

Module Title: Postsocialist intimacies: Gender and sexual politics in contemporary China

Module Code: SML6213

Credit Value: 15

Level: 6

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module provides an overview of academic debates centred around evolving gender and sexual politics in contemporary China, which manifests as a unique area for studying the expansion of neoliberal economy, digital technologies as well as its socialist legacies. Bringing together significant theoretical insights and empirical research, teaching of this module will be facilitated through case studies of emerging forms of cultural representation, production, consumption and resistance. Topics will be covered include fandom and the popularity of online literature, influencers and gender performativity, feminist and LGBTQ+ activism and the creation of queer media, in the light of the Chinese context of censorship and governance.

Module Aims

The aim of this module is to equip students with critical perspectives as well as cultural sensibilities while encountering and discussing complex issues related to gender, sexuality and intimacy.

Using contemporary China as an empirical case of study, this module brings in theoretical insights from both Chinese and non-Chinese contexts and cultivates students' ability to look beyond one singular national or language context and address these complex issues in transnational and globalising landscape of communication.

It encourages students to review and engage with scholarly debates and develops essential skills of critical thinking and academic writing in both humanities and social sciences.