**Prof. Dr. Nicola Spakowski (University of Freiburg, Germany)**

**Feminism and the women’s movement in China**

Feminism has a long history in China that dates back to the late nineteenth century. In this course, we will look at feminism in the context of the Communist movement since the 1920s with a particular emphasis on developments in post-1978 China. We will discuss how particular historical circumstances such as the revolutionary situation in the 1920s to 40s, the socialist system of the 1950s to 70s and the introduction of a market economy since 1978 have shaped women’s lives and the strategies to improve their situation. What was the relation between the Communist movement and the women’s movement, between “class” and “gender” in analyses of Chinese society? Which strategies did the Communist Party develop to “liberate” women? How have international forces after 1978 changed indigenous feminist concepts? Topics to be discussed include, among others, the women’s policy and examples of women’s political activism and military participation before 1949; the image and mobilization of women under Maoism; the “new” women’s movement of the 1980s and the emergence of NGOs and independent discourses on women; the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995; the problems of theory transfer from West to East (e.g. “feminism”, “gender”); and the emergence of a new socialist feminism in recent years. Classroom discussions will be based on primary and secondary sources in Chinese and English.

**Time and venue**

Monday and Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:20pm, Room 422 at河仁楼.

**Requirements**

* regular attendance
* active participation based on the readings for each week (25%)
* oral presentation of 15 to 20 minutes (25%)
* paper in English, 1,500 words, due on 22 June (50%)

**Syllabus**

**Monday, 11 May Introduction to the class: What is feminism? Why feminism?**

Read: pp. 577-581 of Myra Marx Ferree, Carol McClurg Mueller, Feminism and the Women’s Movement: A Global Perspective, in*: The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, ed. by David A Snow, Sarah A. Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, Blackwell Publishing 2004, pp. 576-607.

**Tuesday, 12 May Feminism and the Communist revolution: The CCPs women policy (1920s to 40s)**

Read: a) 中国共产党第二次全国代表大会关于妇女运动的决议 (1922年7月23日), in: 中国妇女运动历史资料 (1921-1927), 中国妇女出版社, 1991, pp. 29-30.

b) 中国共产党中央委员会关于各抗日根据地目前妇女工作方针的决定 (1943年2月26日), in: 中国妇女运动历史资料 (1937-1945), 中国妇女出版社, 1991, pp. 647-649.

c) 蔡畅, 迎接妇女工作的新方向 (1943年 3 月8日), in: 中国妇女运动历史资料 (1937-1945), 中国妇女出版社, 1991, pp. 650-654.

d) 中央对目前妇女工作的指示 (1948年5月1日), in: 中国妇女运动历史资料 (1945-1949), 中国妇女出版社, 1991, pp. 236-237.

Presentation: The marriage law in CCP-controlled areas (1930s and 40s)

**Monday, 18 May Women soldiers in the Communist revolution (1920s to 40s)**

Read: a) 谭乐华，珍藏在心中的历史篇章, in: 大革命洪流中的女兵, 中国妇女出版社, 1991, pp. 99-109.

b) 李贞, 从童养媳到女战士, in: 女兵回忆录, 解放军出版社, 1987, pp. 61-68.

c) 张达，张侠，不爱红装爱武装的岁月回忆抗大一份校女生队二三事， in: 抗大校友回忆录, Vol 2, 1999, pp. 105-108.

Presentation: The image of women soldiers in contemporary China

**Tuesday, 19 May State feminism under Mao Zedong (1950s to 70s)**

Read: a) Tina Mai Chen, Female Icons, Feminist Iconography? Socialist Rhetoric and Women’s Agency in 1950s China, in: *Gender & History* 15.2, August 2003, pp. 268-295.

b) 师晓微, 田桂英,新中国第一位女火车司机, in: 百姓生活 (03), 2010, pp. 24-25.

Presentation: Women under Maoism – achievements and problems

**Monday, 25 May Feminism in the early Reform period (1980s to early 1990s)**

Read: a) 谢建新, 中国妇女解放道路的特点及深入发展的条件, in: 求索 (06), 1991, pp. 38-40.

b) Nicola Spakowski, 论中国当代妇女研究, in: 李小江编，妇女研究运动– 中国个案，牛顿大学出版社, 1997 pp. 219-234.

Presentation: Chinese women’s problems in the context of the market economy

**Tuesday, 26 May The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995**

Read: a) Hsiung Ping-Chun and Yuk-Lin Renita Wong, *Jie Gui* – Connecting the Tracks: Chinese Women’s Activism Surrounding the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, in: *Gender & History* 10:3, November 1998, pp. 470-497.

b) 刘伯红, 95世界妇女大会与中国妇女, in: 浙江学刊 (01), 1997, pp. 78-81.

Presentation: TheFourthWorld Conference on Women: achievements and problems

**Monday, 1 June The “gender” turn in Chinese feminism (1990s onwards)**

Read: a) Nicola Spakowski, The Internationalization of China’s Women’s Studies, in: *Berliner China-Hefte* 20, Mai 2001, pp. 79-100.

b) 曹晋, 吴娟, 如何从边缘到主流:社会性别研究在中国的困境——美国密歇根大学妇女与社会性别研究所王政教授访谈录, in: 探索与争鸣 (12), 2004, pp. 8-10.

Presentation: “Gender” as a category of analysis - What is it good for?

**Tuesday, 2 June Socialist feminism in Reform China (2010s); final discussion**

Read: a) 宋少鹏，社会主义妇女解放与西方女权主义的区别：理论与实践”座谈会综述, in: 山西师大学报 28:4, July 2011, pp. 143-149.

b) 董丽敏,’历史化’ 性别: ‘关联’ 如何可能 ,in: 文艺争鸣4, 2012, pp. 31-35.

