

**Taipei Incense Burning Culture in Transition:  
A Fieldwork Study of the Conflict of Stop Burning Incense in the Hsing Tian  
Kong**

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**ABSTRACT**

This research is to debate whether burning incense or not. Temple's culture is one of the characteristics of Taiwan in which, local people go to temple to worship and express their wish to gods, and foreign tourists go to temple of Taiwan to experience our religious rituals. However, the development of urbanization and civilization are shaping the local religious rituals, such as the promotion of environment protection and best use of resources. In this research I take Taipei Hsing Tian Kong as example. It banned the believers to burn incense in the temple at August, 26 2014, because the smoke of incense is harmful to human body and environment. Hsing Tian Kong, one of the representative temples in north Taiwan, conducts new regulation of worship. It leads many believers to argue over stopping burning incense. In this research I want to realize how people react to the change of traditional ritual, when living in the developed society. I started the field work and in-depth-interview to approach my interviewees and collect believers' perspective about stopping burning incense. My research finding is that most people showed a compromising attitude on the policy of Hsing Tian Kong. One accepts to stop burn compromising incense in public while continuing to burn incense in private.

Key word: burning incense, Hsing Tian Kong, tradition rituals, transition