

Subject/Title	The Impact of Visits to the PRC on the Perspectives of Taiwanese Students toward the Issue of Taiwanese Independence
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Abstract	<p>The political propaganda aimed at unifying Taiwan with the territories now governed by the People's Republic of China (the PRC) has been targeted specifically at young people in Taiwan. Previous cross-sectional studies of Taiwanese exchange students have not indicated any significant relationships between the experience of being an exchange student in the PRC and perspectives on the issue of Taiwanese independence. This research is concerned with whether the results of a cohort study of the relationship between student visitation and political preference remain the same. A hypothesis was made which suggests that changes in social trust and political hostility affect the perspectives of Taiwanese students on the independence/unification issue. The panel study was conducted twice, and the results show that 36.7% of Taiwanese students had changed their perspectives on the independence/unification issue after 10 days of visiting the PRC. It was found that 12.3% more students came to support unification than independence. The model employed in this research explained 25.8% of the variance. This research concluded that to prevent young people in Taiwan from being influenced by the PRC's propaganda, goals should be set to enhance students' understanding of the PRC, rather than limiting student visits to the PRC.</p>
Keyword(s)	cross-strait relations ; political socialization ; social contact ; social trust