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special issue

Introduction: Play and Power in Chinese Nightlife Spaces

Nightlife is a space in which people form temporary social ties that they may not even acknowledge in the daytime. A tension exists between “play” and “power”. “Play” is used to build and contest power relations. While it can reinforce forms of social inequality, it can also potentially provide social mobility for migrant workers.

by James FARRER 1

From D.D's to Y.Y. to Park 97 to Muse: Dance Club Spaces and the Construction of Class in Shanghai, 1997–2007

Analysis of dance clubs provides fascinating insights into the construction of class differentiation in modern China. Foreigners, overseas Chinese, Shanghai returnees and local Shanghaiese all contribute to the evolution of the rapidly changing clubbing scene in Shanghai. The rapid turnover of clubs in the city reflects the fast-paced economy and quickly changing consumer cultures.

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Yunnanese Sounds: Creativity and Alterity in the Dance and Music Scenes of Urban Yunnan

There is a wide range of musical expression among Yunnanese youth, reflecting the province's ethnically diverse population. A great deal more than passive westernisation is taking place. There is voicing of concerns relating to consumerism and social conscience, as well as negotiations of ethnic identity and accommodation, and gendered subjectivities.

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Complexity of Life and Resistance: Informal Networks of Rural Migrant Karaoke Bar Hostesses in Urban Chinese Sex Industry

Hostesses in Dalian are subject to exploitation and violence due to hostile political policy and the organisation of the sex industry. The alliances that the women form, based on their native place, provide financial and emotional support. However, they are transient and temporary, and subject to high internal competition.

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The Other Side of Nightlife: Family and Community in the Life of a Dance Hall Hostess

Most Western and Chinese writings on Chinese prostitutes have generally characterised them as victims. Women nightlife workers do indeed face real dangers and discrimination. However, at least one woman in China is able to bear these risks because of her indispensability as breadwinner, and consequently her high status, for the family.

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other research

The Politics of Sports Anti-Doping in China: Crisis, Governance and International Compliance

By the 1990s China was at the centre of several high-profile doping scandals in the sports world. Intense international pressure prompted the Chinese Government to escalate efforts to curb the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Considerable progress has been made in combating doping in international sports competitions.

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a research note

The Role of Institutional Investors in Chinese Corporate Governance

Since 1998, institutional investors have been holding more shares and becoming a major force in Chinese capital markets. Econometric modelling suggests that institutional investors are helpful to corporate governance and improve firm performance. While they can improve ownership structure and the proportion of independent directors, they fail to improve CEO-duality, managerial ownership and information disclosure.

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EAI mission

To promote both academic and policy-oriented research on East Asian development, particularly the political, economic and social development of contemporary China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), and its growing economic integration with the world and the political and security implications for the region.

Transitions

In July 2007, Professor Wang Gungwu retired from the Directorship of the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore, as well as Editor-in-Chief of *China: An International Journal*. From this issue, Professor Yang Dali replaces Professor Wang. We would like to express our gratitude to Professor Wang and to welcome Professor Yang. Since its inception, Professor Wang has provided strong moral and intellectual support to CIJ. Without him, CIJ would not have developed to its high standing today. Professor Wang will continue to lend his wisdom and support to CIJ as University Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore, Chairman of the Management Board of the East Asian Institute, and Chairman of the CIJ Editorial Board.

Professor Yang served as Chairman of the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago from 2004 to 2007. His research interests are political institutions and political economy, with special reference to China. Professor Yang has served on the editorial boards of various journals, including *American Political Science Review*, *Asian Perspective*, *Journal of Contemporary China* and *World Politics*. He is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan: Market Transition and the Politics of Governance in China* (Stanford University Press, 2004); *Calamity and Reform in China: State, Rural Society and Institutional Change since the Great Leap Famine* (Stanford University Press, 1996); and *Beyond Beijing: Liberalization and the Regions in China* (Routledge, 1997). He was a team member and contributor to *The United States and the Rise of China and India*, by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs (2006).

We believe that with Professor Wang's ongoing support and Professor Yang's new energy, insights and experience, CIJ will rise even further in stature among the many China Studies journals published today.

Zheng Yongnian

Editor

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