

CHIN 3343: Chinese Popular Culture Terms, Vol. 1

CHIN 3343: Chinese Popular Culture Terms, Vol. I

*DR. LI'S CHINESE POPULAR CULTURE
CLASS, SPRING 2023*

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Introduction

MELODY YUNZI LI AND KATHERINE CARTER

This project began in my class CHIN 3343 Chinese Popular Culture. At the beginning of this class, I often asked students to post three popular culture terms they are familiar with, their definitions, and examples online on the Padlet wall. Students exchange ideas there, giving me an idea what trendy terms and popular cultural genres students are currently most interested in. Over a few semesters after they did this assignment, I have realized how far behind I am about the trendy terms in Chinese popular culture. Nowadays, young students are becoming more aware of trends in language and fashion.

After my wonderful experience of working with the UH OER team in the library, Ariana and Kate, I decide to incorporate more OER projects into my classes. I believe more research-oriented and self-directed teaching styles are the right direction to go. This project is another attempt to incorporate OER project into our classrooms, and through the intelligent minds and research efforts of the students, their works and my courses would get exposure. We ultimately hope that by getting students more involved in open access publishing, they would get to know the value and process of publication better and contribute to the knowledge in the field.

– Dr. Melody Yunzi Li

When Melody initially contacted myself and Ariana, Head of Open Education Services, about this assignment, I was eager to work with her again after a successful experience co-editing a student-authored open textbook from the previous semester. Melody brings passion, dedication, and curiosity to her courses and her pedagogical approach, and I have enjoyed working with her to support her work in creating more meaningful, engaging educational experiences for her students.

This course presented a unique opportunity to empower students to co-create a valuable and timely learning resource, a dictionary of Chinese pop culture terminology and subjects. Giving students the opportunity to publish their work in an open format according to their preferences, by self-selecting the licensing and attribution for each of their chapters, gave them a chance to engage in the field in a way that enforced their agency as student authors. Additionally, each student selected the topics of interest to them to research and write about, which gave them another form of autonomy in their learning, allowing them to shape the course content according to their unique needs, interests, and in some cases, to add on to their existing knowledge of those topics.

This is also a particularly valuable resource because of its adaptability and potential for growth, as each semester Dr. Li teaches her course, students can create new definitions and update existing definitions to ensure its currency and relevance in the field. I am excited to see how this resource can be adapted and expanded in future semesters.

– Kate McNally Carter

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MELODY YUNZI LI AND KATHERINE CARTER

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I also want to thank my friend and editor, Brad Allard, who has given very useful feedback on this book. He is always attentive to details and always provides quick turnaround for his work.

Finally, I would like to thank all my students who willingly contributed to the dictionary and their tireless effort to make this happen.

– Dr. Melody Yunzi Li

Dr. Li is the true powerhouse behind this book! Her willingness to try new things and her creativity in adapting assignments to open new and rewarding opportunities for students to engage with her course material have been a driving force behind this and all of her other projects. Instructors like Melody make University of Houston a great institution. For her students, she creates lasting and memorable learning experiences. For her colleagues, she is an ardent source of inspiration, motivating everyone around her to think outside the box and be curious about the possibilities beyond the rigidity of convention. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work so closely with her to make this book a reality, and look forward to continuing to work with her on future volumes.

Although she was unable to work closely on this project with Melody and myself this semester, Ariana Santiago was and has

continued to be a major source of support and inspiration for open pedagogy projects. In particular, her initial involvement in brainstorming the assignment and potential options was an extremely impactful contribution in shaping the direction of the assignment. She was also instrumental in helping me develop the learning materials that I created for this course, giving me thoughtful feedback and advice along the way. I am very grateful to her for all of her guidance and support.

– Kate McNally Carter

I. Ài dòu-idol 愛豆

ANONYMOUS 3

The concept of star celebrities is familiar across the globe with many countries and cultures sharing similar terms to label these people. For example, in the English language certain celebrities can be labeled as “idol”, and China had borrowed this word with their own “愛豆” (Ài dòu). The characters for the Chinese term are not to be read literally, but instead read for their homophone quality to the original English word. Even the criteria for who is an idol is similar across both cultures since it can be said that an idol is a celebrity, but a celebrity is not always an idol. To briefly clarify the distinction between the two labels; an idol is a celebrity who is an actor, singer, and/or dancer. They are also young and conventionally attractive with an attractive personality to match. The fanbase for an “愛豆” also tends to be within the range of 20 year-olds, but it is not uncommon for high-profile idols to have fans ranging from 10 years old to over 70 years old.

Another distinction that can be made between the two labels is the rather unfortunate difference in the way the two groups are regarded by the general media and critics. If any celebrity is labeled “愛豆” they will typically face a prejudice that they only achieved their success through their good looks. Take for example the concept of idol dramas in China (偶像剧 ǒu xiàng jù). These dramas generally do not get the same type of care in script and quality control as a more conventional show because the main characters are casted from idols who already have a large fanbase. It is believed that simply because the idol is appearing in the drama alone the show will garner many viewers and be a success. And while this does have some credibility, if the show does become wildly successful critics will attribute this only to the status of the 愛豆 and ignore the hard work that the 愛豆 put in their job.

Singers and dancers will also have their skills undermined by critics who say that they are “all face and no skill” or claim that they are not a genuine singer/dancer but instead an 爱豆 singer/爱豆 dancer and are therefore of lesser skill status when compared to standard celebrities in their field.

Despite all of that, idols are still beloved by their uncommonly loyal fanbase, and they are still able to benefit from the typical things that come with the status of being a celebrity. Some good examples of these idol celebrities are Jackson Wang, Cai Xukun, and Bai Lu.



Ài dòu-idol 爱豆 by Anonymous 3 is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License, except where otherwise noted.

2. Ant tribe (蚁族)

HANNAH R

simplified Chinese: 蚁族; **pinyin:** yǐzú

Definition

Refers to a group of low-income university graduates who settle for a poverty-level existence in the cities of China. An individual member of the tribe is referred to as an “**ant**.” Generally, the population has largely migrated from rural areas to cities and was born during and after the 1980s. Ant tribe has been used interchangeably with “**rat people**”; however, “rat people” is a term designated for older workers forced out of their above-ground apartments into underground rentals. In contrast, “**ant people**” are recent graduates in cramped quarters.

The post-doctoral researcher at **Peking University**, Lian Si, began research on the living conditions of college graduates after reading “The Down Youth,” an article that describes the difficult living conditions of college graduates born in the 1980s. Lian found a connection between the “stuck on the ground ants” and the struggling crowds of city-dwelling college graduates, hence the viral phrase “ant tribe”. These college graduates earn degrees in economics, engineering, management, and medicine, yet are stuck earning an average of \$286 per month as reported by a survey conducted in 2010. Lian describes them this way: “They share every similarity with ants. They live in colonies in cramped areas. They’re intelligent and hardworking, yet anonymous and underpaid.” Regardless of their poor circumstances, the ant tribe is known best for their optimism. These young people choose to stay in crowded

cities to maximize their career prospects. Their hope for better conditions drives them to accept starting-level positions for which they are overqualified.

Another aspect of the ant tribe is their lodging. To minimize living costs, young people with low-paying jobs tend to rent small rooms or share a crowded and compact apartment space in the city slums. They make do with inadequate living conditions, such as little furniture or no air conditioning. Others suffer from no access to hot water or heating. In Beijing, an estimated 100,000 ants live in windowless underground hovels; others live in buses, shipping containers, and shockingly tiny bunk beds.

Examples

1.) A viral about the plight of China's underemployed urban young living in very cramped quarters



2.) An employee of a mail delivery service showers under her bunk bed at her rental.



gmw.cn

3.) A typical “**ant tribe**” living arrangement for recent college grads.



pic.learning.sohu.com

All images appear in Kevin Tang's article “China's ‘Ant Tribe’ Lives in the World's Most Cramped Apartments.”

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3. Bing Chilling 冰淇淋

ALICE NGUYEN

Bing Chilling 冰淇淋 (bīng qín) is a meme phrase derived from phonetic English wordplay of “ice cream” in Chinese, and is used to denote a neutral-positive response to a question or proposition. It originated from a viral video in which the famous American wrestler and actor John Cena (ironically dubbed “Zhong Xina” after his “Apology to China” video became viral) professed his love for ice cream in Mandarin. The video was recorded when he was in China to promote the upcoming Fast and Furious 9 movie, of which he plays a character named Jakob Toretto. In this video, John Cena can be seen sitting in his car, holding a half-melted ice cream cone to his mouth and speaking into it as if it were a microphone.

The Mandarin transcription of the video is as follows:

“早上好中国。 现在我有冰激淋 我很喜欢冰激淋。但是《速度与激情9》比冰激淋.....”

The English translation is as follows:

“Good morning, China. Right now I have ice cream. I like ice cream very much, but Fast and Furious 9 is better than ice cream.”

John Cena [@RealWWEJohnCena]. “#速度与激情9#....冰激淋.....” Weibo, May 9th, 2021, <https://weibo.com/3477696732/KeMYdlq0l?ssl_rnd=1624515099.6969>

He posted the video on his Weibo account on May 10, 2021. Many Weibo users found his pronunciation of “冰淇淋,” ice cream, quite amusing. Shortly after, John Cena suffered backlash from mainland Chinese people for referring to Taiwan as a separate country rather than a province of China. It was not until the wrestler uploaded his “Apology to China” video that his promotional video for Fast and Furious 9 started to receive more popularity. The short promotional video circulated onto other platforms, and non-Mandarin speaking Internet users didn’t understand what John Cena was saying but took a liking to the way the wrestler pronounced “冰淇淋,”

phonetically transcribing the words to “Bing Chilling.” Since then, the phrase “Bing Chilling” has had countless appearances across the internet in the forms of video edits and memes. There are several video edits on YouTube with the usage of “Bing Chilling” as the punchline that have acquired more than a million views. “Bing Chilling” is also a very popular audio on TikTok, with more than 50,000 users creating videos to the audio as of February 28, 2023.

Not only has “Bing Chilling” been featured in content published to the internet, it has also been incorporated into slang and modern vernacular used amongst many online communities. While there is not an established way to use “Bing Chilling,” it is often employed by youths on social media to communicate that something is “chill” (adjective,) or used interchangeably with the act of “chilling” (verb.)

“I can FaceTime you in 30 minutes, how’s that?”

“Bing chilling.”

“What are you up to right now?”

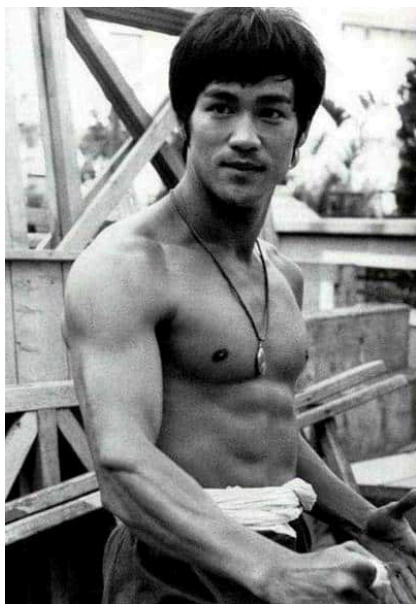
“Oh, I’m just bing chilling.”



