
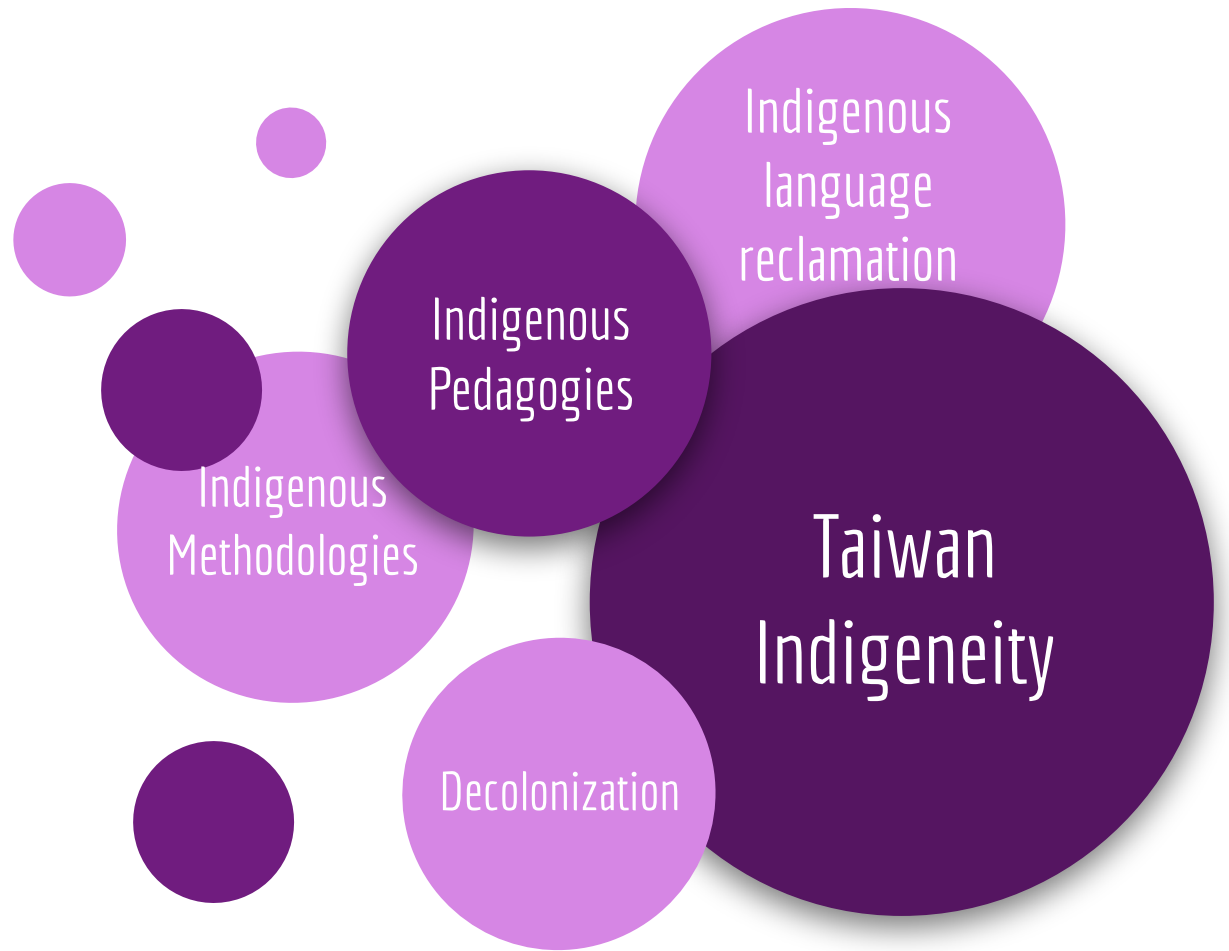


# Reclaiming Taiwan Indigeneity & Indigenous Language Reclamation

Asia-Pacific Indigenous Studies Seminar  
