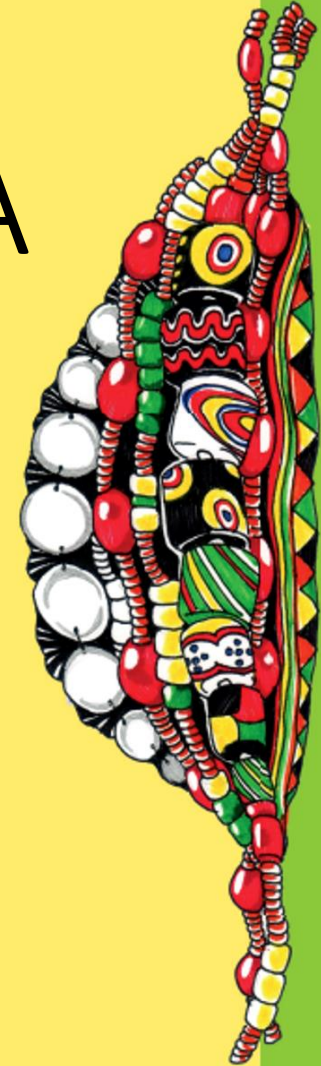


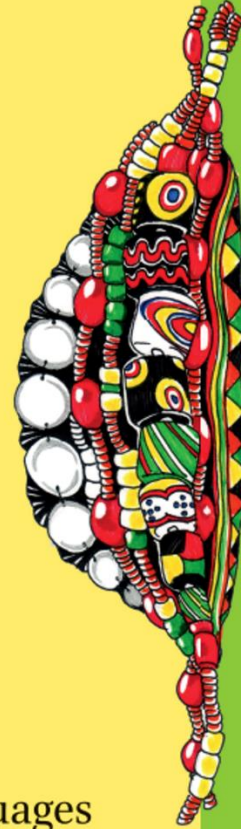
# Formosan linguistics: A State-of-the-art

