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Main Research Orientation of Vietnamese Historians Presented in the Journal "Nghien Cuu Lich Su"

The paper is aimed to point out and analyze the research orientation of Vietnamese historians on Vietnamese national history during the last 50 years as it is presented on the Journal of Historical Studies, the most important historical periodicals in Vietnam.

In the first part the author provides an introduction of the journal, including its origin, structure, editorship, authors, readership and achievements. In the second part the author presents the result of her survey on the research orientation of Vietnamese historians as it presented on the articles published on the journal during the last 50 years (1954-2005). From June 1954 to December 2004 there have been 3782 articles of Vietnamese historians published on the Journal focusing on six main topics: Land regime, rural society and peasant movements; mode of production and society in Vietnamese history; Resistance wars against foreign invasions and revolution; cultural history; historical figures; and local history. Based on her thorough analysis the author tries to point out which topics have been mostly concerned by Vietnamese historians in different periods (such as during the wartime (1954-1975), prior-renovation period (1976-1986) and in the Renovation period (1986-2004). Further more the author tries to explore the reasons for the changes in research orientation of Vietnamese historians in these periods. Lastly the author suggests some interpretation on the changes of research orientation, documentation, methods and approaches of the Vietnamese historiography in modern time.