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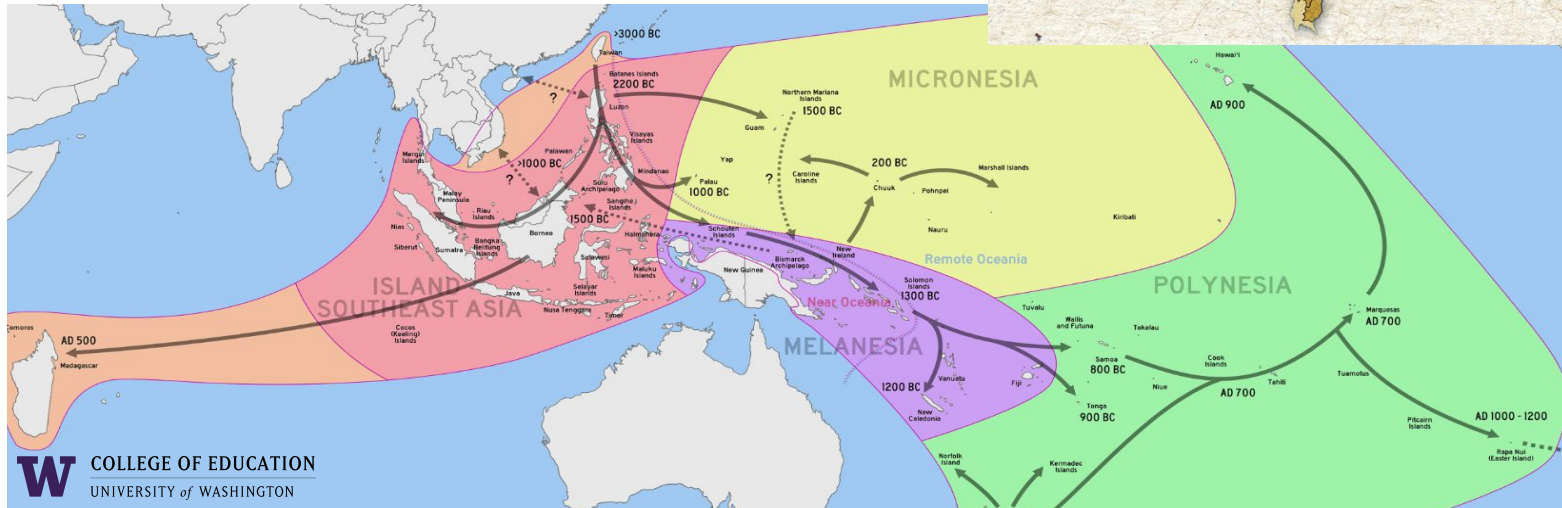
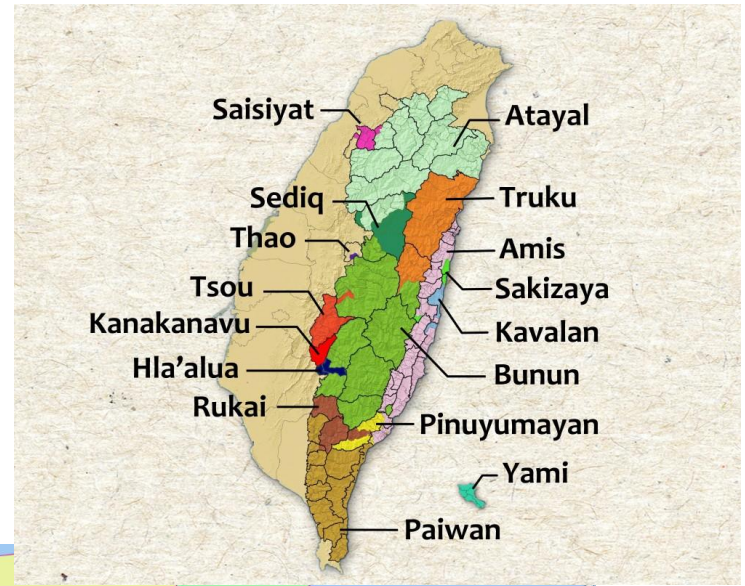


