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A Brief Analysis of Contemporary Confucianism's Research on Feminine Topics

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A Brief Analysis of Contemporary Confucianism's Research on Feminine Topics



Religious Studies Major
Jingzhi Pan

Current Studies

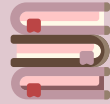
1. Li, Chenyang. *The Sage and the Second Sex*. 2000.
2. Tao, Julia Lai Po-Wah. *Two Perspectives of Care: Confucian Ren and Feminist Care*. 2000.
3. Li-Hsiang Lisa Rosenlee. *Confucianism and Women: Philosophical Interpretation*. 2006.
4. Anna Sun. *Confucianism as World Religion*. 2013.
5. Yuan, Lijun. *Confucian and Feminist Notions of Relational Self and Reciprocity: A Comparative Study*. 2015.
6. Mathew Foust, Sor-Hoon Tan. *Feminism Encounters with Confucius*. 2016.



Summary

Confucian *Ren*(benevolence) ethic is overlapped with feminist care ethics, so Confucianism can be feminist, rather than misogyny or pure patriarchal.

1

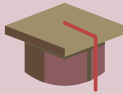


3

Confucian women have been lived miserable lives because of Confucian gender based ethics.

Western feminism is based on exclusive dualism, but Confucianism is not.

2



4

Confucianism is a civil religion, a popular religion, a philosophy school, or a political strategy.

“How do these studies even relate to FEMINIST/RELIGIOUS topics?”

“How do these studies provide solutions for women who is struggling inside the religion?”

Popular Topics

Feminism

1. The #MeToo movement;
2. Equal rights & opportunities;
 - a. Education & workplace
3. Deviance;
4. Sexual control;
5. Structural difference, class-based system;
6. Nihilism;
7. Intersectionality of social experience;
8. etc.

Characters of these topics:

- Experience;
- Everyday life;
- Fix either psychological problems or live conditions.

Women Issues In Confucian Society

1. Wage gap;
2. Inequality in laws;
3. Domestic violence;
4. Working moms;
5. Dowry & bride price;
6. Proper attire;
7. Gender roles;
8. Education rights;
9. Male patronize;
10. Reproduction rights & duties;
11. Inheritance rights;
12. Sexual insultment;
13. etc.

Popular Topics of Religious Studies

- Theology;
- Role of religion in education/society/law...etc.;
- Globalization;
- Religion and crime;
- Poetry and literature;
- Religion and mental health, healing;
- Rituals;
- Love and sex;
- Religion and spirituality;
- etc.

Characters of these topics:

- Morality, ethics;
- Experience;
- Transcendent;
- Rituals or spirit.

“As a sociologist, I focus on the observation, analysis, and unpacking of the social factors related to the different positions...rather than offering an open-and-shut definition of religion...I can examine...without holding a specific position regarding whether Confucianism is a religion.”

Anna Sun. *Confucianism as World Religion*. Pp9.

More Issues

- Small scholar circle;
 - “New Confucianism”
- Male dominant;
- Historical influence on Confucian scholars;
 - Unclear of the definition of religion
 - Anti-religion

“The popularization of Confucian ethic of ren represents humanity is taking over theology.”

“Confucianism as a religion is a poison from feudalism, which used politicized Confucian ethics to form the ideology of traditional Chinese feudal society.”

Conclusions



1

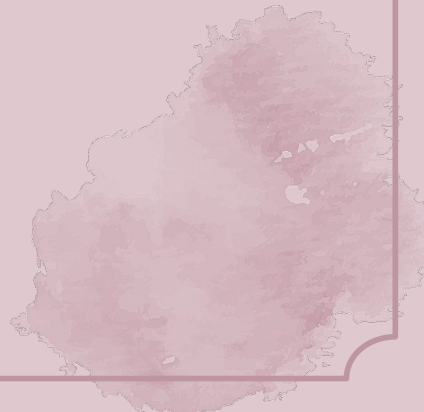
The scholars clearly distinguish between "Western" and "Eastern" feminist theories, but ignore the diversity of feminisms and lack references to East Asian feminisms.

2

The studies can't really reflect or help women's issues in Confucian societies.

3

They are not studying Confucianism as a religion, but a philosophy school.



Further Studies

- Comparative studies with other religions;
 - The problem of “is Confucianism a philosophy school” or “the determination of Confucian memberships”
- Bring in more popular topics of feminist studies or religious studies;
- Religious experience, interview & fieldwork;
 - Study it with Daoism and Buddhism;
- Discussion & interpretation of the ethics and philosophy of the religion, instead of making annotes to or just copying the classics.





Q & A