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Taiwan Fellowship 2019: Final Report

Thanks to the Taiwan Fellowship, I have been able to significantly advance in my research on the topic of Chinese and Taiwanese international relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. I have been able to visit National Taiwan University as a visiting scholar and I have been to work with other foreign scholars interested in similar topics at the Center for Chinese Studies at the National Central Library. The time spent in Taiwan as a fellow resulted in some publications in peer-reviewed journals and a book chapter, as well as several participations as a lecturer in conferences and round tables. More details on my research topic and results are presented below.

Biographical Sketch:

I work as an Associate Professor at Tadeo Lozano University in Bogotá, Colombia. I am a committed and resourceful researcher on the topic of Latin-American and Asia-Pacific International Relations. I have more than six years of experience in research and teaching, as well as experience as a consultant for international NGOs. I hold a PhD in Political Science and two master's degrees (one in Political Science and one in International Cooperation and Development).

Research Topic:

“Chinese (PRC) and Taiwanese (ROC) evolving international strategies towards Latin America and the Caribbean”

Relevance:

The topic of Chinese (PRC) and Taiwanese (ROC) evolving international relations policies and strategies towards Latin America and the Caribbean has an extremely important relevance for the discipline of Political Science and International Relations. While most scholarly research has focused on the projection of China in Africa, I believe that a greater consideration should be directed to the study of International Relations across the Pacific Ocean, which has become the new center of world politics for the twenty-first century.

Background information on my research topic:

In the last decades, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have emerged as important actors for China (PRC) and Taiwan (ROC), both geopolitically and economically. First, most countries of the region have moved from low income to middle income countries, becoming important export markets for products manufactured in the Asia-Pacific region. Second, LAC region is an increasingly important region as a source of primary products and raw materials, strongly needed to sustain the industrial production of Chinese and Taiwanese economies. Third, the region is potentially an important ally for the global political aspirations of both Asian countries; in particular, LAC region has a decisive relevance regarding the “one China policy”, since more than half of the countries who have established formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan are located in Latin America and the Caribbean (9 out of 15, as shown by Table 1, annexed). Finally, relations with LAC are important as a counterbalance to the United States’ hegemony in the region; countries with a strong presence in LAC region have more negotiating power with the US in the issues that are pending to resolve in the Asia-Pacific region. The political and economic negotiations that are part of the consultations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Taiwan’s struggle to become a TPP member, situate LAC region at the center of the international geostrategic competition.

Competition between China and Taiwan in Latin America and the Caribbean started in the late 1980s when, as a reaction to Taiwan’s transition to democracy, which led to an increased diplomatic recognition to the ROC (see figure 3 annexed). As a consequence, the People’s Republic of China also strengthened its so-called “checkbook diplomacy” (Maggiorelli, 2017, p.32). Such a rivalry produced sort of a “bidding war” between ROC and PRC, in which offers of development aid by both sides to LAC countries escalated (Brautigam, 2010, p.11; Rich, 2009). Currently, as shown by Figure 1 annexed, Latin America and the Caribbean are the first recipient of Taiwanese development aid outside the Asia-Pacific region. According to the last data available from the OECD (2017), LAC region received more than 35% of ROC’s total aid budget, although these figures are decreasing (LAC was receiving more than 50% of ROC’s total aid budget in the 1980s).

At the same time, China (PRC) has expanded its development aid to the region: in the last decade, as shown by Figure 2 annexed, the share of Chinese development aid received by LAC has more than doubled, increasing from less than 5% to almost 20% of its total aid budget.

Figure 3 shows how increasing Taiwanese aid amounts helped the ROC in increasing the number of diplomatic partners in the 1990s. Nevertheless, the same strategy didn’t bring the expected results in the 2000s and 2010s.

Tables and figures annexed represent some of my research products which have been used in my publications and presentations.

My Research Project and Connected Research Initiatives in Taiwan:

As a researcher, I have been able to further investigate the topic of Chinese and Taiwanese foreign policies towards Latin America and the Caribbean. My research advanced in both the quantitative aspect of international cooperation and international trade, as well as advancing in qualitative research on the topic, for which an *in situ* presence in Taiwan has been necessary.

Among other activities I have been able to carry out fieldwork research, including interviews with experts, scholars, functionaries and officials of the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs

I also have been able to deliver a series of lectures in connection with my research experiences, both in Taiwan and in Colombia.

Research Results and Products:

As a result of my research period in Taiwan I have been able to complete and publish an academic article in a peer-reviewed journal, which mentioned the 2019 Taiwan Fellowship and my status of visiting scholar at National Taiwan University, Taiwan.

The article already published is the following:

- Maggiorelli, L. (2019). *Taiwan's development aid to Latin America and the Caribbean and the One China policy*. Razón Crítica, (7).

