

# The Formation and Continuation of the Household Society: The Example of Kaviyangan Village of Paiwan People

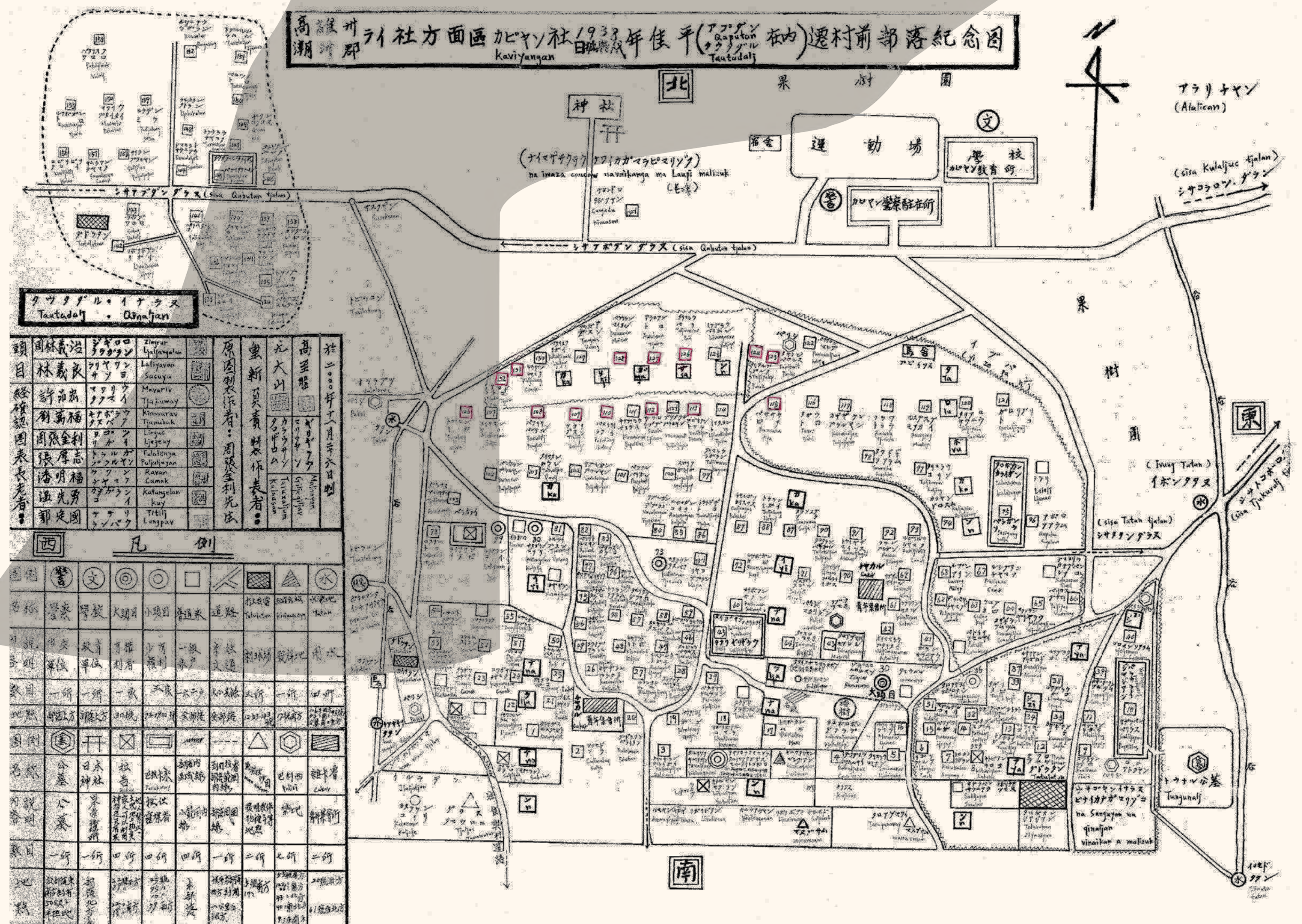
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## Journeys Back to Former Kaviyangan Village

What is the purpose of continuous visits to an ancestral home in the former village? Why are sacred meanings and group identity attached to dilapidated and abandoned houses?

The Paiwan people in Kaviyangan village experienced drastic cultural changes due to religious conversion and early relocation during the Japanese colonial period. In recent years, they have attempted to revitalize their culture and reconnect with their ancestors through various endeavors, including collaboration with outside institutes.



The co-curated exhibitions at Kaviyangan village of collection from the Institute of Ethnology of Academia Sinica helped rekindle the elders' memory and transmit knowledge of traditional craft and culture to younger generation.



The collapsed house of village chief Zingrur in the former village was rebuilt with the assistance of the Institute of Archaeology at NCKU.



Maps of the former village with locations of different family groups, youth halls, sacred and taboo space, and police outposts were drawn by the elders based on their memories. Now the people of Kaviyangan village are eager to seek their roots and locate their ancestral houses in the former village and mark them with a family name plate.

## Memory, Space, and Sanctity

The Paiwan people attached sacred meanings to the abandoned Kaviyangan village and continued to revisit the past and search for sacred relics. The journeys to the former village symbolized the continuity of a house society. The revitalization of sacred heritage and ancient space performed in the modern context is to demonstrate resistance to the outside world.

## Archaeological Practices and Indigenous Communities

Archaeology and archaeological ethnography can serve as tools for indigenous communities to write their own history and enhance their knowledge of the past. In the Kaviyangan village, the cultural revitalization movement strives to continue the tradition of a house society, to reclaim cultural heritage, and to construct social identity with autonomy by emphasizing the sacred meanings of heirlooms, traditional houses, and social domains.