

Intraclass Stratification in Mothering:

*A Comparative Study of Middle Class
Storytelling Mothers in Taiwan.*

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How new and old middle classes background affect mothering in Taiwan?
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Middle Classes and Motherings in Taiwan

- The middle classes in Taiwan
 - New middle class
 - Old middle class
 - Motherhood in the middle class
 - ignore the intraclass differences
 - how mothers rear children?
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Cultural Capital and Mothering

□ Cultural capital

- Embodied, Objectified, and institutionalized states

□ Childrearing style

- the rearing idea, Habitus, and the objectification
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Research method

- interviews
- Participating observation



Case 1: New Elementary School

- ❑ 22 members, 18 career women
 - ❑ White collar
 - ❑ 8 interviews
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Case 2: Old Elementary School

- ❑ small and medium enterprises or conventional industries
 - ❑ 33 members, 17 females, housewives
 - ❑ Only 4 interviews because...
 - ❑ Field notes are important databases
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Results

- ❑ In the name of “for the good of children”
 - ❑ Childrearing Styles
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for the Good of Children

- The difficulties volunteers encounter
 - New Elementary School
 - an individual choice
 - “after I decided to be a volunteer in the school, I told my husband. I decide what I want to do.” (Ivy’s interview)
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for the Good of Children

- The difficulties volunteers encounter
 - Old Elementary School
 - The process of negotiation
 - Two strategies: passive struggle and in the name of “for the good of children”
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for the Good of Children

□ Hidden Intentions behind

■ New Elementary School

□ solving problems

□ concerning about the education

□ Compensating

■ “Actually, my daughter liked stories, but I always worked overtime and could not read the story to her. As a volunteer storytelling mother, I could read stories to my daughter and other children also enjoyed the beauty of stories in the classroom.” (fieldnote)

for the Good of Children

- Hidden Intentions behind
 - Old Elementary School
 - establishing their own personal network
 - striving for something good
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Childrearing Styles

Story Time

New Elementary School

English stories

every child is unique

Childrearing Styles

Story Time

Old Elementary School

- traditional Chinese stories, eg. Wake up!
Little Emperor
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Childrearing Styles

□ Free Time

■ New Elementary School

- the value of autonomy
 - “after story time, I told them that they could leave seats and take a break, such as running and relaxing, because they had many hard classes today.” (fieldnote)
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Childrearing Styles

□ Free Time

■ Old Elementary School

□ discipline well

□ “I just wanted them to be quiet and stay in their seats. I told them that they could do anything, such as sleeping, painting, or clipping paper and the only requirement was not to leave their seats.” (fieldnote)

Conclusion

- Childrearing styles?
 - middle classes vs. working class in Taiwan?
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Q&A



Thank you !