It is available for download [in English] at:

<https://revistas.utadeo.edu.co/index.php/razoncritica/article/view/1513>

Thanks to the collaboration with Chihlee University of Technology in Taipei, and the help of the professors of the Center of Latin-America Economy and Trade Studies, I published another article in a Taiwanese journal with another Taiwan Fellow. The article is titled:

- Maggiorelli, L. & Cepeda-Ladino, J. C. (2020). Las relaciones de Colombia con Asia-Pacífico y sus principales canales de interacción. [Colombia's relations with Asia-Pacific and its main channels of interaction]. *拉丁美洲經貿季刊 The Quarterly of Latin American Economy and Trade*. Vol. 40.

It will be available very soon, probably this week, at <http://www.airtilibrary.com/>

Finally, I also wrote a book chapter, publication pending, titled:

- Maggiorelli, L. (2020). La progresión de la relación entre Taiwán y América Latina. [The progression of the relationship between Taiwan and Latin America]. In Cepeda, C., Durez, A., Frasson-Quenoz, F. & Gomis, M., (Eds.). *América Latina: agendas y desarrollo en el Siglo XXI*. Bogotá: Editorial Javeriana.

Among other presentations and lectures:

- While in Taipei, I participated as a panelist in a round table titled “Workshop on “EU-China relations” – National Cheng-chi University, Taipei” on 2019, May 31st. Round table sponsored by the EU Research Center.
- I presented my research at the Center of Latin-America Economy and Trade Studies At Chihlee University of Technology in Taipei, May 15th 2019.
- I presented my research in a national congress titled “Symposium: 70 years from Chinese revolution” organized by National University of Colombia on October 10 and 11, 2019. The Paper I presented was titled: The "One China" policy: origins and implications for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- I moderated a lecture on Taiwan-Colombia relations with the participation of Sr. Han, Taiwanese Representative of Taipei Trade Office in Bogotá, at the University of the Andes, January 24, 2020.

As an attendant, I participated to:

- Forum on Taiwan NGOs participation in Africa – Chang Yung-fa Foundation, Taipei 2019, May 29th
- International conference: “An Asia-Pacific response to the changing US-China relations”, National Cheng-chi University, Taipei. 2019, May 29th

Among others, I had meetings and interviews with several professors, functionaries and officials, including Amb. Chin, Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs, MOFA, Dr. Y.C. Tsay, Deputy Director, Department for International Cooperation, MOFA, Amb. R.C. Wu, Senior Advisor, Institute for National Policy Research, Taipei, Dr. Louis Chen, Director General, Taiwan Aid, Taipei, and the professors from the Center of Latin-America Economy and Trade Studies at Chihlee University of Technology in Taipei.

In conclusion, thanks to the Taiwan Fellowship I have been able to establish a series of collaborations and partnerships with Taiwanese and foreign scholars that continue to this day and have been very

fruitful in producing a considerable amount of peer-reviewed research, lectures and presentations on my research topic, which explicitly acknowledged and will acknowledge my gratitude to the Taiwan Fellowship for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lorenzo Maggiorelli



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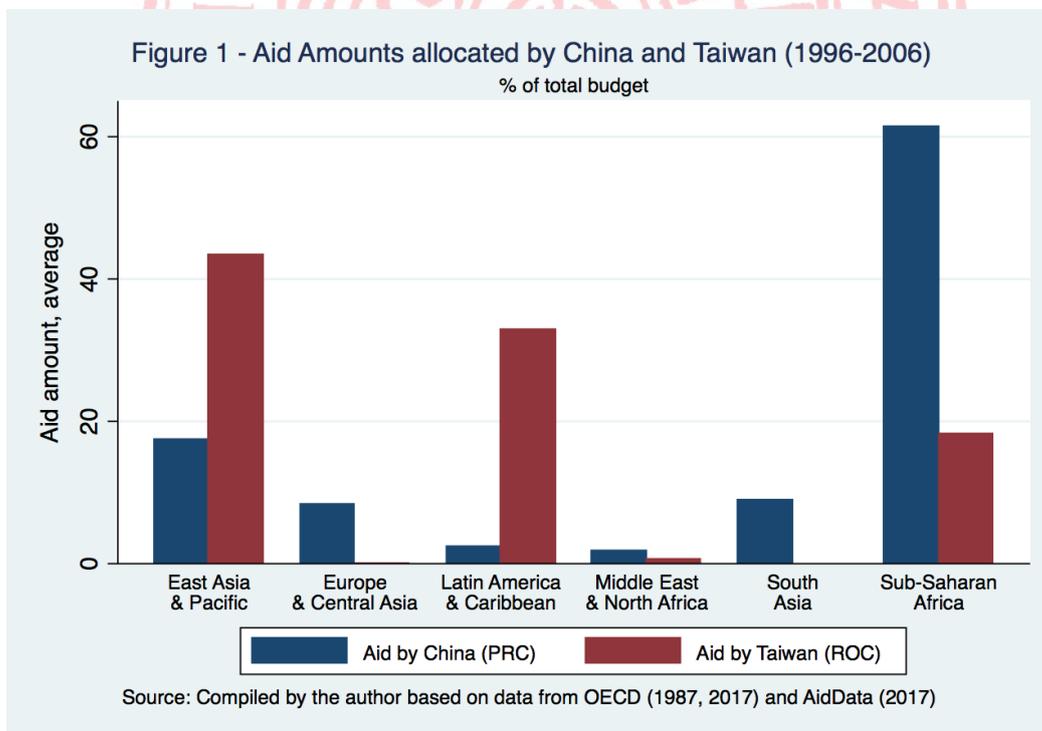


