Tropes of “Home”: The Gender of Globalizing Markets in Chinese Urban Culture

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Abstract

Drawing on and working through a range of textual and visual materials, this essay explores the distinct configurations of the tropes of “home” (jia) in Chinese urban culture and explicates their intricate connotations from a fundamentally transnational perspective. Informed by recent developments in gender studies and critical theory, this essay attempts to raise some urgent questions not only integral to the on-going scholarly discussions about the tremendous transformations of contemporary Chinese culture and society but also central to the studies of modern politics of visibility and disappearance, in an era of rapidly unfolding and crisis-ridden globalization.