Gendercide and the cultural context of sex trafficking in china
Susan Tiefenbrun

in Decoding International Law: Semiotics and the Humanities

Published in print: 2010 Published Online: May 2010
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195385779.003.009
Item type: chapter

This chapter shows how failures in China's One-Child Policy, the inadequate enforcement of Chinese laws protecting women, and the longstanding cultural preference for males have led to discrimination against women and an increase in forced prostitution and trafficking in China. Millions of women are missing in China because of female child abandonment and infanticide. The scarcity of women has resulted in a major increase in the trafficking and sale of foreign women into China. As China shifted from a planned economy to a market economy in 1979, the price of women in China increased in accordance with the market economy principle of supply and demand. The One-Child Policy has caused women to become a high-cost commodity.

Family Planning During the Economic Reform Era
Weiguo Zhang and Xingshan Cao

in Transition and Challenge: China's Population at the Beginning of the 21st Century

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Item type: chapter

This chapter reviews the development and implementation of China's family planning policy and its impacts. It shows that China's family planning programme has gone through several stages since the early 1970s, characterized by noticeable policy shifts in response to changes in socio-economic conditions, public support, and international efforts to promote family planning and women's reproductive rights.
Introduction: An Anthropology of Science Making and Policymaking
Susan Greenhalgh

in Just One Child: Science and Policy in Deng's China
DOI: 10.1525/california/9780520253384.003.0001

This chapter introduces the one-child policy in China, which is considered as one of the most troubling social policies of all time, first examining the epistemic approach to policymaking and then studying the micropolitics and anthropology of science making and policymaking. It also presents three stories on the making of modern China in the early Deng years, and the different narratives about the one-child policy in scholarly literature.

Authoritarianism and Democracy
Ingmar Persson and Julian Savulescu

in Unfit for the Future: The Need for Moral Enhancement
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199653645.003.0008

Robust authoritarian governments are better placed than democratic governments to implement unpopular reforms effectively, so it might seem that they have a better chance of tackling human induced climatic and environmental deterioration. The fact that it is easier for authoritarian governments to implement unpopular policies can perhaps be illustrated by China’s one-child policy which has enabled this nation to curb population growth more effectively than for instance India. However, history shows that the unpopular policies implemented by authoritarian regimes more often serve to consolidate the power of the ruling elite, or to enrich it, than promote the interest of societies overall. Therefore, a shift from democracy to authoritarianism is not an acceptable way to come to terms with human induced climate change and environmental destruction.
Conclusion: Why an Epistemic Approach Matters
Susan Greenhalgh

in Just One Child: Science and Policy in Deng's China
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: May 2012
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Item type: chapter

This chapter explains the value of the epistemic approach for the understanding of policymaking more generally, first defending it against some institutional-minded critics, and showing why a state-based institutional approach is insufficient. It then outlines the contributions, dangers, and larger productivities of this scientific mode of policymaking, and explains how the science behind the policy had significant responsibility not only for the terrible human suffering that occurred, but also for other, longer-term effects. The chapter also suggests how this approach can be used as a tool to critique the one-child policy and introduce two-child policies that have less damaging effects.

China’s Population Policy in Historical Context
Tyrene White

in Reproductive States: Global Perspectives on the Invention and Implementation of Population Policy
Published in print: 2016 Published Online: December 2015
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/97801999311071.003.0011
Item type: chapter

The year 2014 marked the de facto end to China’s “one-child policy,” the most extreme example of state intrusion into the realm of reproduction. Deng Xiaoping’s 1979 initiative built on earlier, short-lived “birth planning” campaigns. The 1979 policy set an absolute population limit of 1.2 billion and tied this number to the goal of achieving modernization by 2000. A 1980 “Open Letter” defined the “one-child policy” as an absolute priority, and the government’s strict reinforcement of the policy in the early 1990s finally reduced rates of reproduction. This chapter chronicles the stages of policy implementation between 1979 and 2014 and places these developments against the backdrop of politics and the economy in the PRC and in the context of shifts in global population discourse over the same period. Even with the end of the one-child policy, China will feel its deep social, political, and demographic consequences for decades to come.
A Chinese Marxian Humanism of Population
Susan Greenhalgh
in Just One Child: Science and Policy in Deng's China
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: May 2012
Publisher: University of California Press
DOI: 10.1525/california/9780520253384.003.0005
This chapter introduces Liang Zhongtang, one of the specialists who, during the late 1970s, voiced concern about what might happen if the one-child policy became political reality. The first part focuses on Liang's life story, tracing the imprint of Maoist politics on his intellectual training, professional location, and personal experiences. This is then followed by a study on the practices whereby he created a distinctive Marxian humanism of population. Finally, the chapter compares the three sciences of population, as well as the larger intellectual frameworks, political values, and visions of state–science–society interrelations that these embodied.

