

FAMILY FLAME

The influence of politics on family

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ABSTRACT

With the gradual maturity of Taiwan's democracy over time, more and more intergenerational political disputes surfaced and intensified in the 2020 Taiwan presidential election. Many political issues are polarized, and these divisions also appear in families. Politics has a lot of influence on many families, and can even cause heated arguments.

From literature research, custom made questionnaires, and in-depth interviews found that bottled up emotions surface in arguments, which happens often during political debates. This is especially apparent in child-parent relationships, where children have different political views from their parents. The political debates are often intense because the arguing party believes strongly in his views, strengthened by echo chambers.

In the questionnaire and the interviews, I found that many people choose to be silent when they have different political views with their family. I think this is the product of filial piety, which will lead to poor communication between their families.

In order to raise people's attention to family political disputes, I created an installation as well as space design. I reconstructed my fight scene with my family, exhibiting the pain of having an argument with my family; expressing the potential reasons and problems. Visitors can rethink their relationship with their parents and the possibility of future development.

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CHAPTER 1: Background

1-1 Motivation

In recent years, more and more generational political quarrels have taken place in Taiwan. Taiwan's democratic development is becoming more and more mature, people are discussing politics more frequently, which causes family arguments. Many times, these polarized differences about national issues, same-sex marriage, relations with China, etc. occur within families. Besides politics itself, political arguments in families are often related to many other potential problems.

Before the 2020 presidential election in Taiwan, I had several heated political quarrels with my family. My relationship with my family has always been good, so I was surprised, hurt and confused when there was a heated quarrel.

I also discussed this with my friends and I found that some of my friends have the same problem. I also found that there are many people on the Internet who are going through the same thing. [28]

I can see the pain and distress caused by this incident. I can see my friends completely shutting down in a conversation, keeping quiet, as to not oppose their parents. Some parents hide their children's ID cards to prevent them from voting. Alternatively, in my situation I defend my political views causing a verbally violent argument. All in all, political fights affect many families, resulting in sometimes hostile environments.

1-2 Aims and objectives

My goal is to let people know the possible potential causes of political family arguments, and raise people's attention to this issue. I want to help people know their families better, and find a better way to get along with their families or heal themselves from the wound of arguing with their families. To achieve this, I will take the political division in Taiwan as an example, focusing on Taiwan's cultural background, political background, and how some Taiwanese deal with such issues so that people can see the stories of Taiwanese and rethink their own stories. With a deeper understanding of Taiwan's political division, we will see more real emotions and reasons under political quarrels. Sometimes, political fights are not limited to just politics; there will be some emotional injuries and verbal violence.

Secondly, I will discuss how politics can affect family feelings and relationships, as well as the potential causes that will lead to a family's political division. In order to learn more about how people face and deal with such problems in the face of family political disputes, I will use questionnaires and interviews to collect the information.

Finally, I will recreate the scene of my political wrangle with my family with the installation and space design, so that visitors can experience the sadness and pain of the political

quarrel. I will also present the potential causes of political fights, for people to raise their awareness of this issue.

1-3 Contributions

After the 2020 presidential election in Taiwan, my parents and I basically never fought over politics again. But it took us a long time to mend the wounds caused by the fight over politics. I also saw other people who had politics with their families also needed a lot of time to reconcile with their families or to heal themselves. I hope that through my works, people who are also experiencing the same situation can gain a different perspective on this matter. Help them find the answer to repair their relationship with their families. Let family members get to know each other better and get closer, and find a better way to communicate with families. Or let people heal themselves and let go of the injuries caused by family disputes.

I also hope that the whole society can have a better way to discuss political issues, after all, politics is everywhere. If we can discuss various political issues in a healthier and effective way, it will make people and the whole society better and more inclusive. Through my research I will shed light on what makes a political family argument, how they occur, and how people may react.

CHAPTER 2: Political division in Taiwan

2-1 Introduction

The 2020 presidential election can be called a generational struggle, and many families show a variety of political colors. Many parents and children supported different parties, which makes the struggle of this election extend to families, causing political arguments in families. Nearly 50% of primary voters have different political positions from their parents, resulting in many contradictions [3]. Before the election, everyone discussed fiercely and gave each other no ground. Family members were rude to each other and said hurtful words. People did not understand each other nor accept each other's ideas, resulting in mutual harm. After the election, it took a lot of time to heal the wounds in families. By delving into the causes of politics-induced struggles, we may learn whether families are fighting over politics or over emotions and underlying family issues.

First, we dive into the impact of politics on family. Next, I'll cover the reasons for Taiwan's political division, such as echo chambers and Taiwanese national identity.

2-2 The impact of politics on family

The influence of politics on family cannot be underestimated when a family debate occurs. [9]. Political views are often closely related to one's upbringing background and education [6]. However, due to media propaganda or exaggeration, the discussion is often more intense, this is further strengthened by echo chambers which is discussed in the next section. In family fights, people are more likely to make hurtful statements [14] compared to fights with others. As a result, political squabbles can easily hurt feelings among family members.

Most political arguments are not just about politics, but often involve many unsatisfied personal and emotional needs [6]. Whether it's longing for parents' approval, hope to be accepted, fear of losing control over one's life, bad communication, etc., it's all emotions hidden under the appearance of political arguments. If there is a fierce wrangle between an individual and his family in politics, it's likely that there are already other problems between them, just an argument about politics has exposed the problems [6].

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After a family political quarrel, even if the political activities that caused the disputes have ended, it will take a lot of time for families to recover the injured family relationship. However, often the problems left behind after the political arguments or the potential problems

exposed are difficult to solve in the family and erupt in an incorrect and too intense way, which makes the problems more difficult to solve.

