

# **Ethnicity, Leisure and Social Boundaries: An Analysis of Taishang Slow-pitch Softball Leagues in Mainland China<sup>\*\*\*</sup>**

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**【Abstract】** Based on the analysis of the development of Taishang (Taiwanese businessmen) slow-pitch Softball Leagues in Guandong, China, this paper explains how leisure activities are linked with social productive relations such as ethnicity, class and gender. The correspondence between the aforementioned social variables and leisure activities is not a static state, but a dynamics that demonstrates continuous making, transgressing, and remaking of social boundaries. Against its transmigrant background, Taishang, with exercise of a Taiwanese national sport, creates sociological meanings different from those produced in Taiwan. Taishang always tries hard to demarcate or remake lines between mainlanders and themselves. With their specific habitus, Taishang practices this quasi-national sport that embodies the logic of distinction and makes the field of Taishang's slow pitch softball a pure space of ethnic Taiwanese. It illustrates not only the tension of resource distribution concerning leisure activities between Taishang's fraction but also the struggle for legitimacy in different sports and the definition negotiation of Taishang as a specific group.

**【Keywords】** Taishang, Taiwanese businessmen, slow-pitch softball, leisure, ethnicity, class