# Key Concepts

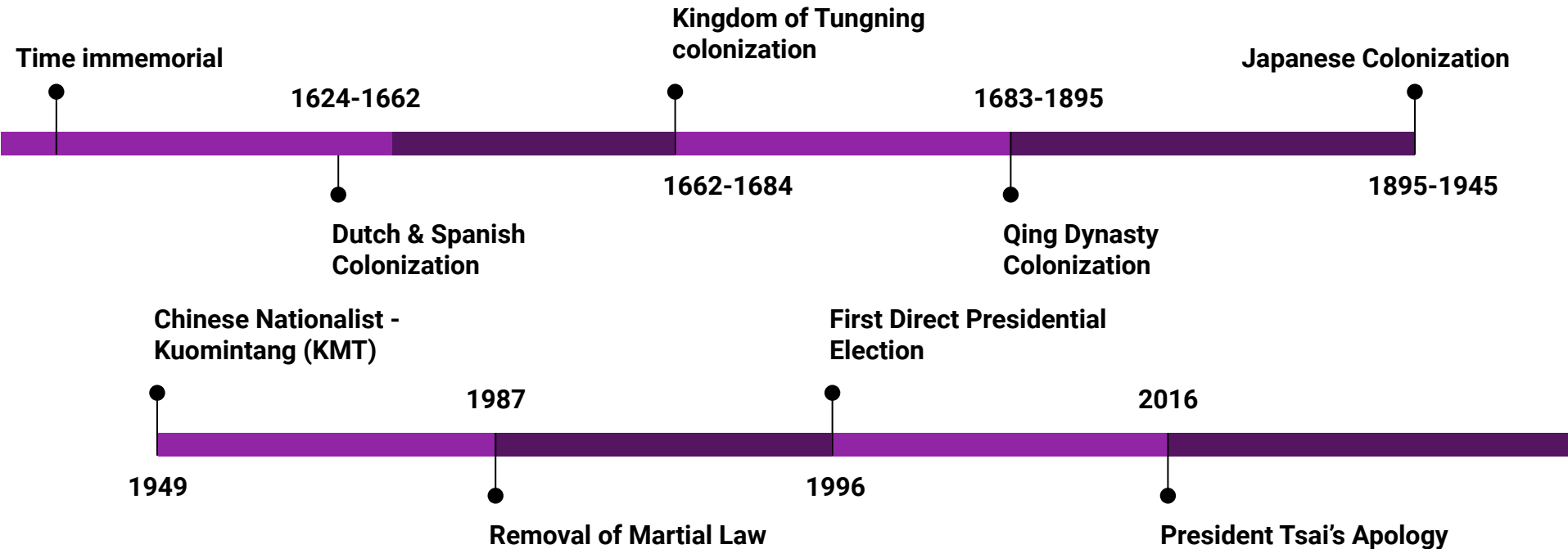


# Taiwan Indigenous peoples

- Austronesian speaking groups
- 2.46% of the country's 23.5 million population
- Peoples of the Plains and peoples of the Mountains
- 16 officially recognized tribes



# Historical Contexts of Taiwan



# Reclaiming Taiwan Indigeneity & Indigenous Language Reclamation (ILR)

1

What are missing in the current movements of Indigenous language revitalization?

2

How does understanding the historical context set premise for reclaiming Taiwan Indigeneity?

3

How does centering the community efforts enable a transformative change in the work of Indigenous language reclamation?

# To answer these questions..

Misuses of Taiwan  
Indigeneity

Challenge and limitation  
to the work of ILR in  
Taiwan

+

A new understanding of  
history & Indigenous  
activism

Center community efforts &  
Indigenous pedagogies in the  
context of ancestral language  
learning

# Misuse of Taiwan Indigeneity

## Misunderstanding about the history

Four hundred years of colonization has shaped Taiwan into a multicultural society, and to portray Taiwan as a diverse country, all cultural practices should be preserved and sustained.

## Harms of multiculturalism

The early intermarriage of Han settlers and Plains Indigenous peoples was used to stress the potentially multi-ethnic origins of the population on the island today, resulting the erasure of Indigenous peoples on the island.