The Peasantization of the One-child Policy in Shaanxi
Deborah Davis and Stevan Harrell
in Chinese Families in the Post-Mao Era
Published in print: 1993 Published Online: May 2012
Publisher: University of California Press
DOI: 10.1525/california/9780520077973.003.0009
A crucial component of China's development strategy is the control of population growth. For a regime that once prided itself on its deep understanding of the Chinese peasantry, the one-child policy was appalling out of touch with rural reality. Virtually every policy goal—from restricting the number, thus also the sex, of children, to delaying family formation, to lengthening birth intervals—flew in the face of Chinese tradition and threatened to hobble one of the few reliable resources peasants had left after thirty years of socialism: the family. Chinese peasants follow essentially the same strategies employed by the oppressed everywhere: evasion, deception, manipulation, bribery, and all the rest. An understanding of how reproduction has evolved in the era of the one-child policy must start instead with the state, its goals, and how they are pursued.
Social Backgrounds of China and Taiwan
C. Y. Cyrus Chu and Ruoh-Rong Yu

in Understanding Chinese Families: A Comparative Study of Taiwan and Southeast China
Published in print: 2009 Published Online: February 2010
Item type: chapter

This chapter provides some macro statistics and a review of historical events to help the reader understand the pace of social and economic development in Taiwan and China. In general, Taiwan had a relatively stable development path, from poor to rich and from traditional to modern. The Chinese society in Mainland China was more volatile, mainly due to upheavals of the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the impact of the one-child policy. It is explained when these events happened, how they affected the macro social background, and how micro family decisions were influenced.

History: The “Ideology” before the “Science”
Susan Greenhalgh

in Just One Child: Science and Policy in Deng's China
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: May 2012
Item type: chapter

This chapter presents some historical detail on the “Maoist ideology” that would eventually lead to the one-child policy in China. It first introduces Chairman Mao, a virtual dictator whose opposing stances on population created the strained linguistic context where population work had to proceed and whose mass campaigns blocked the sustained development of birth work for twenty years. The chapter then describes how the party subordinated, silenced, and finally abolished the field of population studies, while depriving itself of the best source of advice on population governance. It also emphasizes the accomplishments of the moderates associated with Premier Zhou.
China: leave and population policies
Shirley Gatenio Gabel, Wen-Jui Han, and Xiaoran Wang

Peter Moss, Ann-Zofie Duvander, and Alison Koslowski (eds)
in Parental Leave and Beyond: Recent International Developments, Current Issues and Future Directions

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doi: 10.1332/policypress/9781447338772.003.0007
Item type: chapter

China’s recent abolition of its one-child policy has provided a major impetus to formally restructure its Maternity Leave policy. Confronted by shifting socio-demographics and changing roles of government and employers as a result of a transition to a market economy, China needed to adjust the demographic structure of the country and address social expectations of family composition and caring. To motivate parents to have more than one child, Maternity Leave has been lengthened nationwide and Paternity Leave introduced in some areas. This chapter reviews the evolution of modern Maternity Leave policy in China beginning in 1951 and traces how Maternity (and most recently Paternity) Leave policies have unfolded in response to changing political, socio-economic and demographic goals. In its earliest period, China’s leave policy was driven initially by socialist ideals, then largely by economic reasons and women’s rights from the 1980s into the new century. The most recent shift in family policy was primarily led by social research raising concerns about demographic changes and economic growth. The chapter ends with a discussion of how current changes may affect future directions.

The Effect of China’s One Child Policy on Sex Selection, Family Size, and the School Enrolment of Daughters
Nancy Qian

in Towards Gender Equity in Development

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Item type: chapter

A large economics literature provides evidence that parents trade-off the quantity of children with the quality of children, which implies that child ‘quality’ declines as family size increases. Child psychologists argue that increases in the number of children can increase the child quality because it provides children with opportunities to teach and learn from each other. Alternatively, there may simply be economies of scale in
childcare costs for items such as clothes and textbooks such that an additional child lowers the marginal cost of quality for all children. Both China and India have experimented with different family planning policies to limit family size. This study addresses the effect of family size by examining the impact of increasing the number of children from one to two on school enrolment in rural China. To establish causality, the author exploits region and birth year variation in relaxations of the one child policy.

China’s Progress
Khalid Malik

in Why Has China Grown So Fast For So Long?
Published in print: 2012 Published Online: September 2012
Item type: chapter

This chapter assesses the achievements of China, after three decades post the 1978 reforms. The most obvious result of the reform was the phenomenal growth rate of income. This led to certain remarkable social outcomes, like a dramatic fall in income poverty, increase in the road network and electricity, and rise in China’s relative share in world GDP. The chapter discusses the transformation of the Chinese economy through increase in urbanization, restructuring of the shares of industry and agriculture in GDP, the expansion of the role of the private sector, and the consequences of the much-debated one-child policy norm. The lesser noticed consequences of rising inequality, challenges of environmental sustainability, and the impending problem of the demography skewing towards an older population are also analysed.