2-3 The influence of echo chamber on family

In the era of the Internet, it seems that everyone is getting an overwhelming amount of information every day, but because algorithms only recommend the content that users like [8] people are stuck in their echo chamber [11][12]. People are only receiving views close to their own positions and turn a blind eye to others opinion [13].

Opposing views will also cause cognitive dissonance [15] between each other: When a person gets a different idea or gets denied his idea, he or she will feel psychologically uncomfortable. In order to relieve such discomfort, people may change their own ideas or insist on their ideas, trying to prove that the other person's idea or the other person's denial is incorrect, so as to calm their own psychological contradiction. Therefore, they hide in their own echo chamber and listen only to the ideas they like. This is undoubtedly not helpful to family relations. If one and one's family members have different ideas, long-term reception of messages from the echo chamber will make each other's ideas more extreme[16], which will make the ideas of two generations more and more different. Without proper and rational communication, it will easily lead to more serious disputes.

2-4 National identity

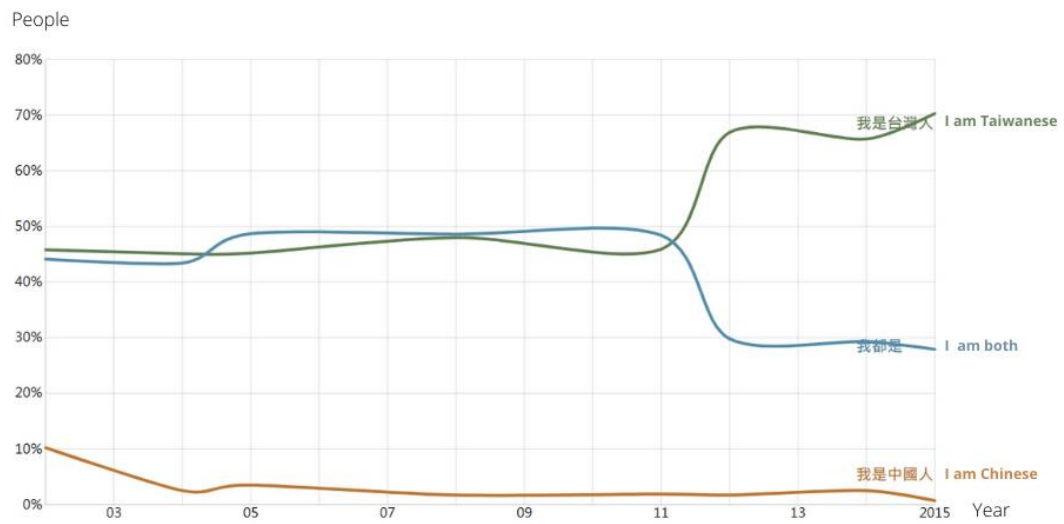
Taiwan's identity has always been a long-discussed issue [17]. Because Taiwan was ceded to Japan by China [18] in the past and was colonized by Japan for a period of time. After the second civil war in China, the Kuomintang government moved to Taiwan [19]..etc for several reasons. People in Taiwan began a complicated and long national identity.

At present, Taiwan has its own government, president, army, law and currency. Basically, Taiwan has all the conditions for a sovereign and independent country. However, under the constant pressure and influence of the CPC[7][26] , Taiwan has been unable to be recognized as a sovereign and independent country internationally.

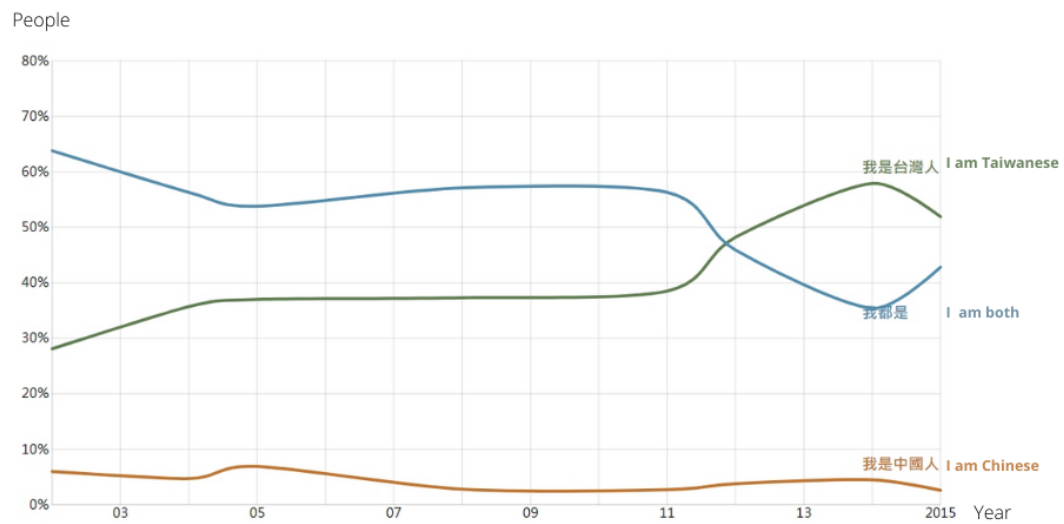
Apart from not being internationally recognized, Taiwan people's own identity is constantly changing[27]. Different age groups also have different national identities.

The following information is a collaboration between Taiwan's independent news "Reporter" and Wang Hongen, a doctoral student in the Department of Politics at Duke University.

