



My Thesis in 300 Words

Ge JIN



Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant social and public health issue influencing individuals and families globally. It has also been widely considered as a major type of domestic violence in China. However, little is known regarding the dynamics of gender, violence, and family among China's relatively small but significant ethnic minority populations, especially Mongolians. China is an ethnically diverse country, with 55 officially recognized ethnic minority groups, besides the Han majority. Among these ethnic minority groups, close to 6 million Mongol minorities reside in the province of Inner Mongolia, which is the largest Mongolian population in the world and the second largest ethnic population in China. It is critical to go beyond the majority experiences to understand ethnic minorities' distinct experiences, interpretation, reaction, strategy, negotiation, and resistance regarding intimate partner abuse at the intersection of ethnicity, gender, class, and religion. This research attempts to investigate the experiences of Mongolian women, who suffer multiple disadvantages, including a subordinate position within a patriarchal nation, a marginalized status as ethnic minorities, and their distinct local cultural and religious contexts. The study will extend the theoretical understanding of IPV to an ethnic minority context and contribute to literature regarding empowering battered ethnic minority women, cultivating self-determination and autonomy, and providing them with more choices when facing domestic violence.

The research attempts to interview about 50 Mongolian women who experience domestic violence from one pastoral county and one urban city in the province of Inner Mongolia in northern China. Although some Mongolian minorities live in or migrate to urban cities, many of them concentrate in pastoral areas. A comparison between Mongolian women from urban and pastoral settings will be conducted to have a complete picture about how socioeconomic status interacts with ethnicity, culture, and religion. Qualitative methodology utilizing grounded theory techniques and narrative approach will be conducted. The research aims to hear women's narratives to better understand how the personal and cultural complexities shape their decisions when facing severe domestic violence.

PUBLICATIONS

Song, Jing, and **Lulu Li**. 2021. "Empowered in Business or Penalised in Marriage: Experiences of Single Female Entrepreneurs in China." *Work, Employment and Society* ([Read the Article](#)).

Sun, Biyang, and Eric Fong. 2021. "The Role of Human Capital, Race, Gender, and Culture on Immigrant Entrepreneurship in Hong Kong." *Journal of Small Business & Entrepreneurship*.

Things You Should Know before Using Agent-Based Modelling

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I started following the agent-based modelling approach after reading Thomas Schelling's book named *Micromotives and Macrobehavior*. He created a checkerboard as a virtual community where actors live, and two ethnic groups were randomly assigned on the checkerboard to represent residential segregation. By setting several rules of interaction, he found that micro-level preferences could cumulatively produce unexpected macroscopic results. The simulations show that even if all people are not racists, the very simple idea of not wanting to be a minority in the community can also lead to racial segregation. This genius design of the checkerboard dynamics model helped Schelling to win the Nobel Prize.

The approach of making individuals' behavioral assumptions where the macroscopic outcomes derive from is called "agent-based modelling". However, in the discipline of sociology, this method is not widely employed. On the one hand, agent-based modelling adopts an individualistic methodology, while sociological research emphasizes the influence of structures on actions and is always skeptical about the extent to which individual behaviors can trigger macro-level consequences. On the other hand, studies using agent-based models have often been criticized for not being "empirical". Researchers deduce equilibrium outcomes based on a set of predetermined behavioral rules, thus essentially being a simulation of emergence processes.

In computational mathematics, this dynamic approach of complex systems is called Cellular Automata. If you are interested in agent-based modelling, you can write codes with software such as Matlab, R, and Netlogo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ Call for papers

- Special issue of *Asian Journal of Criminology*. Wrongful Convictions and Exonerations in Asia. **Deadline for Manuscript: October 31, 2021.** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Special issue of *The Australian Journal of Social Issues*. Children and Youth in the Age of COVID-19. **Deadline for title and abstract: November 1, 2021.** [\[See the ad\]](#)

✓ Job ads:

- Assistant Professor, The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, The University of Missouri-St. Louis. **Review of Application Begins: September 1, 2021.** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Assistant/Associate/Full Professor, Sociology, NYU Shanghai. **Review of Application Begins: November 1, 2021.** [\[See the ad\]](#)
- Assistant Professor, The Asian Demographic Research Institute Center, Shanghai University. Email **Professor Guy (guy.abel@shu.edu.cn)** directly for information.