

Public Abstract

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Title:An Expedition Into The Uncharted Territory of Modern Chinese Men and Masculinities

This exploratory study utilized surveys, interviews and observations to bring into focus a clearer picture of modern Chinese masculinities. The concept of masculinities has been a fuzzy one. Many scholars have tried to mold it into a concrete and precise idea for better understanding. However, even after much effort the picture still looked out-of-focus.

Chinese masculinities are no exception. This particular concept has not been studied well. Most knowledge came from media and literary examples. The image was further blurred by many stereotypes that may be restricting and not factual. This research was carried out in one year in Beijing, the capital city of China. Participants completed surveys and interviews. Routine observations were made. Three different methods were used to gain the most information possible about modern Chinese masculinities.

The results were mixed and chaotic. China is going through many changes at current time. The male residents in Beijing are feeling the impact of such changes. They are confused about their identity as a man and faced many competing ideas of masculinities from all sides due to advanced communication technologies. Older generations of Chinese men had a simpler choice. The way to be a man was to be the sole breadwinner for the family. In contrast, younger generations of Chinese men are swamped with contradicting and competing ideas of how to be a man. Consequently they feel confused and lost.