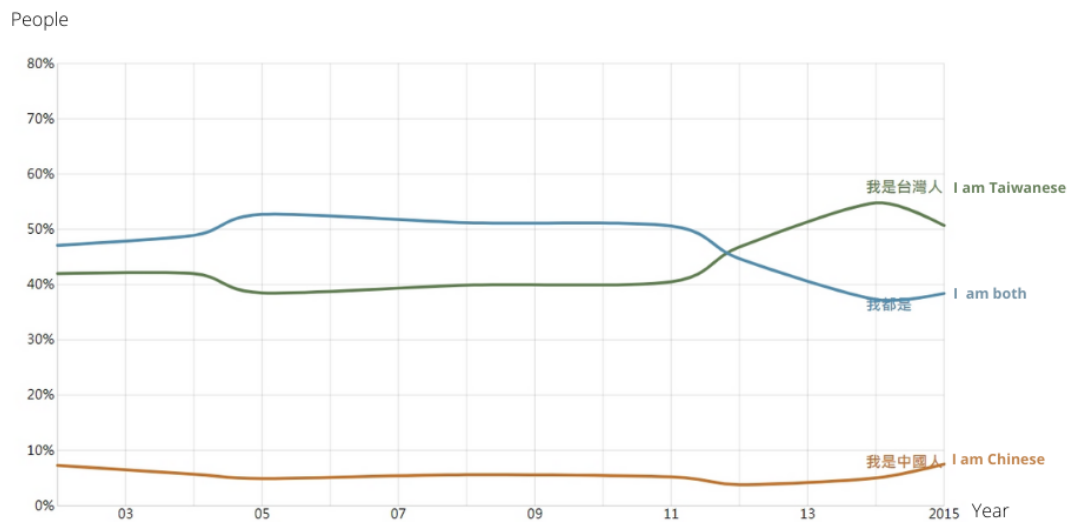
20~35 years old



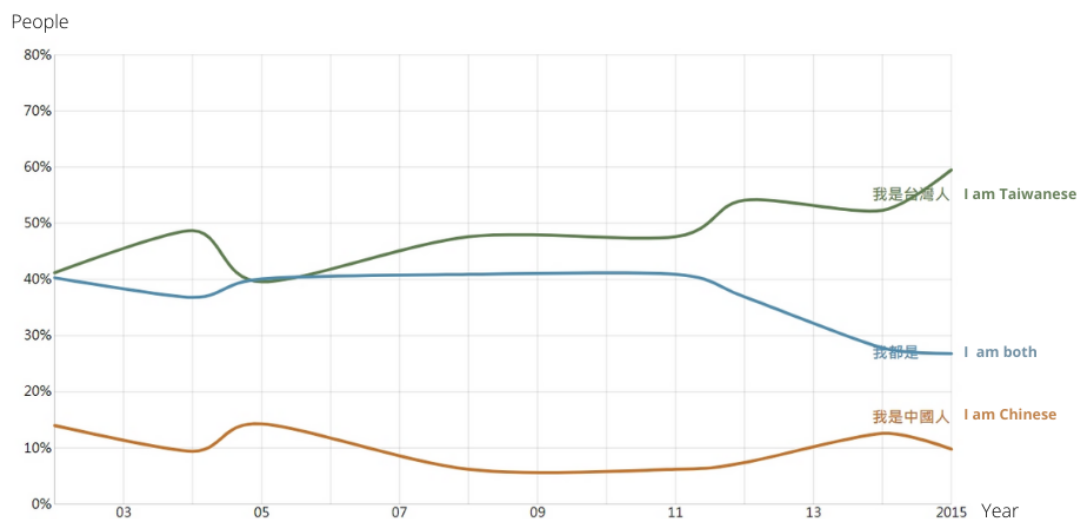
36~50 years old



51~65 years old



65+



As can be seen from the above chart, in recent years, the national identity of "I am Taiwanese" has increased year by year, especially among people aged 20-35. Although the national identity of other age groups is gradually tending to the national identity of Taiwan, there is still a gap with the younger generation. This kind of national identity has led us to form various factions, such as the Unionist, who wants to be unified with China, the Independent, who thinks that Taiwan is a sovereign and independent country, and so on. These diverse national identities divide us on political issues.

CHAPTER 3: Potential causes for family arguments

3-1 Introduction

After discussing how politics affects families and how political ideas are split in Taiwan, I will discuss the potential reasons for political arguments by analyzing my personal experience and literature review. By analyzing causes of family arguments we can learn to recognize the underlying problem, and solve it.

First, I will discuss our imagination of family members. Next, I will discuss filial piety in Confucian culture in Taiwan. After that, I will discuss the transformation of family power caused by political fights.

3-2 Imagination of family members

I often looked to my parents as role models when I was young. When I was a child, I listened to my parents and learned a lot from them. The closer we are, the more we want each other to know ourselves, and the more we expect from each other, but we sometimes will be disappointed if we expect.

Because of our "family" status, we often forget that parents, children, or siblings also have different values and outlook on life. Those who are identified as "family" are the very beings most people want to rely on. Family members not only bring me a sense of security and joy, but also because of my familiarity with each other and our expectations of each other, so when family members think or do things that are not what I expected, I feel uneasy, sad and even hurt.

Where there is expectation, there will be disappointment, and then more emotions will breed. When the one fails to meet the expectations or is not what each other imagined, people will inevitably be anxious. Even start to have an argument of varying degrees, which will hurt each other. [10]

In the book 《I Love You, But I Hate Your Politics》 [6], it is mentioned that many people are afraid of having different political positions with those close to them. Sometimes, arguing about political issues in intimate relationships is out of unrealistic fantasy, hoping to change the thoughts and opinions of family partners, or influenced by past family relationships and trying to get attention or power back from arguing about political issues. However, we always forget that everyone's political opinions are closely related to their background, life experience and values. Having different political views with people close to you is a difficult issue for many people.

