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The interaction between Chinese women's understanding of womanhood and their lived experience in UK Higher Education

Qiao Dai

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Research Domains

International contexts and perspectives (ICP)

Abstract

Focusing on Chinese women who have studied in UK Higher Education (UKHE), this life history research aims at exploring their understanding of womanhood and its interaction with their experience in UKHE over time. Specifically, 11 culturally responsive focus groups with collages were conducted online with 56 Chinese women to research their collective understanding of womanhood in transnational contexts, followed by 30 timeline-facilitated semi-structured interviews online to study the interaction between such understanding and their lived experience in UKHE. The findings can potentially contribute to understanding and improving Chinese female students' experience in UKHE, the development of Chinese feminism, and transnational intersectionality

Full paper

Chinese women, major participants in UK Higher Education (UKHE), are at the intersection between Chinese international students and female students, and their lived experience can be different from that of both Chinese men and other female students, although, very few published data focus on Chinese women in UKHE. Among feminist literature, while the impact of the understanding of womanhood on female students' life opportunities is debated, the interaction between such understanding and their lived experience is

under-researched, let alone for Chinese women in UKHE. Chinese women, who experience transnational movement and UKHE, may experience changes in their understanding of womanhood and its interaction with their lived experience. However, very little is known about whether and how Chinese women in UKHE experience such changes over time. Focusing on Chinese women who have studied in UKHE, this life history research aims at exploring their understanding of womanhood and its interaction with their experience in UKHE over time. Specifically, 11 culturally responsive focus groups with collages were conducted online with 56 Chinese women to research their collective understanding of womanhood in transnational contexts, followed by 30 timeline-facilitated semi-structured interviews online to study the interaction between such understanding and their lived experience in UKHE. The findings can potentially contribute to understanding and improving Chinese female students' experience in UKHE, the development of Chinese feminism, and transnational intersectionality. This presentation will start with a brief introduction of the research background and aim, followed by methodology, and preliminary findings from data that will have been analysed by the time of the Conference.

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