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Crime Industry as the Governance of Life in the Contemporary Taiwan Society

Crime and its treatments (i.e. punishment, prevention, correction or to cure...) is the best laboratory to practice bio-politics and governance of life in the contemporary society. There are more and more people enrolled into different kinds of 'crime events', no matter in conscious or unconscious, in the positions of the injuring party, victims or onlookers. It is not too unfamiliar to seize the picture of 'deployment of bio-power' through the passage of 'Crime and its treatments'.

In this paper, I will propose the concept of 'crime industry' which is inspired and enriched by the idea of 'prison industry' to depict the profile of the modern society. 'Crime Industry' does not only refer to the industrialization of crime, but also indicates that crime and its treatments is just the complex of modernity and enterprises. State, capitalists, even moral preachers and censors are all profiteers. The transformation and differentiation of criminalization can be understood by focusing on the different ways of governance of life. All cases mentioned here occur in Taiwan.