

Speech In LAS

Hello everyone, my name is Francis Zhang, today my topic is: A Comparison of the Two Worlds: The Evolution of Chinese Socialist Feminism. Socialist feminism and Marxist feminism, as two representative feminist frameworks, have many similar and different viewpoints in deducing what feminism is and understanding and solving the problem of women's oppression. However, Marxism, Leninism and socialism are inherently and inextricably linked, and it can be said that they all originate from the ideas of many communist and socialist figures headed by Marx and Lenin. Admittedly, it is difficult to distinguish between these two feminist frameworks in detail. But we can still start from specific events and analyze the differences between the two feminists in dealing with women's oppression, no matter what the theory says. So my research question is: What is the fundamental difference between socialist feminism and Marxist feminism. I will use the perspectives of socialist feminism and Marxist feminism to explain the oppression of women in China today. Listen to the voices of different groups of people through these narratives from Chinese women, and understand the thoughts behind these voices. I think this approach sheds light on the fundamental difference between these two feminist frameworks in that they have fundamentally different attitudes and approaches to oppression.

Before going into concrete events, we need to have a conceptual definition of socialist feminism and Marxist feminism. Here I cite Tong Rosemarie's article: Marxist and Socialist Feminism: Classical and Contemporary for a general definition of the two isms.

Affirming the ideas of Marx and Engles, classical Marxist feminists tried to use a class analysis rather than a gender analysis to explain women's oppression. One example of classical Marxist feminism appeared in Evelyn Reed's "Women: Caste, Class, or Oppressed Sex? " She did not think that all women were equally oppressed by men or that no women were guilty of oppressing other women. On the contrary, she thought bourgeois women were capable of oppressing both proletarian men and women. Reed believed that the primary enemy of

at least proletarian women is not patriarchy, but first and foremost, capitalism.

Tong's definition of socialist feminism originates from the fact that socialist feminism is derived from Marxist feminism. This is one of the fundamental reasons why it is difficult to distinguish between the two types of feminism. A derived definition, however, do not mean they are not much different: One of the initial goals of this evolving group of feminist theorists was to develop a theory powerful enough to explain the complex ways in which capitalism and patriarchy allied to oppress women. This is mainly described the expand of Marxist feminism by socialist feminism as well. Juliet Mitchell, a British psychoanalyst, socialist feminist, research professor and author, claimed that even if a Marxist revolution destroyed the family as an economic unit, it would not thereby make women and men's equals automatically. Because of the ways in which patriarchal ideology has constructed men's and women's psyches, women would probably continue to remain subordinate to men until their minds and men's minds has been liberated from the idea that women are somehow less valuable than men.

Tong also quoted Alison Jaggar's elaboration: "Motherhood may also be an alienating experience for women, especially when mostly or exclusively men decide the politics and laws that regulate women's reproductive choices" to point out that the social status quo is determined by men regulating women's reproductive choices.

By contrasting some important concepts of Marxist feminism and socialist feminism, we can outline the fundamental differences between them. Generally speaking, these two doctrines use the same factors when discussing women's oppression, namely gender class oppression and social productivity demand oppression.

Next, I will introduce an example of the oppression of women in mainland China that is taking place at the moment, compare the viewpoints and solutions of Marxist feminism through people's different viewpoints, and think about how socialist feminism should get reflections from these feedback.

As we all know, China is one of the most representative socialist countries in the world, and since Deng Xiaoping put forward the concept of "socialism with Chinese characteristics" in 1982, in just 40 years, socialism with Chinese characteristics has become "Marxism of Sinicization" is a sign of success. From this point of view, if we need better solutions, then the problem of Chinese women's oppression needs to be thought in terms of socialist feminism with Chinese characteristics. This can be said to be necessary, because China is a country with a huge population base and a vast geographical area. Because the population base is large, the base of women is also large, the problem of women's oppression is linked to more problems. Ideal solutions are easy to come up with, but we need to understand people's viewpoints and analyze what solutions socialist feminists should think about.

At the beginning of this year, the case is the Xuzhou Feng County Iron-Chain Woman Incident that occurred. This case is the most widely discussed issue of female oppression on social networks in China in recent years, and it is discussed on Weibo, one of the most well-known social networking sites in China. It once reached nearly 100 million views, and the discussion of the incident among Chinese online citizens is widely controversial to this day. Regrettably, it's not just discussions about women's oppression, it is also a discussion on censorship in China. Everything that can be defined as "politically sensitive" has been "removed from the shelf" by Weibo. Topics are banned, keywords are blocked, and related discussions are restricted from viewing traffic. Yes, it's a fact.

However, people have not stopped speaking up, everyone is expressing their opinions. This story went viral from January 28 and continues to be a hot topic in Chinese social media, whether or not the social network deliberately makes people forget, we will remember. Whether it is women or men, rich or poor, people who have experienced the incident of women with chains will not forget what happened on this socialist land. Will not forget the Chain Woman of the past, present, and even the future. Women's trafficking and gender persecution began with the chained woman incident in Feng County,

Xuzhou. Using the bleed facts, we can highlight the oppression of women.

From this incident, we can see the basic point of view of socialist feminism in China, which is a deep psychological discussion. Classes, labor and productivity, political stances.... people are talking about more than the arguments put forward by Marxist feminism. The Chain woman will become a symbol of Chinese women's trafficking, and her suffering represents both the suffering of Chinese women and the suffering of Chinese society. When people connect with each other in a strong sense of empathy, it will be a great move to break down the gaps between class and ideology. The biggest difference between Marxist feminism and socialist feminism is that the former focuses on class struggle to discuss the issue of women oppression, while the latter summarizes various oppressive factors into their united to support in Chained Woman by both men and women empathized with her plight and experience. Finally, I would like to conclude with the last sentence of Tong's article as the end of my presentation.

However existing it may be for contemporary socialist feminists to probe women's psyche from time to time, the fundamental goal of these feminists still remains constant: to encourage women everywhere to unite in whatever ways they can to oppose structures of oppression, inequality, and injustice.

Thank you for your attention!

And we have Q & A section right now, so if you have any questions about my topic, presentation and the content by Chinese voices, please ask them for me. I am really welcome your asking. Thank you.