# Challenge and Limitation of ILR in Taiwan





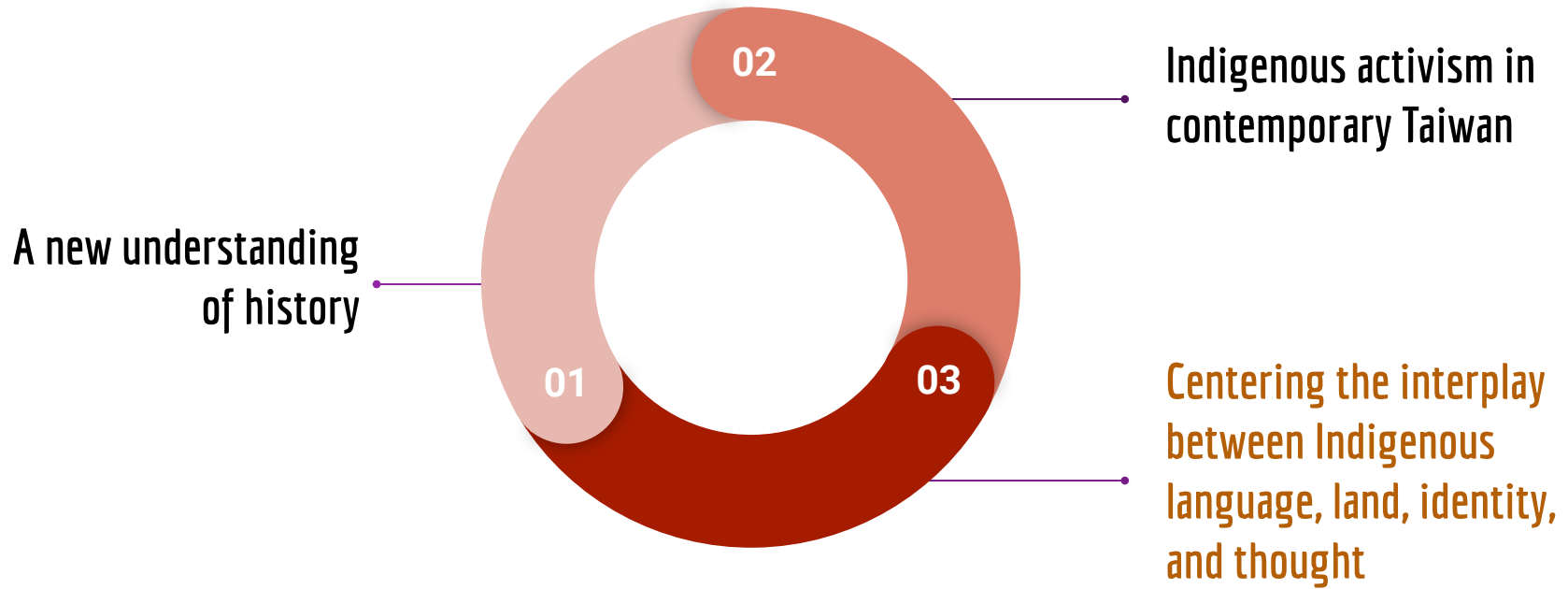
# A New Understanding of History

“In the Atayal language, truth is called “Balay”, and reconciliation is called “Sbalay”, so you simply add an “S” sound to “Balay”. Truth and reconciliation are in fact two related concepts. In other words, only by facing the truth sincerely can reconciliation be attained” (Tsai, 2016, para. 16).

- History is important for understanding the present and that reclaiming history is a critical and essential aspect of decolonization (Brooks, 2018; Smith, 2021).
- “History and long tradition of Indigenous resistance provide possibilities for futures premised on justice” (Estes, 2019, p. 256).

# Indigenous Activism

- In 1984, a group of Indigenous peoples established the Alliance of Taiwan Aborigines (ATA), kicking off a number of important movements.
- Indigenous activism has played a critical role in Taiwan's transition towards democracy (Chi, 2016).
- These movements also indicate that the heart of Indigenous resistance is for the relation with the human and non-human lives on their lands (Chang, 2017).



# Indigenous Epistemology, Indigenous pedagogies, & Language Reclamation

1

How do Taiwan Indigenous communities perceive the ancestral languages in relation to Indigenous culture, thoughts, and relationships with the lands?

2

What have been the community-oriented efforts in Taiwan Indigenous communities to pass on their ancestral languages and cultures?

3

How are the Indigenous pedagogies practiced in the context of ancestral language learning? What do these pedagogies tell about Indigenous epistemology and knowledge system?



# Working with Indigenous Community



# Implications

1

Center Indigenous perspectives and how they make sense of their experiences and world

2

Importance of understanding the nuances of specific community

3

Cultivate an equal, authentic, and reciprocal partnership between community and researchers

