

The First Nordic-China Women & Gender Studies Conference

Re-Negotiating the Politics of the Public and the Private - Gender and Politics in China and the Nordic Countries

This international conference on gender and politics in China and the Nordic countries was held at Fudan University in Shanghai in November 2002. The main issue addressed was: How do political actors and grassroots activists cross the boundaries of, merge or create boundaries between what is perceived as a public and thereby a political matter and what is a private and thereby a non-political matter? The aim was to develop transnational, cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary perspectives on the significance and relevance of the feminist public-private critique in and across the Chinese and Nordic contexts. The conference brought together 70 academics and activists from China, the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark), India, Austria and Great Britain.

The Conference was convened by NIAS and the Nordic Centre at Fudan University in Shanghai in collaboration with Chinese and Nordic institutions:

- the Women's Studies Centre, Fudan University, Shanghai
- Malmö University, Sweden
- Lund University, Sweden
- Århus University, Denmark

Conference sponsors included:

- the Danish Council for Development Research
- the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights, Oslo University
- the Royal Norwegian Consulate in Shanghai.

The conference was the beginning of a face-to-face dialogue and scholarly collaboration on women and gender studies between China and the Nordic countries. By bringing Chinese and Nordic participants together, as well as scholars of China and/or the Nordic countries from other places, the conference created a forum for exchange of ideas, debates, and scholarly cross-fertilization and proved to be a source of mutual inspiration. Following the conference the Nordic Centre at Fudan University and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies agreed to collaborate as conveners of future Nordic-China Women and Gender Studies Conferences. The conferences will be held bi-annually and alternately in China and one of the Nordic countries in collaboration with an academic host institution.

The Second Nordic-China Women and Gender Studies Conference will be held in August 2004 and will be hosted by Malmö University in Sweden. The Conference theme is 'Gender & Human Rights in China and the Nordic Countries'. Detailed information on the conference will be available by July 2003.

For more information on the First Nordic-China Women and Gender Studies Conference please visit the conference homepage at <http://eurasia.nias.ku.dk/norwag> where a selection of full-length conference papers in either Chinese or English can also be viewed.