

Propositions to accompany the PhD dissertation

Beyond Casual Sex

Dating Apps and the Reformation of Gay Relationships in China

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1. China's neoliberalization has facilitated a material environment that favors long-term intimate relationships rather than short-term ones, and a discursive environment that promotes autonomy, self-dependence, and constant self-improvement in the intimate relationship based on authentic feelings (this dissertation).
2. When metropolitan gay singles use dating apps, the pursuit of romance and the engagement in casual sex often co-exist (this dissertation).
3. Relationship development initiated on dating apps is fueled by casual conversations about personal experiences, hobbies, or thoughts, rather than pragmatic conversations with clearly articulated purposes (this dissertation).
4. Non-single gay men may also use dating apps. Gay couples' negotiation of dating app use is in tandem with the negotiation of relational boundaries, which results in either the reinforcement of monogamy or the embracement of non-monogamy (this dissertation).
5. Design features of dating apps, marketing strategies of app companies, and internet regulations shape Chinese gay men's collective sexual life by unevenly distributing platform access to users across social classes and territorial divisions and (dis)enabling particular communicative practices to different extents (this dissertation).
6. Compared to other Chinese provinces, Sichuan is often perceived to be more tolerant of sexual minorities. This is probably because immigrants from other provinces and their descendants had constituted more than 80 percent of the whole population of Sichuan since the early Qing dynasty; the lack of a strong local patriarchal clan system had allowed more flexibility in the individual's gender socialization.
7. In China, urban middle-class gay men's social lives are confined by their limited free time. Normally, they are very busy with their work.
8. Compared to their Dutch counterparts, Chinese gay men pay more attention to one's educational background in online dating.
9. Long-distance relationships seem to be more common and accepted in China than in Europe.
10. Some researchers who study Chinese sexual minorities expect to find the answers to their questions in traditional Chinese culture and the assumed Chinese mentality. It may be more helpful if they carefully examine the structural factors in contemporary Chinese society.
11. Chinese netizens say: "Good-looking bodies are monotonous, while the interesting souls are one in a million." Such discourse guides their social lives.