Conclusion
Michelle T. King

in Between Birth and Death: Female Infanticide in Nineteenth-Century China
Published in print: 2014 Published Online: September 2014
Item type: chapter

While 1950s and 60s the balancing out the national sex ratio owing to high fertility and state policies promoting gender equality, recent decades however have seen childhood sex ratio imbalances increasing, owing in great part to China’s One-Child policy. Implemented in 1980, this policy demonstrates the tremendous capacity of the Chinese
state to devise, implement, and monitor population policies affect the reproductive decisions of all citizens. In the years following its establishment, coercive enforcement coupled with an undiminished social preference for sons, particularly in rural areas led briefly to a resurgence of actual cases of neonatal female infanticide. Now, however postnatal infanticide has been largely superseded by sex-selective abortion. This technological change represents the most significant difference between nineteenth-century and twentieth-century expressions of son preference in China.

The Birth of Assisted Reproductive Technology in China
Ayo Wahlberg

This chapter chronicles the difficult birth of assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) in China through the 1980s and 1990s, showing how ideas of improving population quality acted as a persuasive alibi for those pioneers working to develop fertility technologies under crude conditions and at a time when contraception rather than conception was at the core of family planning. From difficult beginnings in the 1980s and following legalization in 2003, ARTs have now settled firmly within China’s restrictive reproductive complex as technologies of birth control—which, in turn, has allowed it to grow into a thriving, sector as China is now home to some of the world’s largest fertility clinics and sperm banks.

Afterword
Anne E. McLaren

This chapter examines changes in the Nanhui region by the end of the twentieth century. In the period of economic reform and the “one-child policy,” there have been significant changes in marriage practices in the delta region, including Nanhui. As before, local economics drives the specifics of the marriage market. However, now that families commonly have one child, the parents cannot afford to lose the labor and care of
their only child and are thus unwilling to accept the incorporation of their son or daughter into another family. For this reason, it has become less common for married couples to live with the groom’s family. A survey of parents over forty years of age also showed that many believe that it was better to have girls rather than boys because “girls were more filial and obedient than boys; they can manage household affairs and look after the elderly.”

The Goujian Story in a Privatizing China
Paul A. Cohen

in Speaking to History: The Story of King Goujian in Twentieth-Century China
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: March 2012
Publisher: University of California Press
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the widespread privatization of the Goujian story in China at the turn of the twentieth century in response to a rapidly expanding arena of individual concerns and aspirations. It looks at two structural developments that profoundly shaped the dissemination of the Goujian story: the proliferation of new print outlets accompanying the extraordinary growth of the country's tertiary educational sector in the post-Mao era and the dramatic expansion of television from the early 1980s on. The chapter also considers the implementation of patriotic education and the appropriation of the Goujian story in writings directed at reforming the attitudes and behavior of Communist Party members, as well as in countless instances for the purpose of individual and collective motivation. Finally, it describes the “little emperor” syndrome, a by-product of the one-child policy that had been adopted early in the Deng Xiaoping era to slow China's population growth.

The Autobiographical Self in Prospective
Qi Wang

in The Autobiographical Self in Time and Culture
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Item type: chapter

Starting with the one-child policy in China as an example, this chapter discusses the development of the autobiographical self in a historical context and highlights the dynamic, transient nature of culture in shaping this development. Through examining the phenomena of living-
in-history effect, flashbulb memory, and reminiscence bump, it argues further that the autobiographical self is shaped by the social, political, and economic characteristics of a society. Then by analyzing the distinct characteristics of the autobiographical self constructed in social media such as blogs and Facebook, it discusses the implication of Internet technologies for the modern self.

One Child
Sarah Conly

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Item type: book

This book argues that at present we don’t have a right to have more than one child. The world is suffering serious environmental degradation, and we can foresee that as the population rises this degradation will become more and more severe. This, in turn, causes grave suffering for others. We don’t have a right to commit acts that have this likelihood of causing great harm. Rights generally are thought to arise from either of two bases: interests and the exercise of autonomy. The book argues that we don’t have any basic interest in having more than one child, so we cannot insist on this as necessary to our basic welfare. While we generally have rights to choose the way we live, thought of as autonomy rights, even when basic welfare is not at stake, autonomy rights are always limited by the amount of harm an action would cause to others. At present, the foreseeable harm from population growth seems to make unlimited procreation too dangerous to be something that can be protected as a right. Given this, if done correctly, state sanctions intended to constrain how many children we have can be morally justified. While there are some punishments and some preventive measures that would be impermissible, it seems likely that there are other methods for enforcing such a law that would not violate rights.