In the book 《You are my wound and self-esteem》 [20] explains that on the surface, fights are caused by conflicts, and the intimate relationship between family members is not harmonious, but the deeper reason is the disappointment of "longing but not getting" in my

heart. These disappointments will produce loneliness and annoyance that even oneself can't stand and feel strong frustration because "the other person isn't doing the best for me."

Many times, we argue with our parents because we can't get our inner desires. We have expectations towards each other, but when we get disappointed, we could be really sad. But, we didn't say our disappointment or how hurt we were. Instead, we replaced it with anger, which caused harm.

The conflict happened because the inner wounds were so painful that both sides were unable to "face" their hearts, "think" what the real problem was, or even take care of themselves. We let anger command ourselves to blame each other for all the responsibilities and treat ourselves as victims.

3-3 Asian filial piety

Taiwan is deeply influenced by Confucian culture, while the concept of filial piety is deeply rooted in society. Filial piety generally refers to caring for parents wholeheartedly and obeying their will. In the past, in order to make the society more stable, the children would behave well because of filial piety, so as not to worry or shame their parents. It can also be said that filial piety was the pillar of a harmonious society and people's responsibility to society in the past. Therefore, a society can be maintained stably with filial piety. In the concept of filial piety, it is also advocated that human nature is good, and the elders or those in power are regarded as completely good people and infallible people [22]. But now, it is easy to become a reason for family emotional blackmail [21]. When children don't go along with their parents' wishes, they will easily be regarded as unfilial children, and children will also choose to keep silent for fear of their parents' anger and sadness. Therefore, it is easy to cause unsmooth family communication.

Furthermore, after Taiwan entered the era of democracy, Taiwan has become more and more open, most people are no longer completely obedient to those in power, nor will the people in charge be regarded as "infallible people". Like most democratic countries, Taiwanese people criticize the government when it does something wrong or bad. Of course, with the progress of the times, the situation in families is much better than in the past, and the whole society and parents' ideas are becoming more and more open. Taiwan is a place where Confucian culture and western culture converge [1]. Under the background of Confucian culture, we have more diverse cultures, and the overall social atmosphere is slowly changing. However, Taiwan's seventh graders (or Generation Y) were born in a completely democratic society [3] [5] [7], without authoritarian education and the rule of an authoritarian government. Therefore, there will be greater differences between their parents' ideas about filial piety [4]. Some studies have also shown that the filial piety recognized by parents and children are not the same. Under the condition of different understanding of filial piety can easily lead to poor communication between parents and children.

Mentioned in the book 《Emotional Blackmail》 [21], Emotional blackmail is a form of manipulation that only breaks down the relationship. Because when the other person repeatedly gives in and backs down, it is out of fear, not out of intimacy, trust, and love. This book mentions many examples of emotional blackmail, many of which occur in Confucian thought. The word filial piety makes it easier for our parents to become blackmailers. When

some parents realize that their children are not obedient as they used to be, they use filial piety as an excuse, and then threaten to induce their children to obey themselves. If their children are trapped in the "filial piety" framework, they are easily blackmailed by their parents. When families don't go along with each other's wishes, emotional blackmailers begin to feel sorry for themselves, or blame, belittle, label families or even threaten them. So, the person who gets blackmailed feels guilty and begins to doubt his/herself whether he/she is bad and immature.

3-4 Transformation of family power

Before Taiwan adopted a democratic system, before 1987, the transformation of family power occurred when the economic status changed [23]. Parents are getting old, their physical strength is not as good as before, and their productivity drops. When their children grow up, they have a stable income and productivity increases. The transformation of family power slowly emerges. The transition time may be long enough, and children would gradually accept their parents' aging and see their parents changing. Parents, too, will slowly see their children's growth and accept the alternation of generations. Even though there will still be friction and argument in the process, both sides will have time to slowly adapt to each other.

However, with the gap between generations in Taiwan nowadays, the Confucianism culture and the application of democratic voting system, people are more willing to participate in politics and discuss politics, but if parents and their children support different ideas the differences between parents and children will emerge during the election period. It also brings about the transformation of family power. If parents still maintain a more traditional Confucian way of communication and education, the children want to have a more equal discussion mode with their parents [24], but the parents think that the children are "not mature enough" and want the children to be obedient [25]. It will passively lead to the transformation of family power. This kind of transformation is explosive. Compared with the transformation of family power in the past, political intervention makes the real fight be covered with a layer of political color, which leads to fierce fights, mutual harm, and poorer communication between parents and children.

CHAPTER 4: Questionnaire

4-1 Introduction

I have seen many examples of family disputes on the Internet, many of which are very frustrating and sad. On the other hand, I can't confirm the authenticity of every example. So I made this questionnaire to better collect more real examples of family political quarrels. This allows more control and credibility from cases from the Internet, such as online forums.

I created a questionnaire to make it easier for me to get more experience with other people arguing with their families about politics, rather than just getting cases from the Internet. I expect to receive at least 50 responses. I expect I will receive around 40% of people and their families who had some quarrels with their families during the 2020 presidential election. The questionnaire target group is between the ages of 18 and 30. The original questionnaire was in English and Chinese, but I only used the Chinese version in the end, because it was more in line with my research direction. I received 119 responses in total. This questionnaire was not made public, and only those who received a link could fill it out, which makes me better grasp the time and efficiency of receiving responses. This questionnaire was anonymous. I sent the questionnaire to my friends and my sister's friend network. My sister and I basically have no friends in common, and we have two very different circles of friends. Hence, I can be sure that the answers I receive are more diverse than just those from my network. I used google forms to make this questionnaire, which saves time and quickly obtains analysis insights.

