatio-temporal propagation of the tanghao on Penghu, using the first occurrences of a tanghao in graveyards of Penghu. The figure shows also the first

The Region (1)

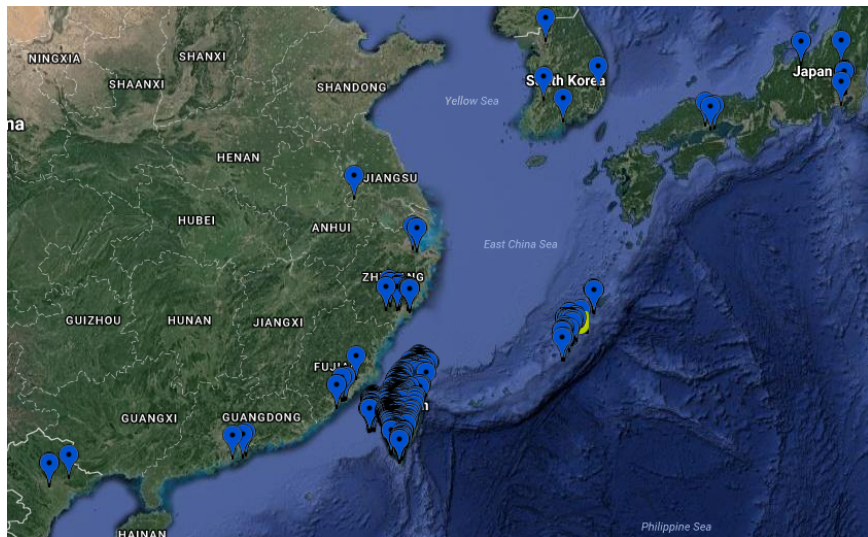


Figure 2

Regions: Ryukyu Islands

Okinawa



Figure 18

Regions: Taiwan



Figure 19

Transformation of Rites (1)



a) Open burial cave



b) Semi-open burial cave



c) Front wall with louvered openings



c) House-like porch

Figure 5



Figure 7

Unten Sandstone (unknown)



Figure 8

Unten Sandstone (unknown)



Figure 9

Unten Sandstone (unknown)



Figure 10

Kouri Village Grave



Figure 12

Unten People from Kagoshima, Yaku Island, 1768



Figure 11

Regions: Japan



Figure 7: The name of the era 昭和 (Shōwa) has been imperfectly removed from a tombstone set up in 1939.



Figure 8: A tomb where the column probably has been replaced by a Chinese tombstone



Figure 9: A removed column



Figure 10: A column of 1945, reshaped after 1945 into a Chinese-style tomb, with the date re-written on the front-side



Figure 11: A column integrated with a second tombstone of the ROC period into one Chinese-style tomb

Figure 12: A column partially integrated into a stylized Chinese tomb. The date remains readable on the side.

Figure 14

Regions: Japan



Figure 15

Regions: Ryukyu Islands

Kagoshima



Figure 16

Regions: Ryukyu Islands

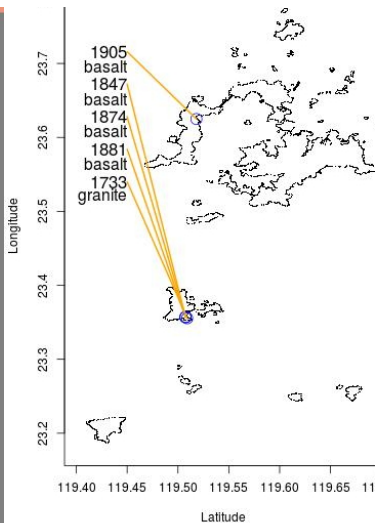
Okinawa



Figure 17

Regions: Penghu

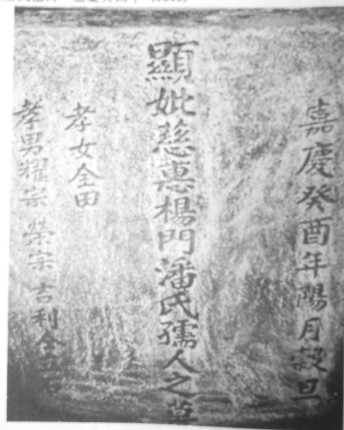
肯乙巳年仲春穀旦



Southeast Asia: GU

outside the town, since there was no common Chinese cemetery per
century.

