

Female Romance in Ancient and Modern Chinese Society

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Abstract

Everyone's already wearing a mask in any case; it's just that the mask's an invisible one, unless you're already *out*, but then *out* people wear the *out* mask.¹

Just as we designate homosexuals as a special group stigmatized through being in the "closet," lesbians in Taiwan nowadays have been and are, in the same way, frequently oppressed by conventional society. People attempt to police homosexuality through the law, education, health, etc. For example, the law does not allow homosexual marriage, or to allow homosexuals to adopt children. In addition, the media's reports provide a false image of homosexuality.

Female romance exists as another form of lesbianism in Taiwan. In this article, I will discuss the lack of lesbianism in ancient Chinese history, and examine homosexual material in some literary texts. The second section will mainly discuss the symptom of female romance which is another reticent relationship in Chinese lesbianism.

Keywords: Female Romance, Lesbianism, Ancient Chinese Society, Male Homosexuality, Taiwan

¹ Fran Martin, "Surface Tensions: Reading Productions of Tongzhi in Contemporary Taiwan," *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 6:1 (2000): 65.

中國古代與現代社會下的女性情誼

房智慧

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摘要

Fran Martin 曾經提到：「每個人在不同的場合都已經戴著一個面具了，只是這個面具是隱形的。除非你已經出櫃了，但雖已出櫃，仍戴著出櫃的面具。」「同性戀」這個詞其實在古代的中國社會並不存在，直至二十世紀這詞彙才從西方介紹引進，但這並不表示同性戀行為在古代的中國是不存在著。

即使在現代台灣社會中，女同志還是遭受到傳統思想的種種壓迫，女女之間的感情糾結則是透過另一種的方式存在著，那就是女性情誼。本文章將討論以男同性戀為中心的中國古代社會裡，女同志始終是沒有聲音，不被重視的一群人。第二部分將主要探討中國社會下的女性情誼現象，其實是中國傳統社會下女同性戀的另一種含蓄感情的表達方式，並回顧西方 17 至 20 世紀的女性情誼歷史。

關鍵字：女性情誼、女同志、古代中國社會、男同志、台灣