Rik De Busser  
National Chengchi University

1 December 2023  
National Dong Hwa University, Hualien



HANDBOOK OF  
FORMOSAN  
LANGUAGES



Handbook of  
Formosan Languages  
*The Indigenous Languages of Taiwan*

**PART 1**

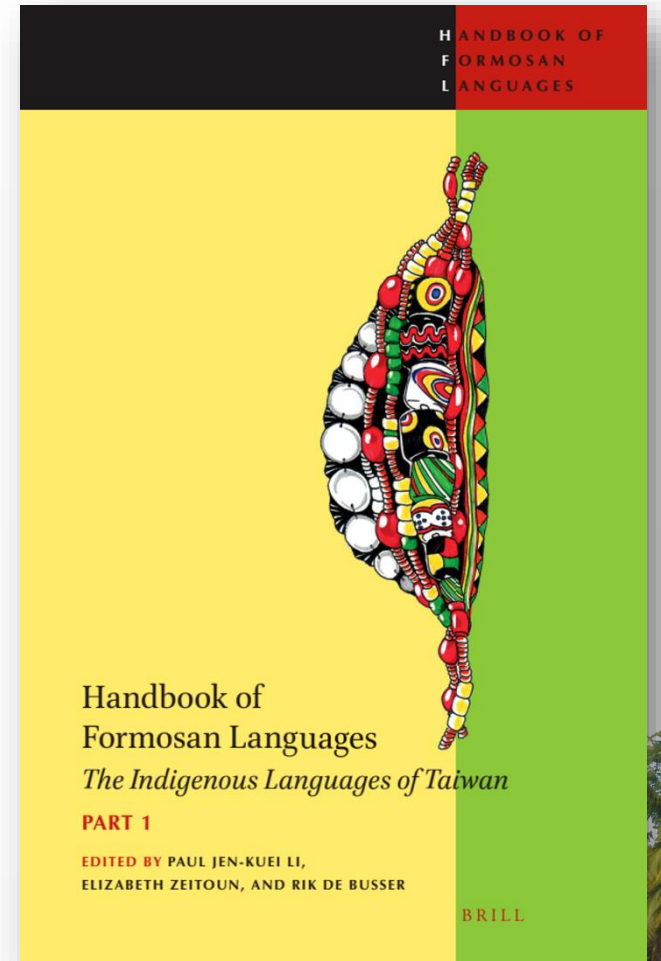
EDITED BY PAUL JEN-KUEI LI,  
ELIZABETH ZEITOUN, AND RIK DE BUSSE

BRILL

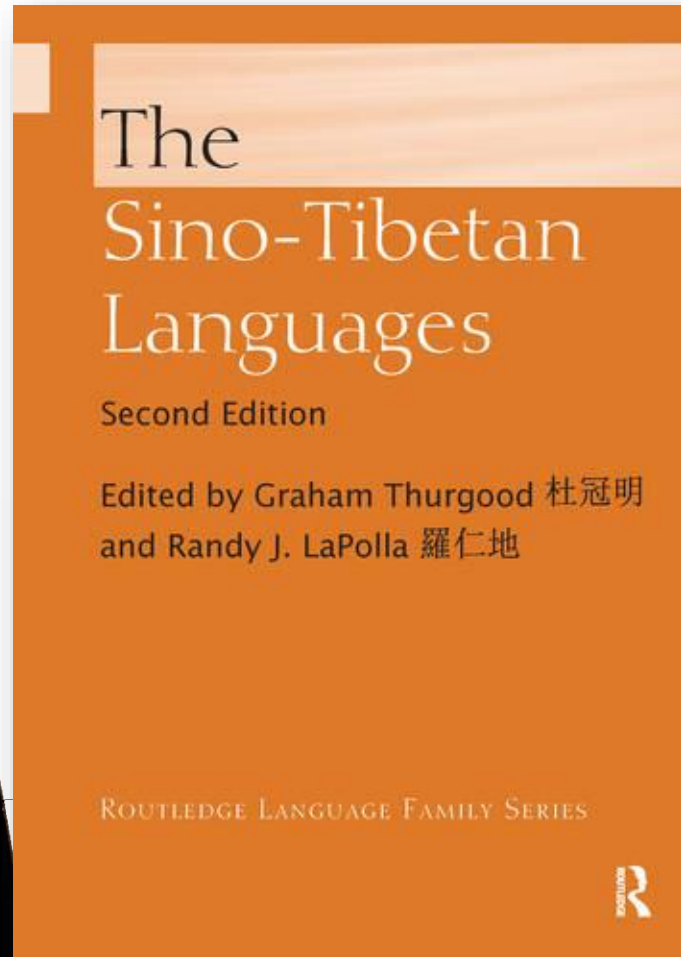


# Handbook of Formosan Languages

- By request of Brill
- Leiden, since 1683
- Taiwan Studies
- East Asian languages
- Preparation started March 2019
- Officially published January 2024



# Similar handbooks in the region



- Sino-Tibetan languages
- Graham Thurgood & Randy LaPolla
- Routledge
- 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2002
- 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2017



