



Queer Marxism in Two Chinas

By Petrus Liu

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In *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas* Petrus Liu rethinks the relationship between Marxism and queer cultures in mainland China and Taiwan. Whereas many scholars assume the emergence of queer cultures in China signals the end of Marxism and demonstrates China's political and economic evolution, Liu finds the opposite to be true. He challenges the persistence of Cold War formulations of Marxism that position it as intellectually incompatible with queer theory, and shows how queer Marxism offers a nonliberal alternative to Western models of queer emancipation. The work of queer Chinese artists and intellectuals not only provides an alternative to liberal ideologies of inclusion and diversity, but demonstrates how different conceptions of and attitudes toward queerness in China and Taiwan stem from geopolitical tensions. With *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas* Liu offers a revision to current understandings of what queer theory is, does, and can be.

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Editorial Review

Review

"In this quite stunning book, Petrus Liu offers a new intervention into gender and sexuality studies. He establishes queer perspectives as a way of thinking about the doubleness of China, and tracks how sexuality has been produced as a new ethnic identity within an emerging pluralist framework, and how queer Marxism contests this production. Liu argues for a complex materialist social theory that takes into account the relationship between labor power, the reproduction of society, and the material status of sexuality. In the end, he refuses to identify materialism with economic reductionism, showing instead how the reproduction of society requires its cultural articulation, and how the effort to navigate two Chinas produces a non-state-centered form of queer critique. For Liu, queer theorists are in a powerful position to call the theory of the state into question—a move that holds out serious consequences for a new geopolitical reading of Marxism through the powerful framework of sexuality."

(Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor, University of California, Berkeley)

"Petrus Liu charts out not only a bold new agenda for queer studies in postreform China, but also a revitalized Marxism that links questions of sexuality to problems of political economy, economic justice, and social equality transnationally. A provocative and dazzling intervention."

(David Eng, author of *The Feeling of Kinship: Queer Liberalism and the Racialization of Intimacy*)

"Liu's book charts a bold intellectual path for queer studies, Marxist theory, and Chinese studies. . . . The book provides truly transdisciplinary insights on how the normative reproduction of society depends on queer marginalization and social existence. It is in this way that *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas* demonstrates how queer theory, Marxism, and Chineseness matter to each other."

(Alvin K. Wong *Twentieth-Century China* 2016-08-05)

"Overall, Liu's new book is beautifully written, theoretically rich, and intellectually rigorous, enabling a critical lens to scrutinize queer cultural productions and reproductions in Taiwan and mainland China."

(John Wei *China Review International* 2016-11-28)

About the Author

Petrus Liu is Associate Professor of Humanities at Yale-NUS College and the author of *Stateless Subjects: Chinese Martial Arts Literature and Postcolonial History*.

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