

Urban Futures Symposium

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Presentation: Understanding Female Chinese International Students' Negotiation of Gender and Cultural Norms

This study will explore female Chinese international (FCI) students' life and study experiences as mediated by contemporary social and cultural discourses across China and Australia. It will investigate this student group's identity transformation challenges and strategies to negotiate gender and cultural norms. This study will explore the overarching research question: How have female Chinese international (FCI) students' gender and cultural identities changed (or not) under the influence of gender-based pressures during their stay in Australia? This overarching research question will be investigated by addressing the following contributory research questions: 1) What pressures do FCI students experience as women while living and studying in Australia? 2) How do FCI students negotiate such pressures and the gender and cultural norms that underlie these pressures? 3) How have FCI students' negotiations of these gender and cultural norms shaped their identities? This qualitative study will use semi-structured in-depth interviews and focus groups on exploring these research questions. It will draw on the theoretical lens of intersectionality to analyse and discuss the implications of the research findings.