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4. Bruce Lee 李小龍

NATHAN ABARCA



Bruce Lee is an American-born actor who uses martial arts and acrobatics skills in movies and TV shows such as *“Green Hornet”* and to teach his students. Lee’s original and Chinese name is “Li Jun Fan,” 李振藩 . The pinyin of Lee’s American name of Bruce Lee is Lǐ Xiǎolóng with the Chinese characters 李小龍. The meaning of Lee’s English name and his Cantonese name “Li Jun Fan” is “Little Dragon.” The reason why Lee decided to have a screen name as “Bruce Lee” is because after Lee was born in three months, his nurse gave him the name in the birthing hospital. What led Lee to become popular by having his cultural phenomenon of martial arts successful was because when Lee was a teenager, he was bullied and attacked by gangs and British students, so Lee decided to learn Kung Fu to defend himself from them. Although Lee was street fighting and had

issues with the police before he turned 18 years old, but Lee believed that martial arts should be used for self-defense and to do good actions instead of using it for evil purposes. One of Lee's cultural phenomena which led him to form his own martial arts techniques such as the "jeet kune do," which Lee mixed together with ancient kung fu, boxing, and fencing. What made Lee popular as an actor was his use of martial arts skills in movies such as "*Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*", "*The Matrix*", and "*Fist of Fury*". He also became popular for his opposition against racism. When he starred in the movie "*Fist of Fury*," Lee destroyed signs that were offensive against the Chinese that read "No Dogs and Chinese Allowed" and "Sick Man of Asia." At the time this movie came out, cross-cultural engagement was not very popular, so Lee's influence discussions in this way. Also, Lee's cultural phenomenon of martial arts was to change the way of how martial arts were being taught because when he opened his own martial arts studio at Seattle in 1970, Lee made his studio different by teaching to non-Chinese, which Chinese martial arts teachers and students didn't want any one-Chinese learn martial arts techniques. What made Lee more popular as a philosopher was his ideology that we must be ourselves, express ourselves, and have faith in our abilities especially Lee has made examples of practicing his own philosophy by controlling his own emotions and his success as an actor and martial artist.

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5. Buddha-like mindset 佛系

M. C. HALTEK

佛系 (fó xì) (Buddha-like mindset)

Fó xì or “Buddha-like mindset” is a philosophy that leads followers to abandon all desires, avoid conflicts, become apathetic or indifferent, and being zen-like. These followers have seen through the nihilistic nature of the world and its rampant materialism, thus becoming like Buddha. Fó means “Buddha” and Xì means “school.” It should be noted that despite being called Buddha-like, the phrase is not related to the Buddhist religion. Fó xì is also a buzzword used in China to describe younger generations, mostly born after the 90s and sometimes after the 80s. The term first appeared in Japan in 2014, but gained popularity in late 2017 after Xin Shixiang posted an essay titled “*The First Batch of the Post-90s Generation Has Taken the Cloth*” on WeChat. In 2018, the term was included in the top ten buzzwords of the year, becoming a label.

The mindset of being less ambitious and adopting a more casual approach to life arose in response to the great pressures from society and intense competition in modern China. One way to describe fó xì is being laidback or relaxed, in contrast to the wolf-like mindset that often appears in workplace environments or the infamous Chinese college entrance exams (高考; gāokǎo).

Fó xì contains many similarities to pre-existing philosophies and cultures. It is similar to minimalism as it prefers to keep things simple and to let things be rather than to stress over it. Like Sang culture, followers of fó xì have no ambitions, desires, or goals. There is an emphasis on being indifferent and lacking motivation, as common responses to problems or provocation are “Ok”, “Sure”, and “Whatever.” This attitude can be applied to every aspect of life including careers, romance, education, and everyday activities. It has been used in the advertising industry to attract followers and attempt to get them to pursue more ambitious and active lives.

There has been backlash against the *fó xì* mindset, as older generations have criticized this philosophy, calling Buddha-like followers lazy, pessimistic, and unambitious. The Communist Party of China (CPC) denounced the mindset as unpatriotic and detrimental to their growth as a global superpower in their newspaper, *The Global Times*, on January 2018.

Here is an example of how the term is used:

A: “Trying to find a job, romantic partner, excelling in school, and buying a house is so stressful.” B: “I think that *fó xì* is the best way to live.” A: “Agreed, let’s go nap instead.”

Here are examples of the *fó xì* mindset:

“Only a small number of children are going to be exceptional. Why make their childhood so difficult and stressful?”

“My boss wanted me to work on a draft until 5 am. In the end, they decided that the original was better. I simply said: ‘Sure,’ and went home.”

“It’s just a job, no need to die for it. It’s good to be neither happy nor sad.”

“How our lives will turn out is in the hands of fate or chance. Everything is a gamble, why exert any efforts?”



Figure of the original Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, meditating. Photo by Marjon Besteman (Marjonhorn) via Pixabay's Common License.

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6. cao, f*ck 草

MATTHEW TAO

Introduction

草 (Pinyin: Cǎo) is a commonly used term in modern-day Chinese culture, often as a curse word or negative expression. It is a popular curse word used by younger generations of Chinese speakers. A deeper analysis of the current use of 草 allows us to understand how traditional definitions are reconstructed and modified to become compatible with contemporary societies and cultures.

Etymology

草 (Pinyin: Cǎo) is a phono-semantic character containing a semantic 艹 (grass/plant) and a phonetic 早 (early).

Dictionary Meaning, Application, and Examples

The meaning of 草 in old Chinese culture depends on the part of speech.

草 can be used as a noun or an adjective; however, regardless of its parts of speech, it is typically quite vulgar. When used as a noun, it has one literal meaning: grass/straw.

For example:

- When my relatives visited Texas for the first time, they commented that “得州有很多草地”—“Texas has a lot of grass fields.”

However, in popular culture, there are two popular definitions: the word “f*ck” (an instance of having sex) and marijuana/weed.

For example:

- When used by itself, “草” means “f*ck.” When I run into an unfortunate situation, I typically sigh (or sometimes exclaim) “草.”
- Similar to how weed is referred to as “that grass” or some sort of green plant/vegetable, Chinese people do the same.

When used as a verb, it is quite two-sided as well. On one hand, it can be defined as draft, write, or sketch.

For example:

- As a child, my mother always told me “去草你的作業!”—“Go write your homework!”

On the other hand, it is slang for vulgar curse words. In English, it can be understood to be used as the word “f*ck” or “sh*t.”

For example:

- If I mess up, I typically exclaim “我草!” (wo cao)—“Sh*t!”
- “我草” can also be used to exclaim “what the f*ck”.
- If someone is angry and cursing at someone, they could say “草你妈” (cao ni ma)—“f*ck your mom”

In Chinese popular culture, especially among the younger generation, 草 (as slang/curse word) is an indispensable part of the language. Similar to how the average American curses at least eighty to ninety times per day, the word 草 is a word used by millions every day.

You can find the use of 草 in basically any movie, book, or popular media that is Chinese.

*cao, f*ck 草 Copyright © by Matthew Tao. All Rights Reserved.*

7. Corporate Slave 社畜

RENEE ZENG

社畜 (Shèchù/ corporate slave)



社畜 is a buzzword on the internet, which originated from Japanese しやちく; it was originally a derogatory term describing office workers, referring to employees who work obediently in the company and are squeezed like animals; Young people who are sexually deficient and have fragile economic foundation show a decrease in their psychological social willingness and behavioral social activities in terms of lifestyle, and are often used for self-

deprecating and complaining by young people. English-speaking societies have a similar term “wage slave,” which is used to criticize labor exploitation and sweatshops. The existence of such slaves is called “wage slavery.”

Since the introduction of “社畜” to China, it has quickly replaced “加班狗” and has become a hot phrase that people who are deeply squeezed by work are seated and frequently quoted. Although the straightforward confession of the “加班狗” also “ensures” the psychological conveyance of the difficulty of life and the firmness of self-derogation, in terms of language warmth, it is still not as cold as the word “社畜.” The Chinese word “社畜” is precisely between the abbreviation and expansion of the combination of “society” and “livestock,” which demonstrates the roughness of survival more brilliantly and powerfully. Moreover, “社畜” extend the hopelessness caused by endless overtime work to a wider social field, that is to say, the feeling of exhaustion and labor caused by heavy work, through the naming of “社畜,” quickly triggers more people who are called “社畜.” Association of slaughter conditions. All kinds of bad situations where happiness is pushed away suddenly burst out under the mobilization of “社畜,” showing everyone’s ubiquitous survival dilemma.

The work alienation reflected by the phenomenon of “社畜” should not only be regarded as a research category of labor sociology but should arouse the general attention of society. From the perspective of youth subjects, they should face challenges with a positive attitude. Strengthening time management, improving skills, reducing dependence on the internet and consumption, and participating in social life and public welfare activities are important means for young people to avoid becoming “社畜”; At the same level, paying attention to the physical and mental health of young people, standardizing the institutional guarantee of the legal rights and interests of young people in labor, and creating a multicultural atmosphere are important ways to avoid the “社畜” of young people.

As a phenomenon of youth subculture, “社畜” essentially reflects the social alienation and group anxiety of youth and their subjective

practice of fighting against it. As a way of life, the popularity of “社畜” has the positive function of maintaining self-identity and building collective identity, and the negative function of reducing the level of individual physical and mental health and marriage rate.

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8. Cut-sleeve 斷袖

ALICE NGUYEN



Cut-sleeve 斷袖 (duàn xiù) is a euphemism that refers to male homosexual individuals and male same-sex love in Chinese culture. The term dates back to the late Han Dynasty, around 10 BC. It originated from “The Passion of the Cut Sleeve” (斷袖之癖), a short

story that follows the love between Emperor Ai (漢哀帝) of the Eastern Han Dynasty and his male lover, Dong Xian (董賢.) Emperor Ai ascended the throne when he was 20, and Dong Xian was a junior court official. The latter quickly obtained power and rose up the ranks because of his personal relationship with the emperor. Both men had wives, which was not out of the ordinary; before and after Emperor Ai's rule, it was relatively common practice for emperors to take male loves. However, unlike his predecessors, Emperor Ai was the only one uninterested in producing an heir.

The two men often took afternoon naps with one another. After one of these naps, Emperor Ai emerged from his light slumber in order to attend a court proceeding. His sleeve was caught under Dong Xian, who was still asleep. Not wanting to disturb his lover, Emperor Ai instead gently cut off his sleeve so that he could leave without waking the other up.