4-2 Questionnaire strategy

The questionnaire is focused on people between the ages of 18 and 30. I want to know how our generation faces this political disagreement with their families and also how Confucian culture in our country would affect our feelings about family quarrels. First, I asked some basic information in the questionnaire, and then I asked if there had been any political arguments with their family. This question allows me to understand how many people actually have political arguments with family. Next, it echoes the previous question I asked if there would be any arguments with my family usually, because I wanted to know if everyone quarreled with political issues only or people also have other issues in their family. I also asked how everyone faced such a situation when they had political differences with their families, and I wanted to know if everyone would have an argument with their families or choose to be silent. This question help me to understand if people do not have an argument with their family when they have different political views, how would they react?

4-3 Questionnaire

Link to the questionnaire: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UG1odU-iK2NaTmoQQ6pU2zvIB39fqBerwSgh5FamOgw/edit>

Politics and Family Relations

Hello, I am Yu Nung. I am currently researching politics and family relations. I would like to invite you to participate in a questionnaire as part of my research. This will only take you one to three minutes, but your answers will become an important part of my research. This questionnaire is anonymous, no names will be disclosed.

***Required**

1. Age *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 14-18
- ☐ 19-29
- ☐ 30-40
- ☐ 41-50
- ☐ 51-60
- ☐ Above 60

2. Gender *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other: _____

3. What is your current status? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Child
☐ Parent
☐ Both

4. How much do you care about politics? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not paying attention at all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Paying a lot of attention

5. Have you ever had an argument with family members about politics? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

6. Do you usually quarrel with your family? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Most quarrel on political issues

7. How do you communicate when you have political disagreements with your family? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ An argument
- ☐ Rational communication
- ☐ Silence
- ☐ We basically don't quarrel
- ☐ Other: _____

8. What is your mood when you quarrel with your family because of politics? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Frustrated
- ☐ Sad
- ☐ Angry
- ☐ Regret
- ☐ We basically don't quarrel with politics
- ☐ Other: _____

9. Do you think that apart from disagreements on political issues, there will be disputes between you and your family?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ No, I get on well with my family
- ☐ No, we only have political dissatisfaction.
- ☐ Yes, we also quarrel on other issues
- ☐ My family and I don't quarrel on political issues but quarrel on other issues
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ Other: _____

3/31/22, 9:43 PM

Politics and Family Relations

Thanks for
your
participation

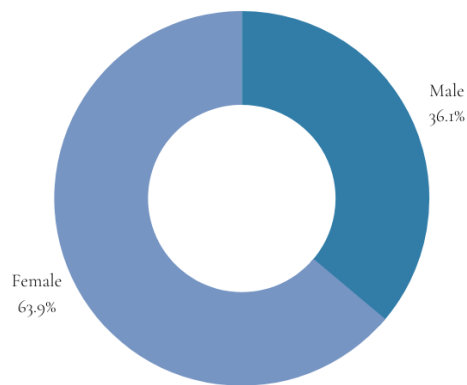
Thank you very much for participating in this questionnaire. I also have a one-to-one interview on this topic, so that I can better understand everyone's situation. If you are interested in my research or have questions or you are willing to share your personal experience more, please feel free to send email to the following email address.
y.nung.chen@gmail.com

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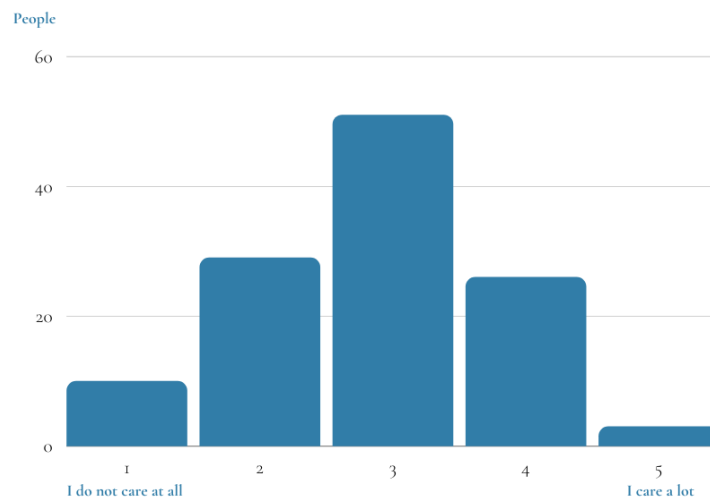
Google Forms

4-4 Results

Gender

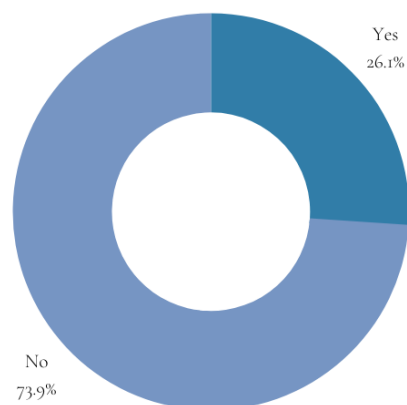


How much do you care about politics?



