



# Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities: A Reader (Asia: Local Studies / Global Themes)

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The past two centuries have witnessed tremendous upheavals in every aspect of Chinese culture and society. At the level of everyday life, some of the most remarkable transformations have occurred in the realm of gender. *Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities* is a mix of illuminating historical and ethnographic studies of gender from the 1700s to the present.

The essays in this highly creative collection are organized in pairs that alternate in focus between femininity and masculinity, between subjects traditionally associated with feminism (such as family life) and those rarely considered from a gendered point of view (like banditry). The chapters provide a wealth of interesting detail on such varied topics as court cases involving widows and homosexuals; ideal spouses of early-twentieth-century radicals; changing images of prostitutes; the masculinity of qigong masters; sexuality in the era of reform; and the eroticization of minorities. While most of the essays were specifically written for this volume, a few are reprinted as a testament to their enduring value.

Exploring the central role of gender as an organizing principle of Chinese social life, *Chinese Femininities/ Chinese Masculinities* is an innovative reader that will spark new debate in a wide range of disciplines.

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**Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities: A Reader (Asia: Local Studies / Global Themes)** From University of California Press Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1446417 in Books
- Published on: 2002-01-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.20" w x 6.00" l, 1.41 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 489 pages

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"In *Chinese Feminities/Chinese Masculinities* we finally have a volume that scholars of the world outside China will ignore at their peril, so thoroughly will it shake prevailing assumptions about how sexuality and gender can be historically and culturally constituted. Scholars and teachers of history, anthropology, sociology, history of medicine and science, law, politics, literature, and psychiatry, among others, should prepare for the great impact this splendid book is sure to have."—Emily Martin, author of *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*

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"The last thirty years have seen an astonishing growth in the field of gender studies for late-imperial and twentieth-century China. In this ingeniously orchestrated book, Brownell and Wasserstrom not only give us a careful bibliographic and analytical summary of that earlier work, but by assembling paired essays on matching male and female gender issues, written by an excellent roster of scholars, they have indicated the lines along which this field can expand fruitfully in the future."--Jonathan D. Spence, author of "The Search for Modern China

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### **About the Author**

**Susan Brownell** is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Missouri, St. Louis. She is the author of *Training the Body for China: Sports in the Moral Order of the People's Republic* (1995). **Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom** is Associate Professor of History at Indiana University. He is the author of *Student Protests in Twentieth-Century China: The View from Shanghai* (1991) and coeditor of *Popular Protest and Political Culture in China* (1994).

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