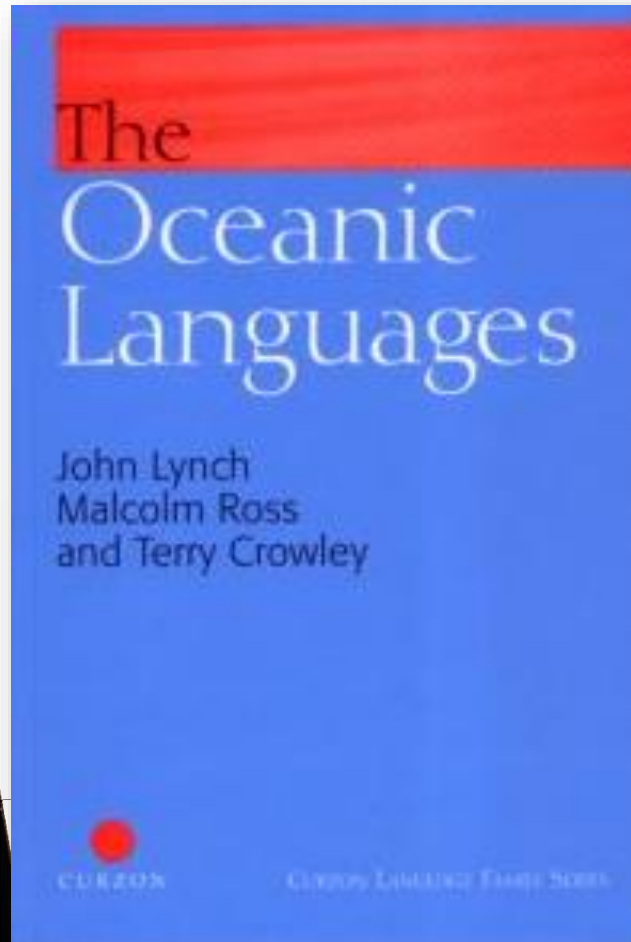
# Similar handbooks in the region



- Austroasiatic languages
- Mathias Jenny & Paul Sidwell
- Brill
- 2015



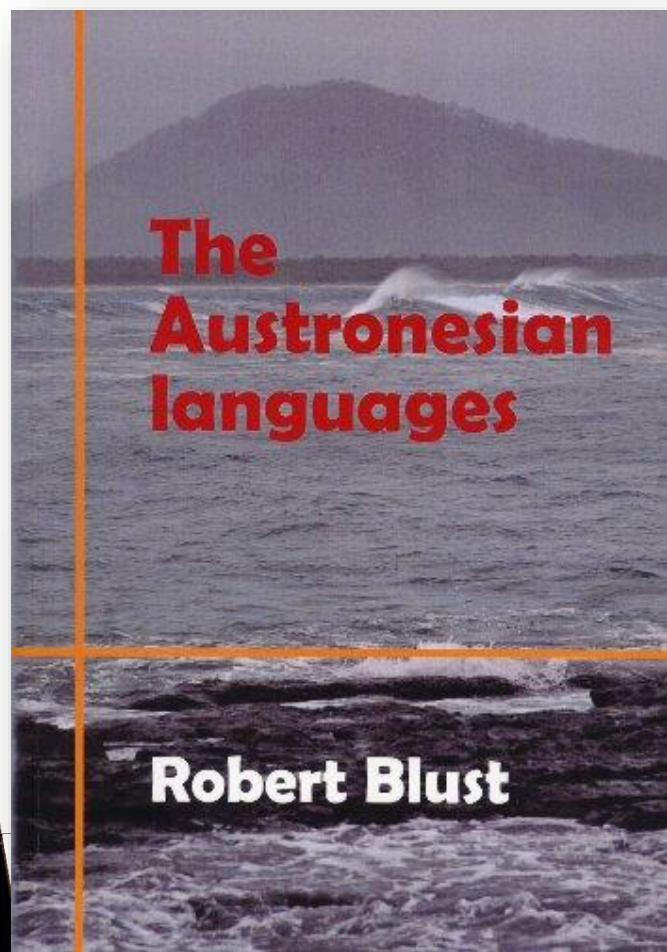
# Similar handbooks in the region



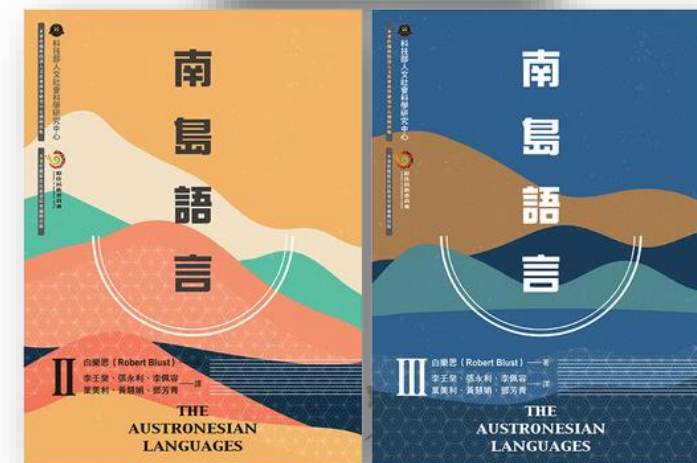
- The Oceanic languages
- John Lynch, Malcolm Ross & Terry Crowley
- Routledge
- 2001



# Similar handbooks in the region



- The Oceanic languages
- Robert Blust
- Australian National University
- 2013



# Ethnic groups Taiwan

Ethnic groups	Origin and date of migration to Taiwan	Approx. % of population
Hoklo	Southern Fujian Province, China 17 <sup>th</sup> century onwards	70%
Mainlanders	Various provinces, mainland China 1945-1949, following end of Japanese colonial rule (1895-1945) and KMT defeat in Chinese civil war (1949)	10%
Hakka	Fujian and Guangdong Provinces, China 17 <sup>th</sup> century onwards	15%
Indigenous peoples	Asian mainland 4,500-4,000 BCE	> 2%
New immigrant spouses	China; Vietnam; Indonesia; Philippines; Cambodia 1990s-2000s through cross-border marriages	- 2%



