

# **Multilevel systematic exploration of the compulsory treatment of persons with mental and behavioral problems: Global experiences for local modification in Taiwan**

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## **Background :**

To live under the rule of law in human society, we have to seek balance among respecting personal autonomy, protecting individual safety, and maintaining public health and social safety. Thus, many countries have developed institutions of compulsory treatment to the criminals with mental or behavioral problems. In Taiwan, indiscriminate/random killing has attracted much attention of society recently and aroused panicky fear among people. Some argued for raising the strength of regulation to enhance the safety protection of individuals and society. Accordingly, human rights protection must bow to the priority of safety issues. Therefore, it is time to examine in whole the institutions of compulsory treatment and social safety in Taiwan, engage in international comparison by conducting literature review and empirical studies, and finally promulgate the policy guidelines for compulsory treatment and social safety.

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

1. Based on the perspectives of history, society, economics and culture, to explore and delineate systematically the networks of compulsory treatment in different countries.
2. To systematically examine the theoretical and practical problems of science, risk, governance, and ethics in compulsory treatment institutions.
3. To explore the paths of diversion and conversion in compulsory treatment networks through interviewing with mentally ill offenders and possibly their family members about their experiences in the network.
4. To establish the compulsory treatment policy guideline by surveying the attitudes of people in Taiwan toward institutions of compulsory treatment and social safety.

## **Research methods:**

**First year:** Literature review and historical exploration of policies on compulsory treatment and social safety.

1. Based on theories on science, risk, governance and ethics, to explore in Taiwan, the U.S., the U.K., Japan and China: the historical backgrounds, socio-economic-cultural changes and the paths diversion or conversion of compulsory treatment and social safety

institutions, and then analyzing the networking of compulsory treatment and social safety.

2. Submission of one doctrinal analysis manuscript to one of the TSSCI or SSCI journals.

**Second year: empirical study**

1. Interview, focus group, public telephone survey and expert meeting:
  - (1) In the detention centers or prisons, interviews with the criminals with mental or behavioral problems, who commit high-profile or severe violent crimes or homicides.
  - (2) Interviews with experts, scholars or relevant officials about their 訪談 attitudes and experiences toward compulsory treatment and social safety;
  - (3) Focus group interviews with a convenient sample of the general public.
  - (4) Designing a questionnaire to conduct a telephone survey of the public's attitude toward the policy of compulsory treatment and social safety.
2. Convening expert meeting to address the policy guidelines of compulsory treatment and social safety.
3. Submission of one doctrinal analysis and one empirical analysis manuscripts to one of the TSSCI or SSCI journals.