

# **Food safety, justice and responsibility**

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## **Background :**

In recent years, food safety scandals have continued to emerge. Included are milk mixed with melamine, starch mixed with maleic acid, cooking oil using left-over food as materials, etc. Our government intends to increase the amount of fines to deter the manufacturers and retailers from making and selling low quality cooking oil. This strategy appeals to the economic rationality of potential regulation violators, who would avoid the production and trade of the low-quality cooking oil if the net opportunity benefit would be negative. However, in these discourses full of utilitarian calculation, neglected are the considerations of risk distribution and responsibility, such as how to raise the business ethics, how to seek address from the societal perspective, how science could prove the health risk of low-quality or misbranded food, who should take what responsibility for food safety, etc.

## **General contents of the project :**

1. Mapping the food safety issues systematically.
2. Systematically exploring the theories and practices of science, risk, justice and responsibility in food safety issues.
3. Comments on the historical food safety regulatory measures in Taiwan and proposals for future food safety regulation.
4. Exploring Taiwan public's attitudes towards food safety regulation, which could be utilized as reference for policy making.

## **Research methods:**

The first year : Historical analysis of food safety policies : Literature review

1. Historical and politically economic analysis of the food safety policies in the U.S. – based on theories of risk, justice and responsibility
2. Historical and politically economic analysis of the food safety policies in the E.U – based on theories of risk, justice and responsibility
3. Historical and politically economic analysis of the food safety policies in Taiwan– based on theories of risk, justice and responsibility
4. Submitting a doctrinal analysis paper to journals in the list of TSSCI or SSCI.

The second year :

1. Attitudes of stakeholders and Taiwan's public towards food safety regulation

- (1) Interviews with the TFDA officials, scholars of food safety, NGOs and citizen focus group members.
- (2) Designing a questionnaire and conducting telephone survey for the Taiwan public's attitudes towards food safety regulation
2. Convening academic conference and proposing policy guidelines for food safety regulation.
3. Submitting a doctrinal analysis paper to journals in the list of TSSCI or SSCI.

**Expected results :**

1. Based on theories of risk, justice and responsibility, we intend to emphasize the regulation discourses other than cost-risk-benefits and systematically formulate the food safety regulation policies with deep insights into history and political economy.
2. Understanding the public's attitudes towards food safety regulation policy and assisting the government to communicate with the public for harmonizing food safety policy making and finally proposing food safety regulation that take the public's expectation as the foundation.
3. The food safety policy guidelines promulgated in the academic conference could be used as a reference for the government's policy making.
4. Publishing papers in the TSSCI or SSCI journals.