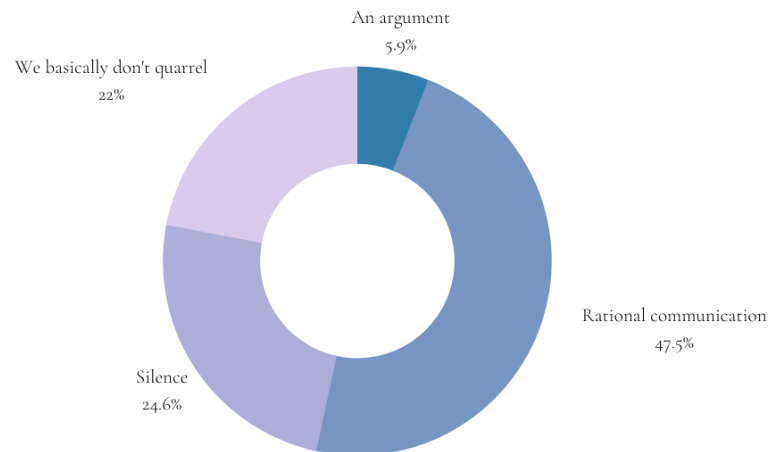
From this chart, it can be seen that people between the ages of 18 and 30 are concerned about politics, and there are fewer people who are completely unconcerned and extremely concerned.

Have you ever had an argument with family members about politics?



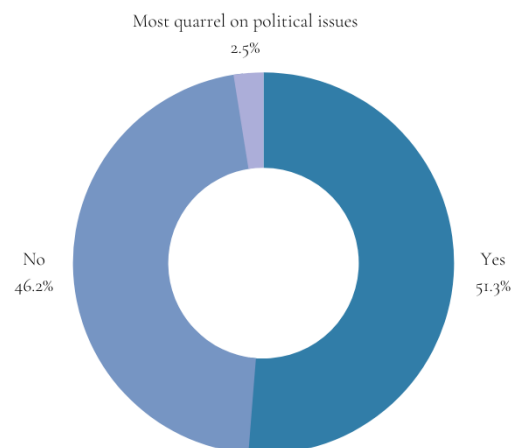
This result from the question shows that only about 26% people actually had political fights with their family. But the next question shows that 24% of people didn't fight because they chose to remain silent. It means that even if they had different ideas with their parents they just didn't show it. It shows the poor communication in families.

How do you communicate when you have political disagreements with your family?

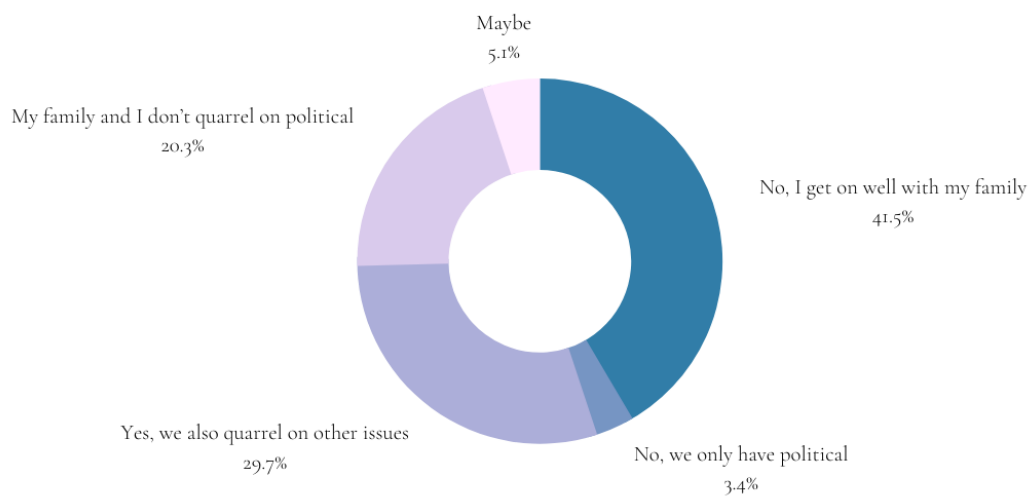


From this chart, we can see that most people can communicate rationally when they have political disagreements with their families, which I did not expect at first. But I also found that most of the time between me and my family we are able to communicate rationally, only in some sensitive moments such as during the presidential election, there will be fierce disputes.

Do you usually quarrel with your family?



Do you think that apart from disagreements on political issues, there will be disputes between you and your family?



In this question only a few people say that they only argue political issues with their family. It means that political issues will cause fights in family but there will also be other issues and problems in a family as well. This shows that politics has never been the main cause of family quarrels, and there are other potential problems in family relations.

CHAPTER 5: INTERVIEW

5-1 Introduction

After receiving the results of the questionnaire, I found that there are a few people who actually argue with their families about politics. There are more people who choose silence than fighting. This makes me curious and want to know whether this is related to the concept of filial piety or there are other reasons. Therefore I did some interviews to get answers to these questions. I hope that through more personal and deeper information, I can help people to be self-aware, understand yourself and your family better, and find out the core problems of yourself and your family.

The transcripts of the interviews can be found in the appendix, this chapter presents the results and conclusions of those interviews.

5-2 Yi Chun Huang, Feb 9, 2022

According to this interview, I found that some people rarely have arguments with their families. As the results of the above questionnaire echo each other, the relationship with less arguments may also be caused by poor communication. Although political arguments don't appear in their homes, there are some differences in other aspects. This interview also shows that some young people have different ideas from the word filial piety in the past. It is not influenced by the past social framework or parental education.

5-3 Wei Jin Chen, Feb 10, 2022

From the above interview, it can be found that the interviewee felt bad when she had a political argument with her parents. After trying to communicate and arguing, she accepted that her parents would not understand her ideas. She also had a very different idea about "filial piety" from her parents, which made them sometimes disagree with each other and caused them some unhappiness.

5-4 Yu Syuan Wu, Feb 10, 2022

From this interview, their political fight was a little more intense than the general fights. However, both interviewee and her parents have different ideas because of their different growing backgrounds and different life experiences. Even though the interviewee felt helpless, the interviewee still thinks that the most important thing for family members to communicate with each other.