The sweet and tender story unfortunately had a tragic end. Emperor Ai's favoritism of court official Dong Xian led to political backlash, and there were accusations of corruption within the government. Emperor Ai abruptly died of sickness at twenty-four and designated his lover Dong Xian to accede the throne, but the court couldn't accept this upstart junior as their ruler and devolved into chaos. Dong Xian and his wife would commit suicide the next day. Today, the second to last emperor of the Eastern Han dynasty's historical legacy is not colored by his questionable political choices and premature death, but his passion, love, and dedication for his male lover.

The term “cut-sleeve” has since been used through the ages. Authors from later dynasties would often call tales that featured a male homosexual relationship “Records of the Cut Sleeve.” In 1740, Pu Songling, a author from the Qing Dynasty, published a short story called “Cut Sleeve” (黃九郎) that is regarded as a satirical account of homosexuality in China.

The usage of “cut-sleeve” today is outdated and not very common, but there have been a couple references to the term in recent media. In the 2019 live-action adaptation of popular xianxia author

Mo Xiang Tong Xiu's novel *Mo Dao Zu Shi*, *The Untamed*, there is a subtle reference of “cutting sleeves” in which one of the characters, Wei Wuxian, playfully pretends to snip at another character's sleeve. Although the term is not derogatory, most youths do not self-identify with the term. More commonly used is “tongzhi” (通知) which translates to “comrade” and is a more encompassing term of all sexual minorities, not just male homosexual individuals.

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9. Danmei 耽美

TRISHA NGUYEN



“Danmei”

Danmei (Chinese: 耽美; pinyin: dānměi) is a Chinese literary and fictional genre that focuses on romantic relationships between male characters. Danmei direct translation means “indulging beauty”(dan耽-indulge in, abandon oneself to; mei美-: beauty), however, the term is used as slang to represent boys’ love (or BL). The Japanese Yaoi/shounen ai(which also stands for BL) inspired the genre of Danmei. It became a niche genre of literature in China in the 1990s through the pirated Taiwanese translation of Japanese Yaoi mangas. The term danmei derives from the Japanese word tanbi (,

“aestheticism”), and Chinese fans often use danmei and BL interchangeably. Since the 1990s, several online forums specifically for danmei were founded and run by amateur fans, who later gained more experience and become experts in this genre. Nowadays, many danmei forums are still run mostly by amateur fans and small authors, along with many recognizable names. Even though the stories about male-male love seem to attract mostly gays and people in the LGBTQ+ community, straight women actually have been reported as predominant in the community. Danmei is thought to have a “female perspective” and a “heteronormative frame” because it is primarily created and consumed by heterosexual women. Danmei fans cite equality between partners as part of the genre’s appeal, particularly in comparison to heterosexual romance. Danmei has inspired an explosion of adaptations into graphic novels, animation, live-action dramas, and audio dramas in recent years, and has made its way into mainstream culture despite China’s ever-tightening state censorship. Danmei’s works are always centered on a male romance but otherwise vary greatly. Many use tropes and settings from Chinese literary wuxia and xianxia, as well as elements from other genres such as sports or science fiction. Many fans started reading danmei because of its variation in terms of plot, background, characters’ design, etc. compares to traditional romance novels. Now, Danmei has gained popularity beyond the Chinese border with several popular adaptations such as manhua (comics), donghua(animation), audio dramas, and live-action television series. One of the most popular adaptations of the genre is “untamed” drama (other names: *Grandmaster of Demonic Cultivation*) by Mò Xiāng Tóng Xiù 墨香铜臭 and other works by her.

Example:

1. “The husky and his white cat shizun” is a very popular danmei by creator/author “Meatbun Doesn’t Eat Meat”.
2. Most popular Danmei properties originate as web novels, which are published serially on websites like Jinjiang Literature City, Liancheng Read, and Danmei Chinese Web.

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10. Dylan Wang 王鹤棣

LUO YE (罗叶)

Wang He Di also known as Dylan Wang age 24 born on December 20, 1998. In the Province of Sichuan, China. Information about Dylan Wang's childhood is unknown. The only information presented to the public is that he played Basketball in High School since it is his favorite sport. Before his acting career, He went to Sichuan Southwest College of Civil Aviation, he was studying to be a flight attendant. As well, he was a poster model for his college. This event is what started his career in the entertainment industry.



Picture Provided by <https://mydramalist.com/people/16461-wang-he-di>

In 2016, he joined a competition called Sichuan Campus Red Festival sponsored by his and other universities. He won and that is how he joined the entertainment industry. In 2017, he went to a variety show called Super Idol, where he also won the competition. Which later, got him the offer of his first acting job as Daoming Si, in the show Meteor Garden. In 2018, the drama “Meteor Garden” was released. The show succeeded, which was not expected. It was so successful that it went International. Though his acting skills were not top tier, it really captivated the people with how he acted as the character Daoming si. He gave the character a domineering Bad-boy look which was necessary for the part and the audience liked it. The show did receive criticism however it was not heavy on Dylan Wang’s Acting. However, some people criticize Dylan’s acting needed to improve his acting skills in general. Even so, this show was a hit which led him to many more Acting opportunities.



Taken by dylan_wang_1220

After Meteor Garden, he was cast in 3 more dramas, which did not receive much popularity. The shows are, EverNight: War of Brilliant Splendours season 2, The Rational Life, and Miss the Dragon. In the show; Ever Night: War of Brilliant Splendours season 2 Dylan Wang had to replace the main actor from the previous season. While fans were not happy with the changing of the actors. People did appreciate Dylan's acting and how he portrayed the Character Ning Que with a more energetic and romantic portrayal of the character. In the show, The Rational Life Dylan acted as the character Qi Xiao an assistant in love with his boss The main protagonist Shen Ruo Xin. Though the actress that played Shen Ruo Xin was afraid that Dylan would not be able to act the part of Qi Xiao because of the age difference between them. To her surprise, he succeeded in playing the part of Qi Xiao and the audience liked how both portrayed the characters. In the drama Miss the Dragon Dylan acted as Yuchi Longyan. Dylan did receive a lot of criticism on how he played the character. However, he rose back to fame in 2022 when the show Love Between Fairy and Devil was released he was the main character in the show. Additionally, the show gained 10,000 views on iQiyi's station 14 days (about 2 weeks) after its launch, which became the fourth iQIYI drama with 10,000 views on the program station. Dylan's character was Dongfang Qingcang an anti-hero who fell in love with a fairy. Critics say that his acting has improved since Miss the Dragon, and they could see the chemistry between him, and the fairy played by Esther Yu.



Taken by
dylan_wang_1220



Taken by
dylan_wang_1220

A few weeks later, the Show Unchained Love was released. Which also gained a lot of popularity. Dylan acted as the character Xiao Duo who fakes being a eunuch. Then, after the show was finished, in 2023 he was cast in another show called Never Give Up, Dylan Wang plays the character Bai Ma Shuai. However, what is different about this character is that Bai Ma Shuai is not a domineering character but instead a corksy funny character. Critics approve of his acting of the character Bai Ma Shuai. Nevertheless, Dylan Wang is remarkable ever since 2016 he kept rising to fame. What makes Dylan Wang important in Chinese society is how he became a celebrity from nothing. It demonstrates to people that anything is possible. Also, what makes Dylan Wang so popular is his bad-boy good looks, and his exceptionally good domineering acting skills that people love. Additionally, he can change his bad-boy image to a pure and innocent person with his corksy personality, which people also love, and find very adorable.



Taken by dylan_wang_1220

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II. Enter the Dragon 龍爭虎鬥

BRYANT



“Enter the Dragon”, Jinrù lóng, 龍爭虎鬥

by Warner Bros Entertainment

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The 1973 martial arts movie Enter the Dragon (龍爭虎鬥) is regarded as one of the best and most important martial arts movies

of all time. Bruce Lee plays his last film part before his tragic passing in the Robert Clouse-directed film. The story centers on Lee's character, a martial artist by the name of Lee, who is invited by an intelligence agency to compete in a martial arts competition on an isolated island held by a reclusive businessman suspected of engaging in illegal activity. As Lee discovers the reason for the competition, he engages in combat with a number of foes before facing the villain in a thrilling conclusion. Enter the Dragon is known for its creative use of martial arts styles and combat choreography, as well as its examination of themes like betrayal, vengeance, and the conflict between good and evil. It's hard to overstate the movie's influence on martial arts cinema and popular culture as a whole given the numerous filmmakers and martial artists who credit it as a significant inspiration. Chinese pop culture has been pretty influenced by Enter the Dragon, especially in how it depicts Chinese martial arts and Chinese culture. The movie includes a number of well-known Chinese martial artists in its cast, including Bruce Lee and Sammo Hung. It contains a variety of martial arts styles, including Wing Chun, Karate, and Jeet Kune Do. As a result of this, martial arts became pretty well-liked in China and other countries, and Chinese culture and customs were more understood and appreciated. Chinese culture, which places a high value on moral conduct and personal virtue, is shown in the film's themes of honor, justice, and self-discipline. Specifically, Lee's character portrays many of these qualities, and his portrayal in the movie has established him as a legendary figure in Chinese martial arts and culture. The movie also includes aspects of Chinese philosophy and spirituality, such as Wu Wei, a Taoist idea that stresses the value of effortless action and unplanned behavior. The global film industry has also been significantly impacted by Enter the Dragon, which has also had a huge effect on a huge number of filmmakers and martial artists worldwide. The movie's combat sequences are widely regarded as some of the best in movie history, and it revolutionized the action genre with its creative use of camera angles and techniques. Additionally, the movie assisted

in popularizing Chinese martial arts in the West and has since gone on to become a classic of both Chinese and American filmmaking. In conclusion, the martial arts classic *Enter the Dragon* made a big impression on both Chinese popular culture and the international cinema business. Incorporating Chinese philosophy and spirituality, portraying Chinese martial arts, and emphasizing themes of honor and self-discipline in the movie have all contributed to a greater global understanding and respect of Chinese culture.

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12. Expression Package 表情包

JANICE PAN

表情包 (biǎoqíng bāo)

Roughly translated to “expression package,” this refers to stickers, emojis, and GIFs popularly used in online conversations to express a variety of emotions. They usually come in downloadable themed sets, hence “package.” With the growth of Chinese social media sites, netizens started using photos or images to represent emotions in lieu of words. Over time, this evolved into cartoonish or comedic emoticons. Social media sites took note of this and started monetizing emoticons, offering packages of themed sets. Many free expression packages are also available, and independent artists often design and upload expression packages for the public to use and enjoy. An extremely popular biǎoqíng bāo gallery is “Wechat Gallery,” where thousands of biaoqing bao are available to download, with more being added every day.

