



WORKSHOP

**Feminisms, Ethnic Identities,  
and Ecological Awareness in  
Contemporary China: A Literary  
and Sociological Perspective**

> 8-9 May 2025

This international workshop aims to foster a broader reflection on contemporary Chinese society by exploring the intersecting domains of feminism, environmental awareness, and ethnic groups in China through a multidisciplinary approach that combines literature, cinema, law, and ethnic studies. It will also involve a deeper investigation into the works of Chinese writer **Chi Zijian 迟子建**, viewed through the lens of her multifaceted engagement. A prolific and well-known author in China, Chi Zijian offers profound insights into the lives of Chinese women, the survival of ethnic groups in her home province of Heilongjiang, and the ecological challenges arising from urbanisation policies that threaten these ways of life and marginalise their worldviews.

This sociological and anthropological perspective calls for a literary analysis intertwined with multidisciplinary research to illuminate the diverse facets of China that

intersect with these themes. As highlighted by Nan Z. Da and Wang Zheng in their article *Feminist Sinologies: An Introduction* (2015), this workshop underscores the importance of employing analytical tools from gender studies within Chinese studies. Such approaches are pivotal to understanding contemporary Chinese society and the complex power dynamics that operate within it. Drawing inspiration from the work of Chinese author Chi Zijian, this workshop provides participants with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of her work, especially in Italy, where only a limited selection of her fiction has been translated and published. The workshop also features Chinese writer **Chen Qiufan 陈楸帆** as a discussant in the final roundtable. He will provide an insightful literary perspective on the themes of the workshop, all seen through his unique lens as one of the most prominent science-fiction writers in China. While part of the workshop will focus on Chi Zijian and her works, other presentations will explore topics

such as women's literature and/or translation studies, ethnic group studies, and issues related to climate and ecology—all approached from a gender studies perspective. These themes encourage the integration of human and social sciences, including anthropology, sociology, and law, emphasizing the value of interdisciplinary approaches in fostering a deeper understanding of Chinese society and strengthening French-Italian research collaborations in this field.

The workshop, organised by Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Aix-Marseille University, is supported by the Université Franco-Italienne (Label scientifique UFI 2025), as well as by Ca' Foscari's Department of Asian and African Studies (DSAAM) and Archive of Women and Migrant Writers (ASSM).

**Thursday May, 8** Aula Baratto Ca' Foscari

### ***Chi Zijian's literary world***

9.45 **Greetings**

10.00 **Li Shiwei** (Aix-Marseille Université), *Chi Zijian, One of the Most Important Female Chinese Writers: Ecofeminist Dimension in Her Northern Literary World*

10.30 **Guo Bingru** (Sun Yat-Sen University), *历史·传奇·自然：透视迟子建创作观的三个关键词 History, Chuanqi and Nature: A Perspective on Chi Zijian's Creative Vision Through Three Key Words*

11.00 **Axelle Mariavale** (Aix-Marseille Université), *Ecofeminist perspectives on Chi Zijian's works: study of The Last Quarter of the Moon and All Nights in the World*

11.30 **Discussion**

13.00 Light lunch

Sala Conferenze S. Sebastiano

14.30 **Nicoletta Pesaro** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), *Articulations in Chinese literature: Motherhood and Domesticity in the Fiction of Xiao Hong and Chi Zijian*

15.00 **Melinda Pirazzoli** (Universitas Mercatorum), *Trauma and the Soothing Nature of Affect. Women in Chi Zijian's Fiction*

### ***Feminist articulations in Sinophone literature***

15.30 **Monika Gänssbauer** (Stockholm University), *Feminisms in Contemporary Hong Kong and the Literary Works of Wu Yin Ching 胡燕青*

16.00 **Discussion**

16.30 Coffee break

17.00-18.00 **Reading of Chi Zijian's works in Chinese, English, Italian, and French**

19.00 Dinner

**Friday May, 9** Sala Conferenze S. Sebastiano  
***Gender, Ecology, and Ethnicity in Chinese Literature, Film, and Law***

9.30 **Xu Shuang** (Université Paris Cité / CRCAO), *中国女性网络仙侠小说的生态女性主义解读 An Ecofeminist Reading of the Xianxia World in Chinese Women's Web Novels*

10.00 **Sara D'Attoma** (Verona University), *Is China a Country for Women? Gender Equality and Legal Reforms in Contemporary China*

10.30 **Mario De Grandis** *Water and Creation: The Role of Aquatic Elements in the Origin Myths of Chinese Ethnic Minorities* (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

11.00 **Bérénice M. Reynaud** (Aix-Marseille Université), *Hydrofeminism in Chinese Women Filmmakers*

11.30 **Discussion**

13.00 Light lunch

14.30 ***Chen Qiufan keynote address***

15.00 **Round table discussion**

16.00 **Final remarks**