From the above interview, I can also know that the younger generation and the elders have different definitions of filial piety.

5-4 Summary

From the above three interviews, in their family there are not just political squabbles, there will also be other squabbles about other topics. It can be seen that political quarrels are less likely to become the main family quarrels, but more likely to be more intense than other quarrels.

In addition, even if they have a heated argument with their parents, they always put harmony first. They let their parents calm down first or give up the idea of continuing communication and take "our growing backgrounds and lives are too different" as the main idea, so as to end this argument. I found that both the older generation and the younger generation are more or less influenced by the filial views of Confucianism. Parents want their children to listen to them, and children will try their best not to make their parents unhappy. Therefore, it is easy to form the above-mentioned "emotional blackmail" in the name of "filial piety", resulting in a vicious circle of family communication.

Another thing that these three interviewees have in common is that they have different concepts of filial piety from their parents, which is partly the cause of family quarrels. Some children will choose silence to conform to the filial piety recognized by their parents, putting their feelings behind them. If they are not handled properly in the long run, it will cause their own psychological discomfort.

CHAPTER 6: RELATED PRACTICE

6-1 Introduction

In order to raise people's awareness of the influence of politics on families, I will make use of the installation and space design to create the most frequent political fight scene between my family and me-dinner time. I hope that through the space design, visitors will not only look at the works, but also to see, listen, feel, and even interact with the space. Let everyone embody the experience to recreate the scenario.

Dinner time is also a time when many families can easily get together for dinner and chat. By recreating the fighting scene, I will show the pain of disputing with my family and the underlying reasons. Let the visitors rethink their relationship with their families. I hope my work will allow people to take away new ideas, no matter if people want to change the way they communicate with families or let go of the pain caused by family arguments.

6-2 Installation Design

I will focus on the food and dinner, because most of my arguments with my family happen at dinner time, which affects the dining situation and my memories of family dinner. Therefore, I want to design the scene of family dinner and create different perspectives through some changes of light and shadow and different locations of visitors.



- I put my table in an off-center position to show the inequality caused by Filial piety I was in when I argued with my father.
- The two screens on the wall show me and my two different political ideas.



- The chairs on the left and right sides of the dining table are two completely different kinds of chairs. The smaller one symbolizes my position, while the single person sofa symbolizes my father's position. Besides the unequal status between my father and me in this political quarrel, it also shows that there is a small space at home where I can express my thoughts.



- When a hotpot appears on our family table, it usually means reunion, and all family members come home to have a good meal together. But the partition in the middle of this hotpot means that even though we are a family and eat at the same table, we are still divided into two sides by our quarrel. The dishes on the table also represent our different choices.



6-3 Stories

6-2-1

: Daddy, Daddy, look!

Seven year old me held up my painting to my dad.

:Wow! What are you drawing? Is it the sun?

My dad squatted down.

Two of us happily discussed my painting together.

I like drawing!

: Dad, listen to me.

23 year-old me, looking at my dad.

He didn't sit down.

He just looked down at me.

: We will talk about it when you understand what politics is.

Two of us just stopped talking with anger

I hate politics!

6-2-2

Can't open

This lid is too difficult to open!

The whole lid covered with chili oil is slippery.

The hot pot is about to boil, I picked up the chopsticks and mix it

I add some vegetables to my bowl

The chewing noise of the table next to us is too loud, tsk!

: Are you very happy now? Tsai Ing-wen won the election.

Dad's words break the silence

I laughed like I am choking because of my nervousness

Staring at the hot sauce on my hand.

I clear my throat and say: I can't open this...

: You young people don't listen to your parents, and we won't care about you anymore

I stopped rotating the lid

My fingers are slightly whitish because of tightly gripping the lid

I put down the hot sauce in my hand

: Come on! Don't say it like that! And I didn't want you to worry about me anyway!

I would definitely say this before

Then we would have a big fight again

But I saw the frustration on their faces

I continue to pick up the hot sauce in my hand

Let the silence continue to roar

Hiss~~~

A pain came from my hand

I got scratched from the bottom of the bottle and the spicy oil stung my wound

:What are you doing?

My dad will give me his hand

Tell me to give him the hot sauce

: Phew! This is slippery

Bo!

My dad smells it

: This is hot sauce, I thought you don't eat spicy?

My dad opened the bottle.

CHAPTER 7: Conclusion

Families show a variety of political colors. Many parents and children supported different parties, causing political arguments in families. Nearly 50% of primary voters have different political positions from their parents, resulting in many contradictions and heated arguments.

Even though there may be a deep wound caused by political family arguments, it is very important to find out the possible potential reasons for the start of such an argument. It may be that people don't really know their families enough, or people see that their families are not what they expected, or it may be caused by long-term poor communication. Any potential problem is possible, often politics is the easiest one to find, but it may also be the most difficult one to solve.

I found that many people choose to be silent when they have different political views with their family in the questionnaire and the interviews. The silence is caused by filial piety, which will lead to poor communication between their families.

After understanding the potential causes of political quarrels, maybe some people will communicate with their loved family members in another way to get better discussions and longer-term feelings. In some cases, there may be no room for improving the relationship or resolving misunderstandings, that is, let go of their wounds, embrace the pain of the past and let go of themselves.

In order to raise awareness on political family arguments I created an installation and stories, which contain indications of problem factors that were found in my research, questionnaires and interviews.

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Appendix

Interview verbatim

- Yi Chun Huang, personal communication, Feb 9, 2022

Me: Have you ever argued with your family about political issues?

:Basically, we would just be chatting. There's no heated argument, just sharing and chatting.