More often than not, biǎoqíng bāo will include an image or illustration with accompanying text. A unique aspect of Chinese biaoqing bao is that this text may be a few characters or an entire sentence long, allowing the user to express a variety of emotions. The versatility and uniqueness of biǎoqíng bāo invited the phenomenon of dòu tú (斗图). Dou tu began as early as 2015 and roughly translates to “fighting with stickers.” In dòu tú, individuals will share a variety of biǎoqíng bāo with each other in a back-and-forth fashion, showcasing interesting or funny biǎoqíng bāo and boasting their collection of stickers. Dòu tú can take place in public forums as well as private conversations, leading to increased community interaction and building a culture around biǎoqíng bāo.

One of the earliest and most popular biǎoqíng bāo is Tuzuki, an illustrated rabbit character created by Momo Wang in 2006. It was

originally used exclusively on Wang's personal blog, but became so popular that it spread to several platforms, including Wechat, QQ, Kakaotalk, and Facebook. Tuzuki was so popular that it became used in various real-world promotions and collaborations, and is a significant example of how the popularity of biǎoqíng bāo can transcend online spaces.

In contemporary times, biǎoqíng bāo are integral aspects of online communication. In some cases, they can even represent identity, as the types of biǎoqíng bāo sent contributes to an online persona. For example, fandom-related biǎoqíng bāo can represent personal interests. Current biǎoqíng bāo may include celebrity faces, texts with regional slang, or company mascots, all allowing online users to curate their collections and use biǎoqíng bāo that best represents them. The fast rate at which biǎoqíng bāo are produced also allows them to be signifiers of current popular and hot topics on Chinese social media, solidifying their role as essential parts of modern Chinese pop culture.

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13. Feng Shui 風水

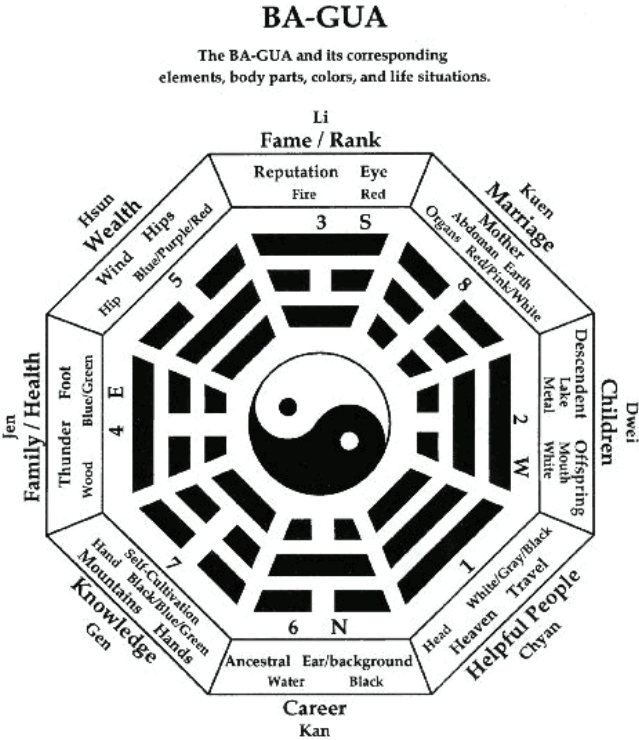
SONG SHUHANG

Feng Shui, literally meaning wind and water, is a concept deeply rooted in traditional Chinese culture. It is the ancient art of placing objects in a way to optimize the flow of chi in spaces such as one's home, workplace, gardens, and so forth. Feng Shui dates back to thousands of years, and its principles are present in other countries' cultures such as Shinto in Japan and Buddhism in India. In following Feng Shui practices, people become able to live in balance and harmony with their surrounding environments.

A fundamental aspect of Feng Shui is chi, which refers to the life energy present in the world around us and all living beings according to Chinese culture. Chi is divided into two parts: yin and yang. When the flow or balance of yin and yang is disrupted, it can lead to a person's deteriorating health or even death. To balance these two forces requires the placement of objects in specific positions and directions through the idea of controlling the five natural elements and significance behind the Chinese compass. The five elements are fire, earth, metal, water, and wood. Each element interacts differently with each other; some elements support the other and some counter each other. For example, wood counters earth because the roots of plants penetrate through the soil and can crack rocks apart, and earth supports metal because metal can only form within the large pressures underground. Meanwhile, south is correlated with summer, north with winter, west with autumn, and east with spring.

As such, both direction and placement of certain objects affect the flow of chi, and these ideas can be used in architecture. The Great Wall of China for example is curved in order to continue the flow of chi. Beds should be directed away from the door as doing otherwise means it is in the death position, referring to how the dead would be carried away through doors. The bed also should not

face the bathroom as it belongs to the water element and exudes yin energy. If it is inconvenient to direct the bed elsewhere, one could use mirrors. Mirrors are able to deflect chi, and by angling them in certain ways, it is possible to redirect yin out of the house. However, mirrors are also of the water element, and it is said that placing them above one's nose leads to bad luck as one's head is now below the surface of water. Feng Shui is difficult to apply correctly due to its myriad rules, the varying interpretations of them, and the infinite possible situations. Nevertheless, it continues to be used in architecture in the real world and even in fictional media.



..... Align the front door along this plane

From the office of STANLEY BARTLETT (802)626-9492
www.bartlett designs.com

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- BA-GUA



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14. Glamping

LUO YE (罗叶)

Glamping is a combination of Glamors and Camping. It is not like traditional camping where people depend on the wild. Instead, people bring modern technology and live in nature but do not depend on nature. Glamping began in the 16th century when King Henry the 8th had a summit in the wilderness. Since then, glamping has been all over history. In recent years, Glamping has gained popularity in China. Since 2020 when the pandemic was ongoing. Due to covid restrictions, many Chinese (mainly the younger generation) are unable to leave the country, which led to the idea of exploring the outdoors in China. Thereafter many entrepreneurs got the concept of glamping to attract more young people to the outdoors. Since the idea was introduced, it became a trend in China. Many Chinese youths liked the idea of living in the outdoors but not giving up comfort. What's more, many clothing companies and websites like Xiaohongshu (Little Red book) and e-commerce platform like Instagram. It started to advertise glamping, which raised curiosity in people to go glamping and experience it for themselves. The general pricing for an overnight stay in Beijing is around \$148 per person. It varies where the person decides to stay. Staying in a Glamping resort activities usually includes a number of activities and accommodations. Subsequently, Glamping has been successful in popularity and economically. Glamping is predicted to rise in popularity as the years pass by. From 2021 to 2022 glamping in China soared by over 50%.



Taken by Saiyuen

Consequently, this event has started to affect people's way of thought about the work values and culture placed in China in the younger generation. Now, the younger Chinese generation is getting accustomed to the slower lifestyle and is rethinking life-changing choices. With this ideology of the younger generation in China, many entrepreneurs in the glamping industry have been advocating to experience a slow life. In addition, glamping entrepreneurs had been resistant to developing nearby land with budlings since it would destroy the purpose of being in nature in a glamorous style. However, with the slow lifestyle ideology within the younger generation in China businesses and companies are starting to notice this trend since they highly value the high-pressure fast paced work lifestyle. This idea could become a problem soon in the work field. However, many people think this is more of a craze and since it is a trend it will die down in the future when the travel agencies and the government loosen their covid restrictions and the glamping trend would drop but would still be here to stay at a stable level.



*A glamping site at Shanghai Changxing Island Country Park.
[Photo provided to China Daily]*

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15. Guan Yu 關羽

M. C. HALTEK

關羽 (Guan Yu) 160-220 AD

A military general, legendary warrior, hero, and historical figure who lived during the Eastern Han dynasty. Following his death he was granted the rank of emperor (di) by the Wanli Emperor during the Ming dynasty and eventually became deified. He is commonly portrayed with a red face, a long beard, and wearing green robes over battle armor. Additionally, he is commonly associated with wielding a guan dao (Chinese halberd) called the Green Dragon Crescent Blade and riding on a legendary horse named Red Hare (赤兔馬, chì tù mǎ). The Records of the Three Kingdoms is the authoritative source of his life. Popular fictional stories and exaggerated accounts are found in *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, such as crossing five passes while slaying six generals or sparing the warlord Cao Cao.

Guan Yu has many names including Měi Rán Gōng (美髯公; “Lord Magnificent Beard”), Guān Èr Gē; 關二哥; “Guan the Second Brother”), and Guān Dì (關帝; “Emperor Guan”). He is known for his bravery, loyalty, physical courage, and military prowess. These traits eventually led to his deification as a god of war and a symbol of bravery, loyalty, and righteousness. His image appears in many Taoist shrines and is a revered figure of Buddhism, Confucianism, and Chinese folk religion. Guan Yu serves as the patron god of policemen, war, fortune, law, and gangsters. Statues of Guan Yu are very common among police stations in Hong Kong, and he is still worshipped by many people today. There are thousands of worship temples dedicated to Guan Gong/Guan Di across China, with the largest one being located in Haizhou, his birthplace. Temples dedicated to Guan Yu can also be found in many Asian countries including Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Vietnam, South Korea and Japan. Additionally, artwork featuring him can be observed in many

museums including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the British Museum.

In modern times, he is seen in many operas, movies and films, manhua, and video games. Guan Yu often appears in Peking operas, also known as Beijing opera, about battles during the Three Kingdoms period. Examples of these include *Huarong Trail* and the battle of Red Cliffs. He can be seen in films such as *The Lost Bladesman* (2011), *Dynasty Warriors* (2021), and *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* (1994-95). The legend of Guan Yu can be observed in many countries including Japan. Examples of manhua with Guan Yu are *Sangokushi* (1991-1992), *SD Gundam World Sangoku Soketsuden* (2019-present), and *Zhen Hun Jie/Rakshasa Street* (2017). Examples of video games include the *Dynasty Warriors* series, *Smite* (2014), *Total War – Three Kingdoms* (2019), and *Wo Long: Fallen Dynasty* (2023). Guan Yu also appeared on 2-ounce silver coins created by the Polish Mint featuring ancient warriors in 2019 and in 2020. Guan Yu is popular among many generations and his names, feats, and characteristics are respected and worshipped worldwide.

Ex: “Guan Yu, the second brother, is my favorite hero of the Three Kingdoms.” or “Let’s pray to Guan Gong on this auspicious day, to invoke his blessings and protections.”



“Guan Yu, Chinese God of War” by Katsushika Hokusai is licensed under OA.



“Chinese General Guan Yu (Kan’u)” by Unknown Artist is licensed under OA.



“Guan Yu” and two attendants, ca. 1700 by an unknown artist is licensed under OA.