# Why this handbook?

- Formosan languages
  - Are not a coherent subgroup of Austronesian
  - Exhibit high diversity
- Covered in Blust's handbook
  - Around 63 pages



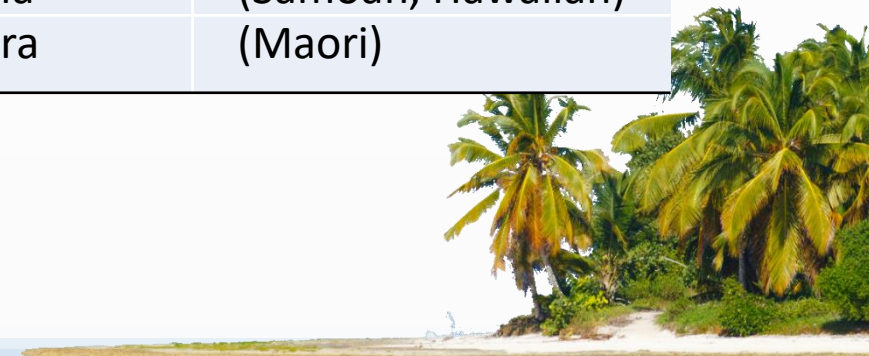
# Why this handbook?

- Taiwan as the homeland of the Austronesian expansion (Bellwood 1997, Blust 1999, ...)
  - Large linguistic diversity
  - Importance for PAN reconstruction



## Reflexes of PAN \**zalan* 'road' (W. Huang 2014)

Taiwan		The Philippines		Indonesia	
darán	(Pazeh)	raxan	(Itbayaten)	dalan	(Javanese)
lalan	(Amis)	dalan	(Ifugao)	jalan	(Balinese)
djalan	(Paiwan)	daan	(Tagalog)	lalan	(Tae', Sulawesi)
dalan	(Puyuma)	lalan	(Maranao)	raran	(Kowiai, W. Papua)
Papua New Guinea		Solomon Islands		Micronesia	
jala	(Manam)	tala	(Kwaio)	chalan	(Chamorro)
dala	(Motu)	hala[utu]	(Nggela)	rael	(Palauan)
zaala	(Mbula)	tara	(Arosi)	aan	(Chuukese)
				ahl	(Pohnpeian)
East Melanesia		Polynesia			
hal	(Ambrym)	hala	(Tongan)	ala	(Samoan, Hawaiian)
sala	(Fijian)	sala	(Rotuman)	ara	(Maori)



# Why this handbook?

- Taiwan as the homeland of the Austronesian expansion (Bellwood 1997, Blust 1999, ...)
  - Large linguistic diversity
  - Importance for PAN reconstruction
- Need for a standard overview
  - Authoritative source of pointers
    - Comparative research
    - Education
  - Socio-political importance



# Why this handbook?

- Awareness
  - Documentation
- Guide for further research
  - Starting point for further research
  - Identify research gaps



# Examples

- Ch. 7 – *Phonetics of Formosan Languages* (Lu, Yu-An & Kristine M. Yu)
- Ch. 29 – *Experimental Linguistics Embracing Linguistic Diversity: On the Contributions of Formosan Languages to Models of Sentence Processing* (Collart, Aymeric)



## Number of linguists actively engaged in the study of Formosan languages

1931-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020
6	20	30	40

## Number of MOST projects

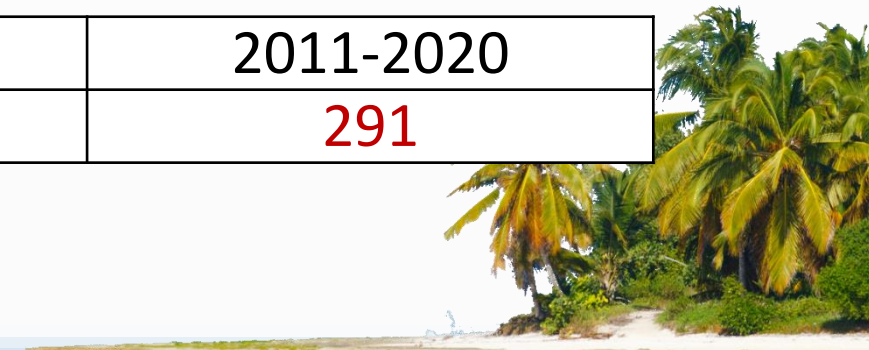
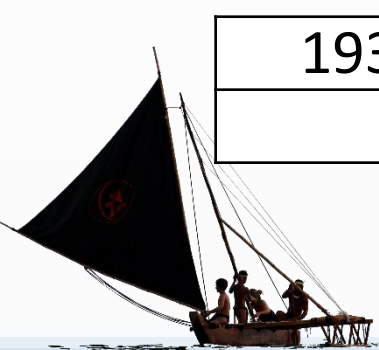
1931-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020
N/A	56	106	181