Annexes:

Table 1 – Countries recognizing the PRC or the ROC in Latin America and the Caribbean

	Countries with official relations with the People’s Republic of China	Countries with official relations with the Republic of China
Centro América	Costa Rica (2007), El Salvador (2018), México (1972), Panamá (2017)	Belize (1989), Guatemala (1993), Honduras (1941), Nicaragua (1962-1985; 1990)
Caribe	Antigua y Barbuda (1983), Bahamas (1997), Barbados (1977), Cuba (1960), Dominica (2004), República Dominicana (2018), Granada (1985), Guyana (1972), Jamaica (1972), Surinam (1976), Trinidad y Tobago (1974)	Haití (1956), San Cristóbal y Nieves (1983), Santa Lucía (1984-1997; 2007), San Vicente y las Granadinas (1981)
América del Sur	Argentina (1972), Bolivia (1985), Brasil (1974), Chile (1970), Colombia (1980), Ecuador (1980), Perú (1971), Uruguay (1988), Venezuela (1974)	Paraguay (1957)

Source: Compiled by the author based on information from the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Republic of China (Taiwan) website: <http://www.mofa.gov.tw/>



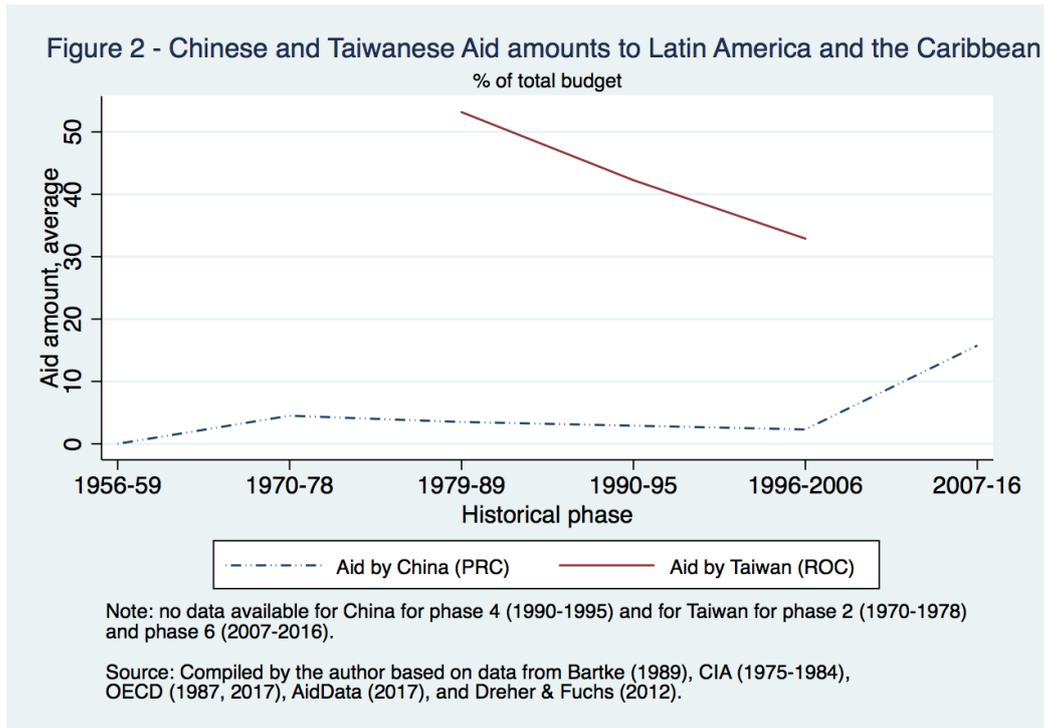


Figure 3: Taiwanese official flows and number of diplomatic partners