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16. Hanfu Culture Movement

漢服運動

LUO YE (罗叶)

In recent years, the Hanfu movement or known in Chinese as 汉服运动 (han4 fu2 yun4 dong4) which directly translates to Han's people clothing revival movements has gained popularity in Chinese society. The Hanfu movement started in 2003 when a Chinese-Singaporean journalist name Zhang Congxing saw Wang Letian online wearing a Shenyi (深衣 , Deepclothing) style hanfu. Zhang Congxing decided to make an article about Wang Letian and his Hanfu. In prior years, many people tried to revive the use of the hanfu clothing for daily wear but failed. However, when Zhang Congxing published the article, many Chinese reflected and were influenced by ancient Han Chinese culture which ignited a spark for the birth of the Hanfu movement. In that same year, Wang Letian and other Hanfu enthusiasts created a website called Hanwang (漢網) to promote and spread the significant cultural value of the Hanfu. Therefore, Hanfu enthusiasts were convinced and interested in wanting to wear Hanfu in public. They planned activities and organizations related to the wear of the Hanfu clothes and experience traditional Chinese culture. However, with the hanfu popularity rising in the early days of the hanfu movement At that time, there were no shops selling Hanfu. Many people relied on tailors or relied on themselves to make the Hanfu clothing. In 2006the store Chong huiHan tan opened It was the 1st Hanfu clothing store to open.



Picture from 2005 Picture was taken by 赵昱昱

Recently, the Hanfu movement has gained more popularity. Since technology has advanced and more people have access to the internet, people are mesmerized by the Hanfu clothing. Also, with the rise of ancient Chinese traditional drama. The Hanfu has become a staple in Chinese entertainment and advertisement. The Hanfu has gained influence that in 2021 Cheng Xinxiang a lawmaker suggests changing the holiday Double Third Festival (三月三) which happens every 3rd month of the lunar calendar. This holiday originated from the Zhou Dynasty (about 1100-221 BC). Now Hanfu Enthusiasts were trying to replace this holiday renaming it to the National Hanfu day the Government refused this idea. Nevertheless, The Hanfu movement has been a great economic success for China and it is predicted that approximately \$9 billion Yuan (US\$ 1.39 billion dollars) will be generated by hanfu clothing in the coming years. Therefore, the Chinese are being influenced by the Hanfu movement. The members of the community are one step closer to trying to bring back old customs and traditions on a larger scale to bring forward their version of the “Chinese Dream.”



Hanfu streetstyle shot by Weibo user @她街拍 | Source: Weibo @她街拍

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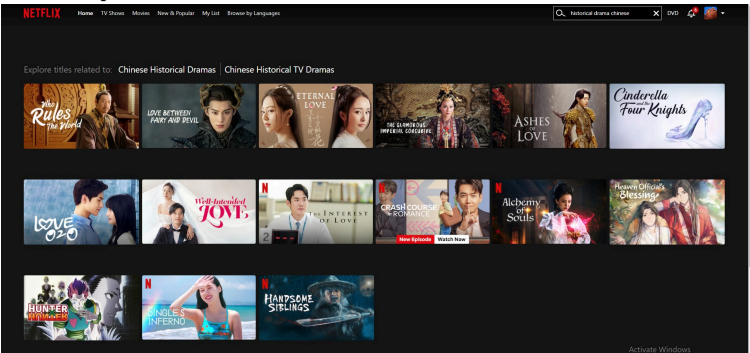
17. Historical Drama 歷史劇

JEAN-LUC NGUYEN

历史剧 (lìshǐjù), also known as a historical drama, has played a crucial role in the development of Chinese entertainment throughout the years. Historical drama signifies episodes that revolve around historical China, strongly emphasizing costumes and fantasy themes. As a result, this includes things such as magical powers, heaven, and many more. Such themes are essential in Chinese culture; therefore, these dramas allow viewers to reconnect with Chinese history. Additionally, “historical serials have been the dominant genre on prime-time television. The trend peaked in the late 1990s and early 2000s, with many palace (also known as “Qing”) dramas shown on television” (Wikipedia). In today’s society, dramas have reached their all-time high in terms of popularity. Furthermore, with the recent pandemic, many people seek entertainment through watching shows; thus, many discover historical dramas. Also, because of the rapid spread of popularity, there is countless Chinese historical drama on Netflix and other popular streaming platforms for users to watch. This idea illustrates how not only did historical drama dominate China’s entertainment industry, but it was also able to industrialize itself into the international market.

The images I provided below are the selections of historical drama you can view on a popular streaming platform such as Netflix. Although we are in the United States region, the streaming platforms provide users with many historical Chinese dramas to choose from; this demonstrates the high demand and impact that historical drama has built upon globally. I also provided another image that showcases a glimpse of the film “Eternal Love.” This is one of the most popular Chinese historical dramas that has touched the hearts of many fans worldwide. Moreover, you can see the characters’ unique clothing, which differs greatly from the modern

drama. Furthermore, I provided a scene showing the character exhibiting magic. These factors make Chinese history with a fictional twist come to life compared to drama in the modern world. Because of this, it attracts many viewers as it is different and has the ability to hook the reader with its episodes. Fans use a popular phrase: “What are some good historical dramas I should watch.” If you look on the internet, countless websites provide a variety of suggestions on different historical dramas fans should watch as they dive deeper and explore the endless entertainment that historical drama can provide for them.



- Home Screen © Netflix



- Eternal Love © Netflix



- Eternal Love © Netflix

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Historical Drama 歷史劇 Copyright © by Jean-Luc Nguyen. All Rights Reserved.

18. Honkai Impact 崩壞

SONG SHUHANG

Honkai Impact 3 (崩壞3, Bēng Huài 3), first released in China by miHoYo in October 2016, is a 3D action RPG initially developed for mobile devices with subsequent releases for other regions and platforms in the following years.

The story revolves around three protagonists who are part of an organization that trains its members, Valkyries, into soldiers to fight against the Honkai beasts threatening human civilization. Valkyries are special in that the marks on their bodies grant them supernatural abilities and resistance against the energy of Honkai. The game starts off with Kiana, Mei, and Bronya on a mission to investigate a flying battleship, whose contents sparked the conflicts to propel the protagonists through cataclysmic events. Many parts of the full story however are absent from the game and are instead present in other media such as manga or animated shorts.



Honkai Impact 3 sports a team-based hack-and-slash gameplay in which players create a team of three battlesuits to take on

challenges. The battlesuits are versions of characters within the story, so a single character can have battlesuits that each have unique attacks and abilities. Within the challenges, players control one battlesuit to fight on the field and swap them out with other battlesuits in the team to chain their attacks together in quick succession. As such, team crafting is a major aspect to succeeding in the game as an improperly built team will have no synergy between the battlesuits and lead to failing missions. Adding further complexity are the weapons the battlesuits can equip; for example, a weapon can increase a battlesuits' damage temporarily but decrease their damage for the rest of the fight, so it becomes a good idea to swap them out rather than having them stay on the field. The slow strategizing about which battlesuits to pick in order to maximize efficiency, followed with hectic swapping and attack mashing constitutes the charm and enjoyability of *Honkai Impact 3*'s core gameplay.

Reception was overall positive as *Honkai Impact 3* garnered a million downloads within eleven days of its release in Japan in 2017 and thirty-five million downloads across all regions in 2018. Profits were also high due to its gacha nature—spending real life money for a chance to gain in-game commodities—which miHoYo reinvested back into the game by hiring famous voice actors for multiple languages, continuing the manga series, and creating more animated shorts to flesh out the story. Combining the above points with stellar graphics and tight action gameplay resulted in a game of particularly high quality (and file sizes) when compared to the other low budget mobile gacha games on the market at the time. miHoYo's work with *Honkai Impact 3* gave them enough experience to create even more popular games, one being *Genshin Impact 3*.



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19. Honor of Kings 霍克

ZUBAIR

A multiplayer online battle arena video game called Honor of Kings (霍克), often referred to as Arena of Valor, was created by Chinese gaming developer Tencent Games. In November 2015, the game was originally made available in China. Later, it was made available in Southeast Asia, Taiwan, and Europe. With millions of players and a significant esports community, Honor of Kings is a very enjoyable game in China. The game's fascinating gameplay, excellent visuals, and incorporation of figures from Chinese mythology and history all contribute to its appeal. Players may select from a variety of heroes in the game, each with their own special skills, and engage in team combat with other players. Despite the game's popularity, there has been some controversy. Concerns have been raised concerning Honor of Kings' effect on young players as a result of the game's criticism for its addictive gameplay. Tencent Games restricted the amount of time users may spend playing the game each day in response to these worries. Honor of Kings is still a tremendously popular game with millions of players worldwide despite these concerns. Due to the game's popularity, a mobile version was also created and published in 2017.

Since then, it has grown to become one of the top-grossing mobile games worldwide. Since its launch in 2015, the game has had a huge influence on the Chinese gaming industry, culture, and society. Honor of Kings' contribution to the promotion of Chinese history and culture is among its most prominent effects. Younger generations of players have developed a greater interest in and respect for Chinese culture as a result of the game's inclusion of characters and locations from Chinese mythology and history. The game has also contributed to the growth of esports in China, where tournaments draw sizable crowds and prize money. Honor of Kings has significantly impacted the Chinese economy, despite the

controversy it being too addicting. The game's creator, Tencent Games, is among the biggest businesses in China, and the game has been a significant source of income for the business. The game also gave rise to a variety of products, including as apparel, toys, and accessories, which served to expand the Chinese gaming market. Honor of Kings has significantly influenced China, advancing Chinese culture, increasing esports fandom, and helping the Chinese economy. Despite controversy surrounding its addictive gameplay, the game is nevertheless very popular in China and has a significant impact on both the gaming business there and on Chinese culture at large.

Honor of Kings APK for Android Download
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20. Hot Pot 火鍋

SANA RAJENDRAN

Hot pot, also known in Chinese as 火鍋(huo guo), is a traditional Chinese dish consisting of spicy broth kept simmering on a hot plate. It is an extremely delicious and beloved dining experience not only in China, but also internationally. As those partaking in the meal begin to eat, they dip their food of choice (i.e. meat, seafood, and vegetables) into the broth. The food cooks as it sits in the hot broth. Hot pot is generally shared by an entire table, with everybody dipping into the same soup. There is a wide variety of options for people to dip into the spiced broth, the most popular of which is beef. However, lamb, fish, chicken, mushrooms, and even tofu can be found at many hot pot restaurants. The broth is made simply from water, spices, and salt. Some recipes call for broth made from meat itself, but most recipes tend to keep it simple.

There are a few schools of thought as to when hot pot first arrived in Chinese culture. Some say that hot pot originated in the northern region of China during the Tang dynasty (618-907) and was initially called “shuan yang rou” or “instant-boiled mutton.” However, other scholars argue that some Mongolian nomads would gather around a communal pot filled with boiling water and add thin slices of meat to cook. The cooked meat would then be dipped in a variety of sauces and eaten with bread. It is possible that both of these historical pathways could be true. At any rate, the dish evolved to become traditionally prepared using a cauldron filled with boiling water and seasonings, and thinly sliced lamb was cooked in the broth and then dipped in various sauces. The dish was also influenced by the regional cuisines of Sichuan and Chongqing, where spicy hot pot with Sichuan pepper became a specialty. The culture of hot pot has evolved and grown in complexity in many ways over time, with people using different ingredients, cooking methods, and seasonings to make the dish

their own. In the 20th century, hot pot gained even more popularity and became a staple of Chinese cuisine. It has become a symbol of Chinese culinary culture and a beloved dish throughout the country and beyond. Today, hot pot is enjoyed by people of all ages and social classes and is often served in large groups for social gatherings and family reunions.

