

Review of: "Young love in contemporary China: Attitudes and behaviors in romantic relationships"

Fengxin Liang¹

¹ University of Macau

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Interesting topic. I happen to have done similar search and several reviewers have commented on the structure of the paper, so I'd like to go to the details and raise some thoughts and doubts.

Abstract

Too long. You can just keep the key points here. No need to showcase all of your results.

Introduction

In order to pass on one's genes and sustain a species, courtship rituals are commonplace in both the animal kingdom as well as in many human cultures---So courtship is just for generating the next generation but not for love or feelings? If so, there won't be more and more people choosing to be single. Also, strange comparison between animals and human beings.

After Marriage Law was revised in 1980, marriage in China should be based on mutual affection.---Do you mean, according to this revised law, mutual affection should be a key factor in marriage in China?

By the late 20th century, China had a revolution in its dating landscape, as exemplified by a 1990 national survey, in which 30% of Chinese youth reported engaging in premarital sex---What was the previous figure? No comparison to show specific growth here.

Bānpèi (半配) is an old word to describe a good match.---I think this phrase is still in use, very common in our daily conversions. Do you mean “ 门当户对 ”?

As society undergoes a rapid transformation, the number of single people has increased. Social norms are also changing as more people become independent. As a result, attitudes toward dating and romantic relationships among young people in modern China have also metamorphosed---There is still no logic in these sentences to explain how social changes lead to growing singles and attitude changes. Choosing to be singles is just one tiny part of dating and romantic relationships. More details or citations are required, or just delete ungrounded statements.

When it comes to dating, the Chinese dating scene is an interesting one. There is an abundance of singles who want to find a partner, and the heaps of people are looking for love.---Are there any statistics? The number of growing singles, and the number of people using these apps or who are willing to accept dates introduced by friends and family, etc.

Dating violence is perhaps the most widely investigated topic when it comes to modern Chinese dating behaviors.---
Violence can confront both men and women.

The difference between courtship and relationship confuses me. I think that courtship refers to the period before an official, serious relationship, where a suitor persuades the other one to be their boyfriend/girlfriend. Besides, there is a special, yet very common period called “ ”, which refers to the period where the two share an ambiguous relationship before they form a serious relationship; it's more like a trial, testing if each other are good together. I think you can also consider this, finding out if these young people have gone through or are willing to accept this kind of stage, and why.

Methodology

I'm more into qualitative research so I don't have much to say about your research and data, and you have already pointed out the limitations: small and unrepresentative sample.