Selected readings

Barlow, Tani E., *The Question of Women in Chinese Feminism*, Durham/London, 2004.

Chen, Tina Mai, “Female Icons, Feminist Iconography? Socialist Rhetoric and Women's Agency in 1950s China”, in*: Gender & History*, 15:2, 2003, pp. 268–295.

Croll, Elisabeth J., *Changing identities of Chinese women: rhetoric, experience and self-perception in twentieth-century China*, Hong Kong, 1995.

董丽敏, “’性别’的生产及其政治性危机 – 对新时期中国妇女研究的一种反思“, in: 开放时代 2, 2013, pp. 93-105.

Evans, Harriet, „The Language of Liberation: Gender and *Jiefang* in Early Chinese Communist Party Discourse”, in: *Intersections. Gender, History and Culture in the Asian Context* 1 , September 1998, pp. 193-220.

Evans, Harriet, “’Comrade sisters’: gendered bodies and spaces”, in: Harriet Evans and Stephanie Donald (eds.), *Picturing Power in the People’s Republic of China. Posters of the Cultural Revolution*, Lanham, 1999, pp. 63-78.

Gilmartin, Christina K*., Engendering the Chinese Revolution. Radical Women, Communist Politics, and Mass Movements in the 1920s*, Berkeley etc., 1995.

Goodman, David S., „Revolutionary Women and Women in the Revolution: The Chinese Communist Party and Women in the War of Resistance to Japan, 1937-1945”, in: *China Quarterly* 164, December 2000, pp. 915-942.

Hershatter, Gail, *Women in China’s long twentieth century*, Berkeley 2007.

Howell, Jude, “The Struggle for Survival: Prospects for The Women’s Federation in Post-Mao China”, in: *World Development* 24:1, 1996, pp. 129-143.

Howell, Jude, “Post-Beijing Reflections: Creating Ripples, but not Waves in China”, in: *Women’s Studies International Forum* 20:2, 1997, pp. 235-252.

Hsiung Ping-Chun and Yuk-Lin Renita Wong, “*Jie Gui* – Connecting the Tracks: Chinese Women’ Activism Surrounding the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing”, in: *Gender & History* 10:3, November 1998, pp. 470-497.

Hsiung, Ping-chun, Maria Jaschok, Cecilia Milwertz (eds.), *Chinese Women Organizing. Cadres, Feminists, Muslims, Queers*, Oxford/New York, 2001.

Jin Yihong, “The All China Women’s Federation: Challenges and Trends”, in: Hsiung et al (eds.), 2001, pp. 123-140.

Jin Yihong (transl. by Kimberley Ens Manning and Chu Lianyun), “Rethinking the ‘Iron Girls’: Gender and Labour during the Chinese Cultural Revolution”, in: *Gender & History* 18:3, November 2006, pp. 613-634.

Li, Xiaojiang, *With what discourse do we reflect on Chinese women? Thoughts on transnational Feminism in China in Mayfair, Mei-hui Yang, Spaces of their own: Women’s public sphere in transnational China*, Minneapolis/London, 1999 pp. 261-277.

Liu Bohong, “The All China women’s Federation and Women’s NGOs”, in: Hsiung et al (eds.), 2001 pp. 141-157.

Manning, Kimberley Ens, “Making a Great Leap Forward? The politics of women’s liberation in Maoist China,” in*: Gender and History* 18:3, 2006, pp. 574-93.

Manning, Kimberley Ens, “Embodied Activisms: The Case of the Mu Guiying Brigade”, in: *China Quarterly* 204, 2010, pp. 850-869

Milwertz, Cecilia, *Beijing Women Organizing for Change. A New Wave of the Chinese Women’s Movement*, Kopenhagen, 2002.

Min, Dongchao, “Duihua (Dialogue) In-Between. A Process of Translating the Term ‘Feminism’ in China”, in: *interventions* 9:2, 2007, pp. 174-193.

Min, Dongchao, “’What about other Translation Routes (East-West)?’ The Concept of the Term ‘Gender’ Travelling into and throughout China”, in: Kathy E Ferguson and Monique Mironesco (eds.), *Gender and Globalization in Asia and the Pacific: Method, Practice, Theory*, Honolulu, 2008, pp. 79-100.

Pan Yihong, „Feminism and Nationalism in China’s War of Resistance against Japan”, in: *The International History Review* 19:1, Februar 1997, pp. 115-130.

*Reflections and Resonance. Stories of Chinese Women Involved in International Preparatory Activities for the 1995 NGO Forum on Women*, ed. by the Ford Foundation, Beijing, 1995.

Shih, Shu-mei, “Towards an Ethics of Transnational Encounter, or ‘when’ does a ‘Chinese’ women becomes a ‘feminist’?”, in: *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 13, Summer 2002, pp. 90-126.

Spakowski, Nicola, “The Internationalization of China’s Women’s Movement – ‘Global Sisterhood’ between Western Domination and Chinese Self-Definition”, in: Odag, Özen and Pershai, Alexander, *Negotiating Space for Gender Studies: Disciplinary Frameworks and Applications*, Hamburg, 2005, pp. 47-65.

Xu, Feng, “Chinese Feminisms Encounter International Feminisms”, in: *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 11:2, June 2009, pp. 196-215.

Young, Helen Praeger*, Choosing Revolution. Chinese Women Soldiers on the Long March*, Urbana/Chicago, 2001.

Zhang Naihua, “Searching for ‘Authentic’ NGOs: The NGO Discourse and Women’s Organizations in China”, in: Hsiung et al (eds.), 2001, pp. 159-179.

中华全国妇女联合会，中国妇女运动史， Beijing 1989.