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2I. Hot Search 熱搜

TRISHA NGUYEN



“Hot Search”

Hot search (Chinese: 热搜, pinyin: rèshōu) is a concept that Chinese social network Weibo users are familiar with. After Tencent's WeChat, Weibo is China's largest social media platform, with over 300 million monthly active users. In comparison to WeChat, Sina's Weibo is primarily used by the younger generation and offers more information as well as trending content. Similarly, Weibo enables businesses to create official and verified accounts in order to communicate with followers and advertise their products and services. Because of these factors, Weibo's hot search list has become a one of the tools used to assess the popularity and interest

of netizens in a particular character or social issue. Usually, Sina's Weibo Hot Search List (HSL) displays the popularity ranking of the top 50 hashtags in real-time, based on an algorithm in which the number of hashtag searches is dominant. The more people who search, care about, and debate that topic, the more likely it is that that keyword will appear near the top of the “hot search” search results.

Hashtags, Frequent and Timely Content, Super Topics, User-Generated Content, and other factors all influence the likelihood that a topic or person will appear on the hot search list. In addition, there is a color system that ranks how popular the topics are in real time (“Top 10 Tips for Weibo Marketing – Dragon Trail International”). 暴洪(sudden flood, pinyin: Bàohóng) is a common term in this color system. Because the word has a sudden and powerful meaning, it is used to refer to shocking events on set. In addition, “Bàohóng” has another meaning, which is “red burst” or “suddenly brilliant” due to the pronunciation. The word “violent” means “outbreak,” while “pink” can be interpreted as “red.” The term is commonly used among young Chinese to describe someone's sudden and unexpected popularity.

Young people, especially at night, have many opportunities to focus on enjoying entertainment activities such as movies and social events, which brings the topic to the Hot search list. The popularity of the terms in Weibo's hot search list is determined by the search, use of hashtags, and other factors, and is represented by different shades of red. Yellow and orange indicate that the term is well-known but not widely searched for, whereas pink, red, and maroon indicate that the term is a well-known topic that many people look up for. However, HSL can be manipulated by bots to create “fake popularity” for the topics for either bad or good reasons. Weibo users may be misled in spreading hype, large-scale pictures and videos with erroneous data, a large number of unhealthy information such as inducing minors to participate in rankings, and illegal user information collection.

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22. Immortal Heroes 仙俠

JANICE PAN

仙俠 (xiānxiá)

Xiānxiá, translated as “immortal heroes,” is a Chinese fantasy genre characterized by magic, demons, spirits, and immortals alongside traditional Chinese folklore and mythology. Xiānxiá works will also draw influences from Buddhism and Taoism. Although xiānxiá shares similarities to 武俠 (wǔxiá), xiānxiá differentiates itself by including more fantastical elements alongside a martial protagonist in an ancient Chinese setting. Traditionally, xiānxiá protagonists work to cultivate and train in order to reach immortality and ultimate strength. However, some xiānxiá works may choose to focus on romance or brotherhood, depending on the subgenre of the xiānxiá work.

The word xiānxiá is formed out of two characters: 仙 (xiān) and 俠 (xiá). Xiān is of Taoist origin and refers to a character that has reached a transcendent or immortal state through training or meditation. Xiá refers to a hero, but more specifically someone who is brave and chivalrous.

There are a few elements that are specific to the xiānxiá genre. One of which is cultivation, or the process of improving health, gaining power, or increasing longevity. Cultivation usually happens by using meditation or training to improve qì, an internal vital energy in all living things. Xiānxiá novels will also include mythical beings and creatures drawn from Chinese mythology. This includes various beasts, demons, and spirits such as phoenixes or dragons. These beings can either be benevolent, offering the protagonist rewards, or they can be malevolent, requiring the protagonist to defeat them in order for the protagonist to grow stronger. Xiānxiá protagonists may also be assisted by magical items that they find on their journey. A very common magical item in xiānxiá is the sword, or jiàn (劍). This sword is usually imbued with magical powers, such

as allowing characters to fly on it as a transportation device or having other attributes that can be used in battle. Other magical items include pills or elixirs that boost a character's cultivation.

Xiānxiá can be featured in many different types of media, including television shows, films, manhua (comics), donghua (animation), and games. Most popular xiānxiá today is seen in television shows, examples being *Ashes of Love* 《蜜沉沉烬如霜》, *The Untamed* 《陈情令》, and *Love Between Fairy and Devil* 《苍兰诀》. However, it is important to note that many xiānxiá television dramas are adapted from webnovels and xiānxiá webnovels have grown in popularity among young adult audiences in the last few years. There has also been an increase of xiānxiá manhua and donghua, and xiānxiá as a genre has been steadily on the rise in recent years.

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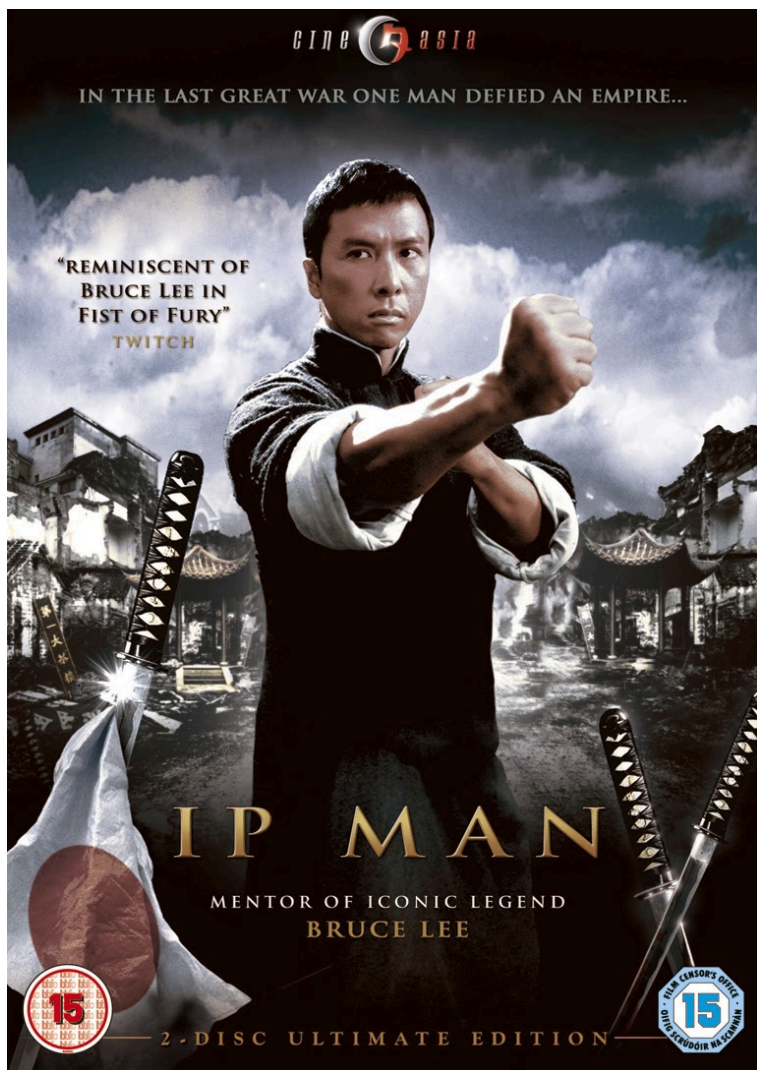
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23. Ip Man 葉問

BRYANT



“IPMAN” – Yè wèn – 葉問

by Unknown

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The movie “Ip Man” is loosely based on the life of Yipman, who was the first grandmaster to teach the martial art of Wing Chun. He was raised in China’s Foshan and started learning martial arts at an early age. Later, he attained the rank of teacher in Wing Chun and instructed many pupils, among them Bruce Lee. Yip Man escaped to Hong Kong during the Japanese occupation of China, where he carried on his Wing Chun instruction. He became well-known in Hong Kong as a martial arts instructor, where he taught a number of famous pupils who later became teachers. Yip Man is credited with helping to popularize Wing Chun throughout the globe and is regarded as one of the most important martial artists of the 20th century. At the age of 79, he passed away in 1972. The movie pertains to Chinese history as Ipman takes place during the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–45) when China began to actively oppose Japan’s effort to increase its power which led to a conflict (1931). The Japanese advanced quickly until the end of 1938, the war was essentially at a standstill until 1944, and in the final years, the Allied counterattacks, primarily in the Pacific and on Japan’s home islands, forced Japan to surrender. The war, which wasn’t officially declared until December 9, 1941, can be divided into three periods. In the movie, during the Japanese occupation of China, Ip Man is forced to fight and protect his community against the Japanese army, leading to a series of intense martial arts battles. Despite facing several challenges and losses, Ip Man remains steadfast in his beliefs and values, ultimately emerging victorious and inspiring others to continue his legacy of martial arts and honor. One way that Ip Man has features that pertain to Chinese Pop Culture is through its portrayal of Wing Chun martial arts. In China, martial arts are widely popular, with Chinese Kung Fu being among the most dominant. Wing Chun is a form of Kung Fu, which I think is very interesting as it ties in with the movie directly. Another feature that I want to point out is the actor that plays the main

character, Donnie Yen. Donnie Yen is featured in multiple movies as a protagonist/antagonist usually that utilizes mixed martial arts.

Finally, the movie displays the virtues of the martial arts stated previously, such as respect, honor, and discipline, which are pretty predominant in Chinese culture. Additionally, the movie creates huge emphasis on the Chinese people's fight during China's Japanese occupation, a pivotal moment in Chinese history. Ip Man has become a symbol of tenacity and resiliency in Chinese popular culture, inspiring a new breed of martial artists.