Me: Are your political ideas like those of your parents?

:Not completely different, but not completely similar as well.

I don't think my parents' political ideas have deviated too far from universal values and won't be too extreme, so our ideas haven't been completely different, which can be discussed and agreed upon.

Besides, my parents have their own ideas, and they will not exclude others from having their own ideas.

Me: Have you ever had an argument with your family other than politics?

:There will be discussions, but not often. In the past, I was mostly scolded unilaterally, but now it's different. When we have fights in our family, we usually deal with it coldly and don't talk, so that when we can calm down, there will be no direct conflicts. We will just stay silent mostly.

Me: What do you think filial piety is?

:I know this word from Confucianism.

But I don't think filial piety should exist.

Because I think filial piety is basically a person who treats me well. He has taken care of me. Because I am a human being, I know how to repay my kindness and I have empathy, so I will treat him well as well. However, I don't think this behavior can be classified as filial piety or filial piety. Even if my friend or boyfriend or my colleagues treat me well, I can repay them.

Personally, I think the act of filial piety is simply that one person is kind to you, not because I am his parents, and I must be filial to him.

For me, the word filial piety should not exist.

I think filial piety can be used to describe the fact that parents' affection for their children is different from other relationships, so I will be more willing to give. Even though they may have been bad to me before, they at least raised me, so I should have some basic filial piety and care for them. I think filial piety can prove this, but the rest I think are too much. For example, all the virtues' filial piety comes first, and all money must be given to parents. What

Mom and Dad said must be right. I think the latter are all filial piety by Confucianism and social framework to make certain established people get benefits and enjoy benefits. But in fact, filial piety is very simple for me. This person is good to me, so I am good to him.

- Wei Jin Chen, personal communication, Feb 10, 2022

Me: Have you ever argued with your family about politics?

: I think my family's political ideas are like mine.

But we had a fight, just once. The argument was more related to social issues.

Me: When you know that your ideas are different from those supported by your parents, how do you feel?

: My mood was quite angry.

Even though I didn't fight with them, I think some of their ideas must be updated.

In the end, I found that they had no way to be changed or accept my idea, but in fact, I didn't really want to change them as well, I just thought they had some correct knowledge to be told.

Me: So, their thoughts haven't changed since you talked about it?

: No, they did not.

They didn't change after that or there was no result after our communication. I was quite depressed and sad, but on the other hand, I also knew that this might be ineffective communication, because their past ideas were with them all the time, and they couldn't be changed so easily, so I accepted this ending.

Me: Do you usually argue with your family, except for political issues?

: Of course, it happens often.

Me: What do you think filial piety is for you?

: I try my best not to hurt them. I am by their side when they need me.

I prefer spiritual support and companionship to make them feel that I love them. Although I think they may prefer material support, I can't do it with my current ability.

But I think the word filial piety just makes it easier for parents to blackmail emotionally.

But I think filial piety is a concept that has been instilled in children in the whole social framework. When we grow up, we think it is right, but it turns out to be fine. I will be filial piety, but it's just to meet your emotional needs. It's not from the bottom of my heart to be

nice to you. I'm not sharing my ideas and I don't argue with you. I just obey you. I don't think this concept is quite correct.

Me:What do you think filial piety is to your parents?

:I think filial piety for them means that their children are under their control and obey their arrangement.

There may be life plans that they think are the best for us, such as when to buy a house and when to get married. They hope that we can do our best to make the plans that they help us. They think this is the best for them and us.

Me:So, you think their definition of filial piety will be stricter than yours.

:Yes, I think so, but when we can't meet their requirements or do the things they want, they won't be mad, but they will be disappointed and sad, but they will accept it in the end.

They just want us to have a happy life, so that they won't worry about us anymore.

Me:Do you think there is hope for them that their children must support them financially when they grow up?

:Yes, I think they do. That's why they hope that I can get married and have children so that they will think that I will have children to support me and have a better life in the future.

But in fact, I haven't done it yet. My parents are still working, so they don't have strict requirements for us to do it. They don't have a hard and fast rule that we must do it, because if we can't do it, we can't do it and there's nothing they can do.

- Yu Syuan Wu, personal communication, Feb 10, 2022

Me:Do you have any experience in arguing with your family about politics?

:There were arguments and discussions.

It will be emotional, but not too much, that is, we would be talking louder and louder, not swearing or stopping each other from talking.

But basically, we only argued about politics before the 2020 Presidential election.

Me:Do you usually argue with your family except politics?

:Yeah, but after I moved out, it's less now.

Me:How did you feel when you argued with your parents?

:I felt confused and helpless at the same time, why could they not understand, but on the other hand, I also understood that our ideas were totally different because of our different growing backgrounds.

Although I felt helpless, I won't take any further steps, because at least they are willing to listen to me, and I will also listen to them. There is still some communication between us. I think this is a bridge of communication, and it is enough for me.

If you communicate fiercely. Will you think you should try to avoid arguments?

I won't avoid arguments, but if I find that we are getting more and more emotional, I will be the first one to calm down.

If I feel that there is no way to ease the atmosphere at the scene, then I will be silent and let my parents vent their emotions, but this situation is very rare, and it only happened in the last Presidential election.

Me:What do you think filial piety is for you?

:Filial piety is my parents' happiness for me.

I try my best to make them happy.

I will take care of them and protect them, but happiness is the key.

Me:What do you think filial piety is to your parents?

:My parents feel filial piety means that their children should be by their side.

I think they also think that the filial piety fee is a key point, but their main point is not money but willingness to pay. Because I earn money through my time and energy, which makes them feel that I have been filial. That is, a way for us to show sincerity, so that they will feel very happy.