

Abstract

The bachelor thesis “Masculinity Crisis – A Case Study of the People’s Republic of China” deals with the masculinity crisis in the reform period of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The thesis aims to conclude whether the model of masculinity crisis, as drawn by the author of the thesis on the experience of the OECD countries, is also applicable to the male society in the reform PRC. The thesis focuses on masculinity crisis among men who are since the Mao Zedong presidency and throughout the reform period employed within the secondary sector of Chinese economy. Deindustrialisation and servitisation in OECD countries led to a significant increase of female employment which changed the traditional gender roles. Men’s leading position in both family and society, as stemming from the position of family’s primary breadwinner, was marginalized. Men experienced loss of both economic and psychological securities. These losses are believed to have resulted in a “crisis of masculinity”. In China, however, the macroeconomic reforms often helped to restore the position of the primary breadwinner, lost due to the Mao’s employment policies in 1950s. The thesis concludes the experience in OECD states contrary, the masculinity crisis in the reform PRC shall not be treated as an issue solely linked to the changes of the traditional gender order as brought about by the economic changes. Instead, it shall be treated as an issue emerging from more complex societal changes, predominantly the re-stratification of the Chinese society. A number of further factors influencing the masculinity crisis in China were recognised, these being: the inferiority complex as compared to the West, one-child policy, rising professional inspiration of women.