



Gender and Cultural Production: A New Approach to Chinese Women's Journals in the Early 20th Century

*Monday, 27 October 2008
280 York Lanes, York University*

In the early decades of the twentieth century, a new Republic struggled to establish itself in China after 2,000 years of imperial rule. This halting political transformation was accompanied by new modes of social reproduction, intensified global exchanges, and the emergence of a dynamic print market. It also produced profound shifts in societal norms and in cultural, gender, and bodily practices.

This workshop uses the most prominent new media of the period - the popular press - to restore complexity to this era and liberate it from its own reductive discourses on the failings of tradition and the promise of modernity. Focusing on women's journals, presenters from Canada, Germany, the United States, England, France and China closely read not only the discursive essays published in these materials, but their illustrations, poetry sections, and readers' columns. The paper gives analyze changes in gender roles, cultural forms, and everyday practices. They also probe the nature and function of the new media that drove and reflected these changes.

Members of the York community and the general public with an interest in popular journals, mass media, visuality, women's history and gender in China are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP to ycar@yorku.ca by 22 October 2008

The programme is available at: www.yorku.ca/ycar/Programs_Projects/Popular_Press_China.html

For directions to York University: www.yorku.ca/web/futurestudents/map/keele_map.html