

# Love, Lies, and Loss: Young Women's Experiences of Abortion in China

## 愛上他，騙了她，想念它 —— 中國城市未婚年輕女性墮胎經歷調查



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This study seeks to broaden and deepen our understanding of young women's abortion experiences in contemporary China. In many societies, abortion involves high controversy and serious moral implications. In China, however, it is a much less socially/culturally condemned issue. Moreover, the implementation of family planning policy has made abortion a widely available and accessible service. This has benefited unmarried pregnant women when illegitimate birth remains a social taboo. How do unmarried women experience abortion in China? The clinical experience of abortion is not the emphasis of this study because the women didn't emphasize it in their reflections. Instead, their major concerns are their romantic relationship, their family, their health, and their future happiness as a woman. Abortion was something they did for all these reasons, and something some women do for the same reasons again and again.

The study starts from the premise that choices are always contextual, and the analytical challenge therefore lies in tracing out the social conditions that produce and enable specific modes of acting. Based on interviews and observations, this research considers the factors that shape and condition women's abortion experiences. I argue that women's loves, lies, and losses reveal the ways in which women experience gender and seek self-fulfillment in today's China.

本研究旨在擴大和加深我們對當代中國年輕女性的墮胎經歷的了解。在許多社會，墮胎是一個極具爭議的道德問題，亦不是容易獲得的醫療服務。然而在中國，由於不同的文化歷史背景，尤其是計劃生育政策的推行，使得已婚女性在墮胎這個問題上所承受的社會及道德壓力要遠低於其他國家，墮胎手術更是輕易可得，這也為另一群人帶來了方便——近年在一些城市，未婚女性的墮胎問題正開始受到社會關注。她們是如何經歷墮胎的？筆者通過深入訪談，發現墮胎的身體經驗並不是這些女性敘述的重點，而戀愛、家庭、健康、以及作為一個女人的未來幸福才是她們所深切考量的議題。墮胎，是她們為了這些考慮所必須採取的，甚至於不惜一次又一次重複採取的行為。

任何選擇都是由其特定情境所促成的，而分析的重點應該是產生這種行為模式的社會環境因素。本著這樣一個前提，筆者通過訪談和觀察來了解是甚麼形成了未婚女性對於墮胎的選擇和經歷。筆者認為，在糾結了愛情、謊言、和迷失的墮胎經歷背後，是中國女性在當代社會對自己性別角色的感觸和對自我價值實現的追求。

**Date: 13 February 2008 (Wednesday)**

**Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Venue: UG05 Chen Kou Bun Building  
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**\*All interested are welcome!**

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