## Number of Master theses and PhD dissertations

1931-1990		1991-2000		2001-2010		2011-2020	
MA	PhD	MA	PhD	MA	PhD	MA	PhD
9	8	26	11	116	24	122	33

## Number of publications

1931-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020
293	303	414	291



# The unknown and underknown

- Dialects and dialect variation
- Language contact
- Internal reconstructions
- In-depth descriptions and grammatical comparisons
  - E.g. deictics,
- Experimental studies
  - Phonetics
  - Psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics



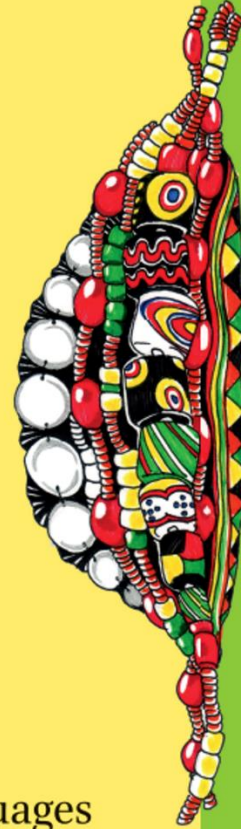


# Limitations

- A handbook is a handbook
  - Gaps
  - Limits to descriptive detail
- Complex publications  $\leftrightarrow$  errors and omissions
- States-of-the-art get superseded



HANDBOOK OF  
FORMOSAN  
LANGUAGES



Handbook of  
Formosan Languages  
*The Indigenous Languages of Taiwan*

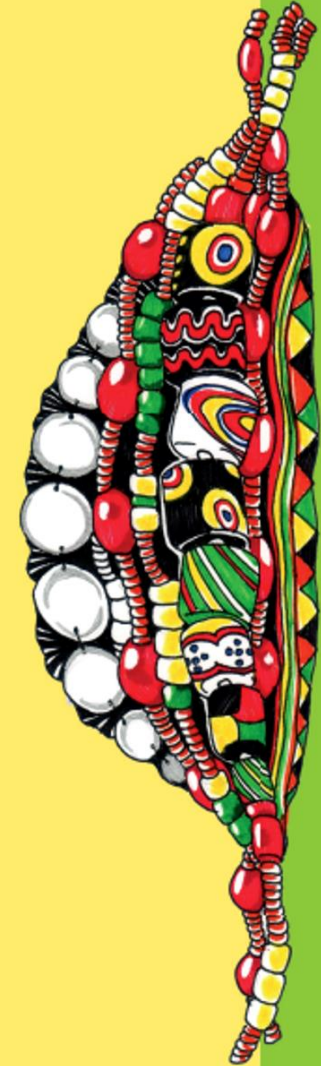
**PART 1**

EDITED BY PAUL JEN-KUEI LI,  
ELIZABETH ZEITOUN, AND RIK DE BUSSE

BRILL



Thank you  
for your attention



# Bibliography

Bellwood, Peter (1997). *Prehistory of the Indo-Malaysian archipelago*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press.

Blust, Robert A. (1999). Subgrouping, circularity and extinction: Some issues in Austronesian comparative linguistics. In Elizabeth Zeitoun and Paul Jen-kuei Li (Eds.), *Selected papers from the Eighth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics* (pp. 31-94). Taipei: Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica.

Huang, Wei-chen (a.k.a I-sin Ng) (2014). On Proto-Austronesian \*zalan 'path'. Paper read at the *Pacific History Association 21st—Biennial Conference (PHA 2014)*. December 3-6, 2104. Taipei and Taitung: National Taipei University.

Price, Gareth (2019). *Language, society, and the state: From colonization to globalization in Taiwan*. Boston/Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton

