

Abstract

There are two aims of the article: one is to trace the trajectory of educational and professional choice of those women doctors who were both migrant from China and born locally, and worked in Taiwan in early 1950. Through the discussion of family influence on individual choice, it argues that an individual choice is not really an individual choice but a result of the interwoven of cultural values, gender relations and educational and professional systems. Another is to present the gender relations in education and medical profession and their relations with the states in Japanese colonial Taiwan and Republican China. It means to understand macro-social relations via micro-social relations. The life story of Dr. Cai A-xin, the first women doctor in Taiwan, is to serve as the case. The triangular relationship among gender, medical profession and individual choice in Taiwan and China 1930-1950 can be analyzed from the following four aspects: (1) relationship between the state and occupation/profession, (2) gender and race/ethnicity segregation in educational system, (3) the reputation and status of medical profession, (4) gender relationship in the family. The findings are to challenge some feminist theories on occupational choice and gender/race queues at work.