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ACADEMIC WEEKLY DIGEST

YOUR WEEKLY DIGEST OF KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS



EMPOWERING JOURNEYS: OLDER CHINESE WOMEN'S TRAVELS

This study done by [Prof Nigel Morgan](#) and colleagues explores how older Chinese women experience travel. It examines how their travel experiences are influenced by Chinese beliefs about gender, age, and femininity, as well as their life experiences and family roles. It also highlights how travel can be empowering for these women, allowing them to challenge traditional ideas of femininity.

Overall, the research aims to expand our knowledge of ageing, the body, and travel, while questioning the dominance of Western perspectives in these areas.

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EMPOWERING JOURNEYS: EXPLORING AGEING AND FEMININITY AMONGST CHINESE TRAVELLERS

Prof Nigel Morgan

Despite the growing interest in the body's sensory experiences and daily performances within social science, there is a notable lack of attention on the intersection of tourism, ageing, and embodiment, particularly concerning older Asian women. As women transition into older age, they experience significant shifts in their roles. These changes are intricately intertwined with their understanding and expression of femininities, making a profound impact on their experiences of ageing and wellbeing in later life.

By utilizing a feminist participatory approach and incorporating audio-video diaries alongside in-depth interviews, we co-produced interpretations of embodied experiences of performing femininity in and through tourism. Our study delves into the lived travel experiences of 24 Chinese women aged 60

and over and sheds light on how their journeys are influenced by evolving Chinese perspectives on gender, age, and femininity in a country where conceptualizations of femininity have gone through many transitions, including suppressing women's individual ambition and self-discovery.

These women's journeys are also shaped by their personal life paths, social roles, and family dynamics. Thus, we uncover how tourism serves as an empowering arena where these women challenge and redefine restrictive notions of femininity.

This study not only enriches our comprehension of aging, embodiment, and tourism but also questions the prevailing Western narratives that dominate these fields.

Older Chinese women navigate travel experiences within societal norms while finding empowerment to redefine femininity in tourism.

Li, T.E., Morgan, N., & Pritchard, A. (2024). Tourism, ageing bodies and Chinese femininity. *Annals of tourism research*.

Link: bit.ly/43V05dY