

Language and Identity Reconstruction of Chinese Female Diaspora

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No less than other minorities, Asian women scholars are confronted with racial discrimination and stereotyping as well as disrespect for their research, teaching, and leadership, and are underrepresented in academia. In the face of such barriers, many Asian female scholars have developed strategies to survive and thrive. Based on a book that examines the lived experience of Asian female scholars in Western academia, this presentation discusses the socio-cultural, political, academic, and personal issues some Chinese scholars encountered in North-American higher education. The discussion will focus on first- and second-generation Chinese immigrants who are teachers and researchers in higher education. Their personal narratives that explore the intersecting layers of relationships that impact their lives--language, culture, academic discourses, gender, class, generation, and race will be shared and theorized. Discussion themes include issues related to reconstructing culture and identity; teaching, advising, and mentoring in non-native tongue; securing tenure and attaining promotion; and making use of differences as resource. The audience will find the richness and complexity of these scholars' struggles and triumphs in their professional and personal realms fascinating, moving, and inspiring.