

成為他自己的人，
給未來世代的教育烏托邦

劉若凡 著



LET THE TIMBER CROOK

An Alternative School's Utopia for
Coming Generations

RUO-FAN LIU

Acropolis Publishing

CONTENTS

Preface: Looking Back

1 · An Alternative School

2 · Two Forest Schools

3 · Building a Utopia for Teenagers

4 · The Utopia of Freedom

5 · The Collapsed Utopia

6 · Reform, Reform, Reform!

7 · Back to the Norm

8 · End of Experiment: Struggle to be Legal

Conclusion: Alternative School in Movement

Afterword: Coming of Age

Acknowledgments

Appendix: Methodology of School History

Appendix: Fieldwork

AUTHOR

RUO FAN-LIU is a graduate of the Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University. Her interest is mainly focused on the sociology of education, school organization, and educational policy. She has received numerous academic honors, including “Outstanding Fieldwork Award” from the Taiwanese Sociological Association, “Outstanding Master Thesis Award” from the Formosa Alternative Pedagogy Association, and “Master Dissertation Honors” from the Association for Taiwan Social Studies. Each award is given to one or two students annually in Taiwan.

This book is based on her master’s thesis, “Alternative School in Movement: an Organizational Analysis of School Change.” She spent five years doing ethnographic research at Holistic High School, and conducted follow-up research after she graduated from NTU. In this book, she tries to answer James Coleman’s unresolved question, “How do teachers shape the direction of adolescent society, or break down that society to re-establish control?” and to illustrate innovative ways of teaching pedagogy by applying peer knowledge.

Currently, she is developing a new project on issues of parenting and social mobility. She also acts as a member of the Judging Panel for the Taichung Non-School Mode of Experimental Education Committee, and writes a column, “Flip.Education” in Common Wealth Parenting, the most important education and parenting magazine in Taiwan.

The dream and reality of the utopia we tried to build over these twenty years, the roads taken, the people involved, freedom and order, knowledge and non-knowledge, reason and sentiment... The author successfully weaves these complex ideas and phenomena into a collection of compelling stories, each story dealing with one thought-provoking issue. Reading this book is a pleasurable and affecting experience both intellectually and emotionally, and paves the way to understanding some of life's important truths.

—**Wu-hsiung Huang, retired professor from National Taiwan University,
Department of Mathematics;
educational reformer and philosopher**

This book began as the author's Master's thesis; her rigorous analysis of cause and effect, fine-grained interpretation of events, and broad range of references won her an Outstanding Fieldwork Award from the Taiwanese Sociological Association in 2013. After she received her degree, the author rewrote her work as a book targeted at general audiences. The book chronicles one captivating and stirring experiment in education. Through these stories, we are forced to confront these basic questions: What is the nature of the relationship between teacher and student? What is education? How will students turn out if they are considered equal to teachers, if they are allowed to decide what their lives at school are like, if they are let loose from adult supervision? The answers are surprising and far beyond any simple explanation.

—**Gwo-shyung Shieh, Director and Research Fellow, Academia Sinica
Institute of Sociology; Professor, National Tsing-hua University,
Institute of Sociology**

Many works in Taiwan have studied “alternative schools,” but few have analyzed how alternative schools are “made” with the broad historical vision and extraordinary narrative depth of this book. In exploring how the ideal of student-centered education is realized in an organizationally restricted space such as a school, this book paints a vivid picture of the dynamic interactions among ideals, systems, and behavior. The author casts in sharp relief not only the rigid school system, but also presents for the reader the stories of the real people involved. The reader realizes that the ideals, instincts, desires, and

abilities of people are tolerated and restricted by the school system, but they in turn influence the system itself and drive change.

—**Kuo-ming Lin, Associate Professor, National Taiwan University,
Department of Sociology**

A group of adults, dissatisfied with the traditional system and looking to turn their ideals into reality, embark on a grand adventure in adolescent education rife with challenges and drama. With a unique perspective encompassing that of both an insider and an outsider, the author paints a thoughtful picture of the Holistic Education School, chronicling one journey of alternative education in Taiwan.

—**Hsiao-chin Hsieh, Professor, National Tsing-hua University,
Center for General Education**

This book presents the conflict between the ideals and reality of education reform. When we assert that educational reform should be centered on student learning, with inspiring the motivation to learn as the highest goal, we must face one cruel reality: What should teachers do if the students make poor choices, or if they are unmotivated by academics? These conflicts are described in vivid detail in this book.

—**Ya-huei Chen, Editor-in-Chief, Common Wealth Parenting**