

**Abstract:**

This study explores gender relations in the professionalisation of doctors in Taiwan over a fifty year period from the end of Japanese colonial rule in 1945. Data for the research was mainly obtained by means of in-depth interviews with seventy-eight doctors --thirty-five males and forty-three females in three generation cohorts.

The material collected was surveyed at macro, meso and micro levels with reference to three analytical categories: gender, race/ethnicity and class. At the macro-level, the role of the state in the professionalisation of the medical profession is examined in its historical context and the interplay of class, generation and ethnic factors with gender relations in this process investigated. At the meso and micro-levels, the embodiment of the 'masculinist norm' in medical institutions and their culture is explored through the interactions of training institutions, gendered discourses and individual actors and their detrimental effect on the careers of women doctors is exposed. The research findings are further exemplified by means of a case study of gender relations in the specialty of radiology.

The study demonstrates that gender discourses and a masculinist workplace culture have played a crucial role in constituting the medical profession in Taiwan as 'male' and that its organisational rules, recruitment policies and achievement criteria are not as gender-neutral as they appear. It shows also that where the role of the state in shaping gender relations in the medical profession is concerned, the Taiwanese experience is different from that of Europe or America. For this reason, the Foucauldian concept of 'governmentality' and the post-structuralist view of the nature of the state may provide a better account of the professionalisation process in Taiwan than a functionalist view. Similarly, the 'cultural inclusion' model can better explain the marginalisation of women in the medical hierarchy than the 'institutional exclusion' model.

**Publications (in Chinese)**

Cheng , Ling-fang & Wu, Chia-Ling (2005). 'Gender Politics of Technology: Theories and Research', *Taiwan Journal for Studies of Science, Technology & Medicine*. (3): 51-112.

**Abstract:**

This paper reviews the major theories and research on feminist technology

studies. (1) The early literature of gender division of labor has moved away from asking how technology impacts on women, or whether technology means oppression or liberation. Rather, it emphasizes the intertwining effects between gender and class. We also emphasize that to study women workers in Taiwan's labor-intensive industries; we need to open the black box of their skills to challenge the assumption of their low-skill. (2) Feminist literature has criticized the traditional definition of technology for its association with masculinity, thus opening up such new research fields as domestic technology. By examining the experience of technology among housewives, nurses, secretaries and operators, we analyze whether the introduction of new technology brings more work to women, or offers opportunities to recognize their contribution. (3) To criticize the innovation-centered research agenda, the feminist study of technology has shifted the focus from the female elites to women users. (4) The latest feminist literature emphasizes "the co-production of gender and technology" as its theoretical foundation. We use two useful concepts – "interpretative flexibility" and "masculinity and gender identity" to illuminate this theoretical foundation. (5) Finally, we stress the importance of examining Taiwan's technological development from the postcolonial feminist perspective. We examine whether the technology from the center ignores the local bodies, whether the local agents of modern technology selectively represent the meaning of technology, and whether the gender bias of Euro-American societies travels through technology and integrates with local gender politics. We believe that the perspectives of feminist technology studies can give us a fuller understanding of a technoscientific society and lead to better technology policies.

Cheng, Ling-fang & Fu, Daiwie (2004) "A Preliminary Study on Taiwan Urologists' Images of Masculine Bodies". *Taiwan: A Radical Quarterly in Social Studies*. (53): 145-204.

#### Abstract

There are many social forces contesting for expressing voices on masculine bodies, male body awareness and male body images. Amongst them, urology and its physicians are the ones actively and consciously managing and dominating the claims for the knowledge and medicine of masculine bodies. Especially in the past decades, many urologists apart from attending clinics and doing medical researches have been busy with public activities, such as appeared on TV, writing for newspapers and popular books and giving speeches, their achievement have been remarkable. The study is focused on the

heterosexual discourses promoted by urologists from three resources: (A) The urologist study of Viagra and its critiques. The study based on I.I.E.F. questionnaires contains two distinct features, 'absence of women' and 'men deal with their own physiological reaction'. (B) The views on physician-patients interaction based on interviews of four urologists. Four aspects are discussed: (1) the sexual anxiety men suffered. (2) premature ejaculation, biological evolution and feminist discourses. (3) history of illness, sexual politics and elderly male bodies. (4) technoscien-zation in the profession of urology. (C) The popular writings by urologists from the 1950s to 1990s.

This preliminary study is analyzed from the perspectives of feminist critiques on medicine and Foucaultian knowledge/power/discipline. In the conclusion, we propose three theoretical aspects for further studies: (1) Medicalisation and phallocentrism (2) Sexual bodies in partnership. (3) The politics of phallo-technology. We propose that medicalisation which divided bodies into 'normal/abnormal' should be reduced to minimum level. Sexual bodies in heterosexual relations should be viewed in the context of partnership rather than in soleship. The style of sexual bodies should be treated as a preference rather than medicalised normality/abnormality. If we see Viagra in the context of demedicalisation, it could become a special kind of vitamin which can be used for developing alternative 'sexual style' by elderly, homosexual and heterosexual users.

Cheng, Ling-fang 2002 'Gender, Medical Profession and Individual Choice: Educational and Occupational Choice of Women Doctors in Taiwan and China, 1930-1950'. *Journal of Women's and Gender Studies*. (14): 1-44.

#### 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.

Cheng, Ling-fang 2002 'Knowledge/Power in Professional-User Relationship'.  
*Taiwanese Sociology*. (3): 11-71.

#### **Abstract**

The doctor-patient relationship has been the target for criticism for a long time, and recently some reflexive voices emerged from the medical profession. In this paper, I propose the 'professional-user relationship' as an alternative approach to reconsider this core issue of medical sociology. The professionals here include doctors, nurses and other paramedical staff and the users include patients and people using medical resources. The 'professional-user relationship' approach can reveal a more complexed picture than the 'doctor-patient relationship' as we generally understand, that is, under the circumstances of 'uncertainty' in medical diagnoses and treatment, and given the fact that both of professionals and users are the 'subjects of multiple identities', the interaction of professionals and users is filled with varieties of knowledge and operation of micro-power. Therefore, the author suggests to shift the research focuses from patients' satisfaction and compliance to knowledge and power as one of the core issues in the 'professional-user relationship'. The gynecological encounters between the professionals and users are used as examples to illustrate the knowledge and power involved in the interaction. As far as the knowledge is concerned, it involves biomedical knowledge, social discourses and personal tacit knowledge. As to the power in the interaction, it comes not only from the professionals as we usually assumed, but also from the users who adopted strategies in negotiation, challenge and simply walkout. The discussion aims to provide the professionals with some room for reflexiveness and the users with some possibility of empowerment.

#### **Courses Taught**

##### **Postgraduate courses:**

Sociology of Gender

Gender and Medicine  
Feminist Research Methods  
Work, Body, Time and Space  
Gender and Everyday Life Techno-Science Practice  
Gender and Social Theory

**Undergraduate Courses:**

Social Problems in Taiwan  
Social Issues and Media  
Nursing and Everyday Life

**Academic Activities**

Book Editor for *Journal of Women's and Gender Studies*.  
Editorial Board for *Taiwan Journal for Studies of Science, Technology & Medicine*