

## Nationalism and “*Hsiang-t’u* Literature” of 1970s Taiwan: A Study of Change, Identity, and Collective Memory

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### ABSTRACT

This study draws on historical literature to analyze the formation and reformation of the collective memory of “*hsiang-t’u* literature” 鄉土文學, a genre developed in Taiwan during the 1970s. It points out that the development and interpretation of this new literary genre was originally motivated by a rekindled Chinese nationalism of the 1970s. In the post-1980 period, however, the collective memory of *hsiang-t’u* literature was reshaped by an emerging Taiwanese nationalism. The findings highlight the fact that collective memory consists mainly of a structured narrative of collective experience and that collective memory and identity are mutually constructed. Finally, the paper critiques the evolutionary and teleological excesses of collective memory that might constitute a barrier to the understanding of Taiwan’s past.

**Keywords:** identity, collective memory, nationalism, *hsiang-t’u* literature, Taiwanese literature, Taiwanese history

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