Umbrella Revolution in Hong Kong: The Formation of Culture in Harcourt Road Community

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Abstract

In 2014, the out broke of Umbrella Revolution, started off three months occupying movement on Harcourt Road, Admiralty, a central business district in Hong Kong. As an amateur photographer and a student activist, I documented a series of civic disobedience events by taking pictures and writing field notes diary during the Umbrella movement in Admiralty, including the civil public lecture from September 22th to 26th, the 2014 civic square protests from September 26th to 28th, and the formation of community by protestors on Harcourt road from September 28th to December 11th. By revisiting my original field notes and photographs, the first part of this paper is written in the form of photo-essay, which visually presents the civil public lecture during the student strike period, the unparalleled violence and armed suppression that police exerted to peaceful political decedents in September 28th and the formation of Harcourt road community by protestors afterwards. Using Merton's goals and means approach in Anomie Theory with Foucauldian power and discourse analysis, this paper then extends to a discussion of a possible theoretical linkage between social deviants, massive rebellions and political decedents in the Umbrella Movement. The existence of artworks, temporary facilities and regulations, the free tutorial classes and public lectures offered by teachers, and the altruistic interactions between occupants in the Harcourt road community could be seen as the counter-discourses that respond to the bogus democratic reform proposed by Central Chinese government, and the dissatisfaction of the development of neo-liberalism and the democratization in Hong Kong society.

Keywords: Umbrella Movement, Harcourt Road, deviants, rebellion, community

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