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24. Jackie Chan 成龍

NATHAN ABARCA



Jackie Chan is a Hong Kong actor and a stuntman who has used his martial arts as part of his acting to defend himself or to teach such as in the movie “*The Karate Kid*” (2010). Chan was born on April 7, 1954, in Hong Kong. Chan’s originally and Chinese name is Chan Kong-sang 陳港生. His English name “Jackie Chan” has its own Chinese characters that is 成龍. Chan’s English name’s pinyin is Chénglóng. The definition of Jackie Chan means “Already a Dragon” and Kong-sang means “Born in Hong Kong”, and Chan meaning “Snow”. The reason why Chan changed his name to Jackie because when Chan arrived in Canberra, Australia at the age of 13, his English-speaking skills were not good enough to communicate other English speakers. He could not order food well to restaurants or food vendors, so he decided to enroll a school in Canberra to study English. While Chan was studying to speak English, his teacher called Chan “Steve” because the teacher found it difficult to pronounce Chan’s full name “Chan Kong-sang”, but Chan changed his English name to “Jack” after what his friend called him. While Chan was working at a construction site, he added “ie” at the end of his name based on his boss who has the same name “Jack,” so Chan decided to make his English name more different. The cultural phenomenon of Chan is that when he acts in movies such as *The*

Karate Kid and *Forbidden Kingdom*, he uses martial arts of kung fu and acrobatics. For example, during the movie “The Karate Kid” 2010, he used his martial arts to defend himself to protect himself against a group of students who dress in orange shirts by avoiding being punched or being kicked and he used the students’ attacks against each other, which was brilliant to redirect an opponents’ attacks against them instead. What led Chan to popularity and success of his cultural phenomenon was that at the age of 6 years old when he attended a school in Hong Kong to learn and practice acrobatics and fighting skills, which he used both of his skills as part of his acting in the movie “*The Forbidden Kingdom*”. Chan’s stunt acts were dangerous and had impressed his audience such as the “Alley Jump” in the movie “*Rumble in The Bronx*” 1995, which during the movie, Chan had jumped from at least 28 feet above an alley to cross from the top of a building to reach another building. Chan’s stunt acts are part of his cultural phenomenon especially in other movies such as “*Police Story 2*”, “*Police Story 3: Super Cop*”, “*Police Story 4: First Strike*”, and “*Drunken Master II*”, which Chan had also performed impressive and dangerous stunts, which has increased his popularity in the public further.

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25. Joan Chen 陳沖

ALICE NGUYEN



Joan Chen 陳沖 (Chén Chōng) is a Chinese American actress and director who was most popular during the 80s and 90s. As of March

12, 2023, Chen has acted in ninety-six works as well as directed six films. Overseas, she is most recognized for her role in *Twin Peaks*, a surrealist crime drama TV series.

Chen was born on April 26, 1961, in Shanghai, China. Her parents were doctors who had gotten their education overseas at Harvard University. At age fourteen, she started attending the Shanghai Film Studio under the Actors' Training Program where she was soon discovered by a well-known Chinese director, and cast as the lead in his film. Chen graduated high school at seventeen and enrolled as a student at Shanghai International Studies University, where she chose to major in English. During this time, she starred in another film called *The Little Flower* (1979); the movie became wildly successful and her performance in it ended up winning her China's Best Actress award before she reached the age of twenty. Chinese media outlets affectionately dubbed her "The Elizabeth Taylor of China."

In 1981, when Chen turned twenty, she went overseas to the United States to pursue her acting career. She studied filmmaking, first at the State University of New York at New Paltz, and later transferring to the California State University at Northridge. She took a number of small parts for a short while before her first break in Dino De Laurentiis's *Tai-Pan* (1986). Her performance put her in the spotlight and she was soon cast in another big Hollywood film, Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor* (1987). Three years later, she would take on another wildly popular role in the cult TV series *Twin Peaks* (1990.) These three works are her most popular in Europe and North America.

After *Twin Peaks*, Chen has avoided stereotypical roles that depict her as an exotic temptress or villainess. In 1992, she married her current husband, Peter Hui, with whom she had two daughters. She took a brief hiatus from acting in order to focus on motherhood, and returned to the scene as a director, her debut film being *Xiu Xiu: The Sent-Down Girl* (1999.) The film won several awards and reached critical acclaim internationally.

Around age forty, Chen started taking a liking toward roles in

small independent films. One of her more notable appearances during this era was her role in Alice Wu's *Saving Face* (2005), where Chen plays a Chinese mother who becomes pregnant with no husband, and must turn to her adult lesbian daughter for residence and support.

Goldsea Asian American Daily puts Joan Chen as #45 on their living list of "130 Most Inspiring Asian Americans of All Time." She is an iconic figure both in China and the West for both her appearances in media and the work she has created. Chen strives to break stereotypes and to show that any individual can accomplish what they want, even in the face of adversities like a hostile industry and social pressures. She is a site of negotiation for Asian American identity, and advocates for a stronger unity between Sino-US relations.

"There are many ways you can make money. Certain ways will make you happy, certain other ways will make other people happy. But if you go in because there's money in there, you're bound to fail, bound to fail!"

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26. kāi huángqiāng 開黃槍

MATTHEW TAO

Introduction

開黃槍 (Pinyin: kāi huángqiāng) is a commonly used phrase in modern-day Chinese culture, often in a light-hearted and/or teasing way. It is a popular phrase used by younger generations of Chinese speakers. A deeper analysis of the current use of 開黃槍 allows us to understand how traditional definitions are reconstructed and modified to become compatible with contemporary societies and cultures.

Etymology

開黃槍 (Pinyin: kāi huángqiāng) is a Chinese-originated phrase. Here is a breakdown of the phrase:

開 (Pinyin: kāi) is an Ideogrammic compound comprised of 門/门 (“door”), 一 (“latch”), and 升 (“a pair of hands”). While 開 has many definitions, it is understood as “open” in the context of the phrase.

黃 (Pinyin: huáng): While it is typically defined as the color “yellow,” it can hold a very different meaning in popular slang. In the context of the phrase, it is understood to be: having pornographic connotations (黃片 [Pinyin: huángpiàn]) or very lewd.

槍 (Pinyin: qiāng). The etymology of this word is largely unknown. However, it is widely known that 槍 can be defined as the English

word “gun.” But over time, 槍 has extended to mean “singing style”

and then eventually to “tone of voice.” It can be inferred that 槍 in the context of this phrase refers to the latter definition.

Dictionary Meaning, Application, and Examples

The phrase 開黃槍 in Chinese culture is typically used in unison with the phrase 不要 (Pinyin: Bùyào) which means “do not”

開黃槍 can be understood as “saying something/joking about something ridiculous.” In regards to “ridiculous,” it typically is ridiculous in the sense of sexual or immature jokes.

For example:

- When I go back to Asia to visit my family, I always have learned new slang and immature phrases/jokes I cannot wait to joke about with my uncles. However, my mom will always yell at me and say “不要在開黃槍抑或我會...” (Do not keep making immature jokes or else I will...) and follow up with a threat.

In Chinese popular culture, 開黃槍 (especially with the phrase 不要) is used quite often. In my experience, it is used quite evenly among the older generation and the younger generation. At times, it might be used more by the older generation to reprimand, scold, or warn unruly children to be careful of what they say.

kāi huángqiāng 開黃槍 Copyright © by Matthew Tao. All Rights Reserved.

27. The Karate Kid 功夫夢

BRYANT



“the Karate Kid”

by Sony

Licensed by Columbia Pictures Industries

The Karate Kid – Kōngshǒudào xiǎozi – 功夫夢

In the martial arts movie *The Karate Kid* (2010) (功夫梦), a young boy named Dre Parker (Jaden Smith) and his mother (Taraji P. Henson) move from Detroit to Beijing. In the beginning, Dre Parker starts off battling to adapt to his new life. In the midst of his battle, Dre finds himself to be a target of a gang of bullies led by Cheng (Zhenwei Wang), which introduces Mr. Han (Jackie Chan), a master martial artist who then serves as Dre's mentor and trains him in the art of Kung Fu. The film, which is a recreation of the original *Karate Kid* from 1984, is heavily influenced by Chinese popular culture. Kung Fu, one of China's most well-known exports, is a martial art with a long history and tradition in the nation. Many facets of Chinese culture, including its architecture, language, and cuisine, are featured in the film, which was shot on-site in China. The value of discipline, which is fundamental to Chinese culture, is one of the film's major themes. Dre learns from Mr. Han that he needs to have concentration and discipline in order to practice Kung Fu well. This is demonstrated in the well-known "jacket on, jacket off" (similar to wax on wax off) scene from the film, in which Mr. Han instructs Dre in the fundamental movements of Kung Fu through a succession of monotonous drills. The mentor's role, which is significant in Chinese culture, is another significant element of the film. In addition to being a skilled martial artist, Mr. Han acts as a parent figure for Dre, offering advice and assistance as he adjusts to life in China. Many Chinese martial arts place a strong emphasis on the mentor-student relationship, and the film honors this heritage. Chinese folklore and mythology are also incorporated into *Karate Kid*, including the story of the monkey monarch. One scene features Mr. Han telling Dre the tale of the monkey king, a strong and sage figure from Chinese folklore. This gives the film an additional layer of depth and richness and further ties it to Chinese society. Overall, both in terms of its themes and its representation of Chinese culture, *Karate Kid* has had a major influence on Chinese pop culture. The film received acclaim for its accurate depiction of Chinese traditions and customs and was a box office

hit in China, earning over \$100 million. Chinese youth have become more interested in Kung Fu and other martial arts as a result of the movie's popularity because of its lesson about tenacity, self-control, and respect.

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See Also

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28. The King's Avatar 全職高手

SONG SHUHANG

The King's Avatar (全職高手, Quánzhí Gāoshǒu) is a web novel authored by Butterfly Blue (蝴蝶藍) in 2011 and ending 2014 with official English translations beginning in 2015 and ending in 2019. The novel has since been adapted into a *donghua* in 2017 with a second season in 2020 and a live-action TV series in 2019.



Ye Xiu is a professional player for Excellent Era in the MMORPG named *Glory*. His records over the course of a decade on his character named One Autumn Leaf have earned him the title of

Battle God, competent and dominating in fighting both monsters and players. Despite Ye Xiu's legendary status, the veteran was kicked out of the Excellent Era team with both his position and character transferred to a younger new member. Loitering through the city as a now jobless man, he encounters a certain internet cafe and decides to apply as a manager there. Glory's tenth server also coincidentally opened that day, and so Ye Xiu started anew with a brand new character he named Lord Grim. The story continues from then on as Ye Xiu relives through the Glory experience as Lord Grim all the while cafe customers and players remain unaware of the former Battle God's presence among them. A movie, *The King's Avatar: For the Glory*, was released in 2019 and detailed Ye Xiu's beginnings when Glory was still relatively new.

The King's Avatar gained mass popularity in China and moderate success overseas. The web novel has finished with 1,776 chapters with over 20 million readers on Qidian, ranked in the top ten in the All-time Total Power Ranking on Qidian International, and ranked 4th on the 2016 China Internet Fiction Rankings. The donghua series itself had two seasons and won the 14th China Animation Golden Dragon Award while also being highly rated on overseas websites such as MyAnimeList. Furthermore, the live-action series amassed over one billion views on Tencent Video and over ten million on overseas websites. *The King's Avatar's* success could be partly attributed to the rise of esports in China as esports became increasingly popular over the years with teams getting sponsored by powerhouse companies, Tencent buying stakes of the *League of Legends* company Riot games, and international tournaments gaining millions of viewers. Overall, Ye Xiu's zero-to-hero story had widespread appeal among the esports audience, and its creation during the rise of esports in Chinese culture had a non-trivial impact on its popularity.

