

PROPOSITIONS

attached to the thesis

PLACING SUSTAINABILITY: GEO-HISTORICAL ENTANGLEMENTS OF GRASSROOTS INNOVATIONS AND PLACE-MAKING POLITICS IN TAIWAN

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1. A place-centered enabling approach that foregrounds site-specific needs, ends, and agency of a community is better equipped to study community-based grassroots innovations. (*This thesis*)
2. Recognizing the structural linkage between socio-technical transitions (e.g. transitions in the electricity and agri-food systems) and socio-spatial transformations (e.g. marginalization of rural areas) and studying them in a synergetic way are crucial to build a more holistic understanding of pathways toward ‘sustainability’ and to address structural lock-in. (*This thesis*)
3. The niche space where bottom-up social innovations emerge is more akin to a hybrid space, and requires strategic engagement with place-making politics in and beyond the host community to obtain resources and support for its development. (*This thesis*)
4. In cases where other place-based activism exists, studying grassroots innovations alone in relation to a socio-technical system risks overlooking local aspirations for socio-spatial and/or structural transformation. (*This thesis*)
5. Studies that contextualize grassroots innovations can help avoid latent conflicts between ‘sustainable’ community development and socio-technical ‘sustainability’ transitions and improve policy support for grassroots innovations based on more inclusive knowledge production. (*This thesis*)
6. In some geo-historical contexts, capitalist industrialization is launched by the state driven by political motivations, such as regime survival and effective governance, rather than purely or predominantly prompted by the capitalist logic of capital accumulation.
7. It is important for degrowth campaigners and scholars to take into account the geopolitical dynamics that necessitate economic growth for the survival of certain countries and the geopolitical implications of degrowth.
8. In a successful (former) developmental state like Taiwan, the developmentalist ideology is likely to keep a stronger hold on the society, posing a potentially greater challenge for the public and policymakers to shift to a post-developmental (i.e. non-development-centered) mentality.
9. A grassroots innovation that contributes hugely to a systemic transition but fails to meet site-specific needs and ends may be deemed unsuccessful by the host community.
10. To make community energy projects really conducive to the development of disadvantaged rural areas requires designs and policy support that aim directly at boosting rural development, rather than take it as a positive ‘side effect’ of promoting civic participation in energy transitions.
11. A PhD thesis is a beginning—rather than an end—of a longer journey of knowledge building and sharing.