

The Globalisation of China and the Chinese Body

Dr. Zheng Yangwen
University of Manchester

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Seminar 1 Overview of Modern Chinese History: Opium War to Olympic Games

This seminar will provide you with a comprehensive overview of modern China. It is designed to familiarise you with the major events and personalities that were significant in the history of modern China. This overview will prepare you for the next seminar when we will study how scholars have approached the study of modern China and how we can engage, challenge and move beyond the methods and theories invented by earlier generations in the age of global history.

Readings:

John K. Fairbank, *The Great Chinese Revolution 1800-1985* (Harper & Row, 1987)

William T. Rowe, *China's last empire: the great Qing* (Harvard University Press, 2009)

Seminar 2 How to Approach Modern Chinese History: Theory and Methodology

This seminar aims at giving you the theories and methodologies with which scholars have used to approach the study of modern China. Much has happened since the supremacy of the Fairbank and Californian schools of Chinese history/studies. What can our/your generation offer to the better understanding of modern China? This seminar will situate China in the larger context of world history; it will also put existing paradigms under the microscope. In doing so, the seminar will help you probe new ways in which this generation can contribute to the study of China's past.

Readings:

Paul Cohen, *Discovering history in China: American historical writing on the recent Chinese past* (Columbia University Press, 1984)

Zheng Yangwen, *China on the sea: how the maritime world shaped modern China* (Brill, 2011)

Seminar 3 Dominant Themes: Imperialism, Nationalism and Trans-Nationalism

This seminar will help you to use the theories and methodologies studied in the second seminar to analyse and synthesis the history-making events and personalities in order for us to tease out the dominant themes in the history of modern China. Did anything positive follow the "century of unequal treaties"? Overseas Chinese were instrumental in the making of modern-contemporary China. Is Chinese Nationalism different from others and would China become an empire without boundary (like Islam) in the twenty first century?

Readings:

Prasenjit Duara, *The global and regional in China's nation-formation* (Routledge, 2009)

Robert Bickers, *The scramble for China: foreign devils in the Qing empire 1832-1914* (Allen Lane, 2011)

Seminar 4 A Century of Modernisation and Globalisation: the case of Chinese Women

We undertake a fascinating case study in this seminar. More than a century of reform and revolution has fundamentally changed China, the lives of Chinese women in particular. From "three inch golden lily" to working mom, their long march to modernity saw the transformation of Chinese culture and society but more importantly their own body. How can Chinese women help us better comprehend the change of modern China? In what ways can the history and transformation of Chinese women help us gauge future China?

Readings:

Stacey, Judith, *Patriarchy and socialist revolution in China* (University of California Press, 1983)

Dorothy Ko, *Cinderella's sisters: a revisionist history of footbinding* (University of California Press, 2005).