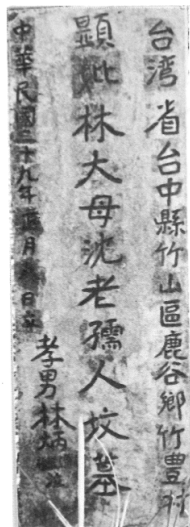
楊潘氏墓碑 嘉慶癸酉年 (1813)



嘉慶癸酉年陽月穀旦

Figure 20

Southeast Asia: Migration from Taiwan



台灣省台中縣竹山區鹿谷鄉竹豐村
顯妣林大母沈老孺人坟墓
中華民國二十九年正月八日立

泣
孝男林炳福

Figure 21

Research Methods: Stone Samples for X-ray Powder Diffraction (XRD)



Research Methods: Stone Samples for X-ray Powder Diffraction (XRD)



Research Methods: Visual Analysis



Figure 24

Research Methods: Visual Analysis



Figure 25

Research Methods: Visual Analysis

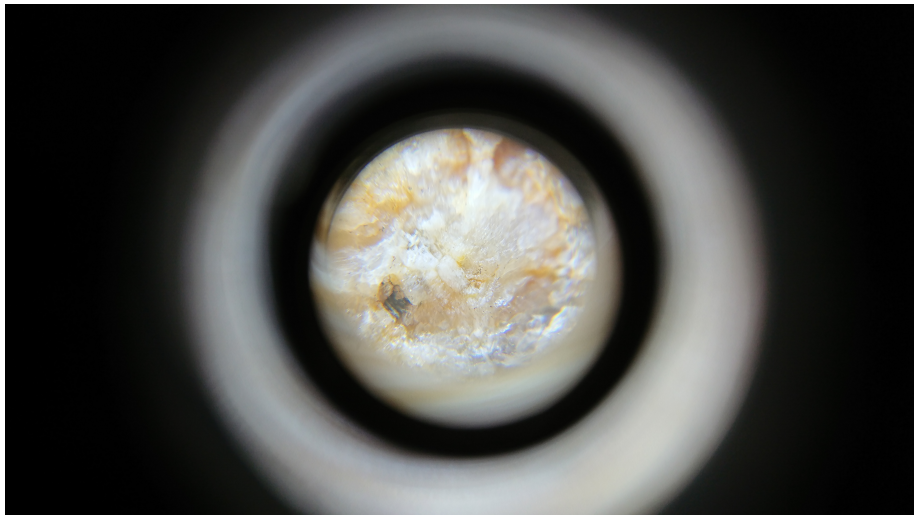


Figure 26

Research Methods: Visual Analysis

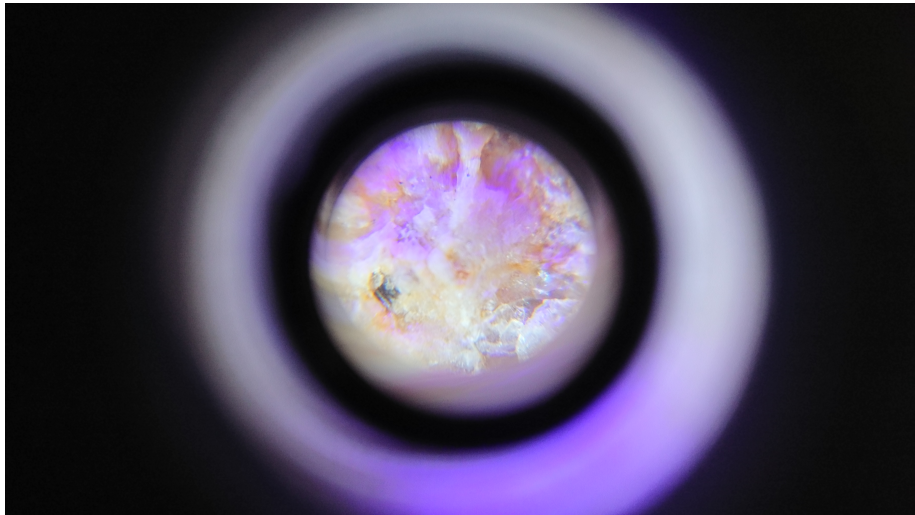


Figure 27

Conclusion:

- Project is driven by a Taliban-like destruction of cultural heritage in Taiwan.
- Project is liked and supported but disastrously underequipped (e.g. Camera life-span 1-3 years, 5.000 photos, so far ~ 30 cameras used)
- Acting ahead of our technical and cultural expertise
- Your advice and support is needed