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29. Kung Fu Hustle 電影“功夫”

ZUBAIR

Chinese action-comedy “Kung Fu Hustle” was produced and helmed by Stephen Chow in 2004. It was a huge financial success and won praise from critics both at home and abroad. The movie has made a big difference in Chinese culture, especially in the field of martial arts movies. The revival of the martial arts cinema genre is one of “Kung Fu Hustle’s” most notable effects on Chinese culture. The genre had been in decline in China for a while before to the film’s debut, with many filmmakers turning away in favor of more lucrative ones. Yet “Kung Fu Hustle” showed that the martial arts movie genre still had a lot of room for growth, both financially and artistically. This prompted a new generation of filmmakers to pick up the martial arts filmmaking mantle, which resulted in a revival of the genre in China. The movie fused comedy and action together perfectly. The usage of comedy in “Kung Fu Hustle” has an additional influence on Chinese culture. In contrast to the more somber, solemn tone that predominated in many early martial arts films, the movie was praised for its irreverent approach to the martial arts genre. In addition to being amusing, this comedy made the movie more approachable for those who might not have been as familiar with the genre. The film’s success also had an influence on the global perception of Chinese cinema. Prior to “Kung Fu Hustle,” many audiences outside of China may have had limited exposure to Chinese cinema, with films like “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” being notable exceptions. However, the success of “Kung Fu Hustle” helped to raise the profile of Chinese cinema on the international stage, showing that Chinese filmmakers were capable of producing films that could be both artistically and commercially successful.

The movie’s success in fusing comedy and action also sparked

a wave of like movies in China, which helped establish humor in martial arts movies as a valid and workable strategy. Chinese popular culture has been influenced by “Kung Fu Hustle,” with the movie’s characters and visuals being well-known there. Due to the movie’s success, merchandising, video games, and even a stage version were produced. In addition, the movie sparked a resurgence of interest in traditional Chinese martial arts and culture, leading to a large number of young people taking up Kung Fu. Due to its box office success and cultural influence, “Kung Fu Hustle” has a prominent place in the annals of Chinese cinema. The film’s comedy, revitalization of the martial arts film genre, and international popularity all contributed to raising Chinese cinema’s prominence on a global scale and rekindling interest in traditional Chinese culture.



Kung Fu Hustle © Stephen Chow

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30. Let it Rot 擺爛

ANONYMOUS 4

摆烂 (bǎi làn) (let it rot)

The definition of this term is to embrace the failure and stay in the situation rather than trying to aim higher because it is simply unattainable. This term originated from basketball in which a team deliberately loses because they have accepted that they will not win and to bring the game to an end quicker.

Many people use this term to describe their feeling of giving up because of all the uncertainties of the future. A lot of buzz came from this term on social media where a lot of the younger generation feel defeated and unable to find motivation to try harder for something better because of where we are economically. The work life is extremely tough, the salary is not enough, the housing market is too expensive for most of the salaried jobs, and there are outside responsibilities such as taking care of your parents as they get older while potentially having your own kids to take care of. These factors are all causing the younger generation to accept a more low-quality life and just stay at that level because there is not guarantee that if they continue working extremely hard that they will be able to achieve a higher quality of life. Many people are using this term online to build a sense of connection between everyone that feels the same way and to express these feelings out within themselves. They believe that instead of quiet quitting which is something before this term, they want to keep earning the income but put in minimum work because of the unchangeable future. One Chinese proverb relates to this phrase: “dead pigs are not afraid of boiling water,” 死猪不怕开水烫, sǐ zhū bú pà kāi shuǐ tàng. This term brings more attention to the lack of social mobility and increased uncertainty in today's China. The percentage of unemployment rate keeps growing, so often times 摆烂 is used by many of those who recently graduated and are unemployed to just sit around and watch

TV all day. Individuals that are working may feel as though the pay is not enough for the amount of work and effort is put in, so they use 摆烂 to express that they are doing the bare minimum in order to keep getting their paychecks.

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31. lì flag 立flag

ANONYMOUS 3

Amongst friendly and even high profile competitions there is a phrase in China that can be heard thrown around: “立flag” (lì flag), or more specifically “不要立flag” (bùyào lì flag) . The phrase 立flag literally means to “set up a flag”, giving it the nuance: “don’t set up a flag”. However, this phrase is not meant to be taken literally, as no one is going around setting up physical flags. Instead the phrase means to set up a non-physical goal or expectation. For example, if someone was competing in a tournament and they remarked “The next game should be an easy win since we have been on a winning streak lately,” someone else may comment “不要立flag.” This second person is teasingly warning the first person not to set up an expectation of their team’s success because you never know what may happen and “setting up a flag” is just asking for it to be unexpectedly knocked over. English speakers have an equivalent to this phrase. If the earlier example took place in the United States for instance, the second person may instead comment “Don’t jinx us.” Both the English and Chinese phrases carry the same sentiment of reminding another not to bring bad luck down on them.

This phrase can also be taken outside of a competitive setting. As a second example, someone could wake up one morning and say to themselves “Today is going to be a good day.” this is also considered as an instance of “立flag”. And since this phrase is used somewhat sarcastically normally, it can also be used to paradoxically invite good luck. Modifying our earlier scenario we can clarify this idea. Let’s say the person competing has been on a losing streak, than they can 立flag like this: “We will definitely lose the next game.” The established “flag” has become to lose the next game and now they are inviting that flag to be knocked down by having them instead win the game. It is a versatile phrase.

It should also be noted that the English word “flag” is used by

Chinese speakers when saying this phrase. Although they have their own words for flag, those words are not used in this expression and it would sound odd to Chinese speakers if you used their word for flag. The reason for this is because the English word flag was used in the Japanese phrase “死亡flag”, death flag. Death flag is a common trope in media where one character promises something but ultimately is unable to fulfill it because they die before they get the chance. If a character in a movie promises their children they will return home safely from the war then that character is sure to die because they have raised their own death flag. So since the original phrase Chinese speakers borrowed the idea from carried an English word already, it felt more natural to keep the word that to just outright replace the word and strip it of the context that ultimately gives it meaning.



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32. Little Emperors 小皇帝

Xiǎo Huángdì – 小皇帝

ANONYMOUS 2

A little emperor (Xiǎo Huángdì 小皇帝) is a child in China who grew up as an only child. Little emperors are expected to generally be fatter, more spoiled, and much more the center of attention in the family than generations before them.

The phenomenon has two main causes. First, the one child policy that was introduced in 1976 (Lim). This required families to have only one child. It was common in the generation before to have four or more children. The penalties for having more than one child could be stiff. Sometimes, this could be forced abortions, harassment, or fines. This was done to control the population because China had been growing too quickly and risked destabilizing the whole country.

The second reason is the increase in wealth in China over the last few decades. Many have come out of poverty and the middle class has grown rapidly. The increase in obesity is also a sign that children aren't starving as much as they have in previous generations within China.

Some people believe that the lack of siblings creates a child who does not learn to share. They do not need to share what their parents' attention and money with anyone else. All family resources get poured into a single child (Lim).

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33. Little Red Book 小紅書

SANA RAJENDRAN

Xiao Hong Shu, or Little Red Book, is a popular Chinese social e-commerce platform that was launched in 2013. It combines social networking, shopping, and content creation in a single app, making it a one-stop-shop for users who are looking for product reviews, recommendations, and shopping deals, design inspiration, and much more. Xiao Hong Shu can be compared to Pinterest, the way that many users customize their feed to appeal to their own tastes. Because of how many Western apps, such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, are officially blocked in China, this app has gained a huge following and user base in China. It has millions of users who are mainly tech-savvy, young, and interested in fashion. It is particularly popular among female users, who make up over 70 percent of the app's user base. The app is also gaining traction in other parts of the world due to increasing globalization, and especially among Chinese-speaking communities.

One of the unique features of Xiao Hong Shu is its emphasis on user-generated content. Users can create and share their own reviews, photos, and videos of products, which helps to build trust and authenticity among the users viewing these posts. In this way, one can imagine how Xiao Hong Shu is a self-generating advertisement, and how people looking to gain popularity inadvertently serve as product placement as they try to be featured by the algorithm and shown to other users. The app also features a recommendation engine that suggests products based on a user's interests and browsing history. Xiao Hong Shu has also become a popular platform for brands and retailers to reach Chinese consumers. The app allows brands to create their own pages, post content, and interact with users, which can help to build brand

awareness and drive sales. In addition, the app offers various advertising options, including targeted ads and sponsored content.

Despite its popularity, the app has faced some challenges since its launch in 2013. For example, in 2019, the app was briefly removed from Chinese app stores due to concerns over inappropriate content and fake reviews. Additionally, there were many users trying to pass their heavily filtered selfies and pictures off as original, authentic content. Xiao Hong Shu was condemned for allowing extremely doctored pictures to be advertised to young, impressionable people. Photoshopped images of women's bodies and faces led to a distrust of Xiao Hong Shu's rules. The company has since implemented stricter content moderation policies and introduced new measures to verify user-generated content. Since that time, the user base has skyrocketed, and Xiao Hong Shu remains one of China's most popular mobile and desktop applications.

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34. Little Red Book 小紅書

ANONYMOUS 4

小红书 (xiǎo hóng shū) (Little Red Book)

小红书 is a social media and e-commerce platform. 小红书 was founded in 2013 by Charlwin Mao Wenchao and Mirand Qu Fang. It is often compared to Instagram.


Instagram and 小红书 are similar in many ways, but there are some key differences. 小红书 has the target market towards young women. Data and statistics have shown that about 90% of 小红书's users are women. Instagram doesn't have a gender target market. There are difference pages that the apps users can choose to explore. 小红书 allows users the options to explore pages that they follow, discover new pages, or look for nearby products. Instagram users are given the options to explore pages they follow, sponsored advertisements, and a discover section. From that context, they are both very similar. The shopping experience is a little different in that 小红书 allows their users to buy directly on the app, while Instagram redirects users to the brands website to finish their transaction. 小红书 users are mainly from China while Instagram reaches users from all over.

小红书 is more known for being an e-commerce platform rather than a content-sharing platform. It is a lot easier for users to shop within 小红书 because it is all directly within the app. 小红书 is really good at personalizing their pages for their users based on what they enjoy such as restaurant seekers, traveling, shopping, etc. which helps the overall experience for the user more meaningful with the time spent on the app.

小红书 has had a few controversies around overly edited pictures, harmful content toward minors, false reviews, and fraudulent practices. 小红书 has made efforts to combat these issues however with this news, they lost a lot of trust from people. This is a struggle most social media platforms have because the Internet is such a

large, scaled thing where it is hard to control what is posted. 小紅書 created a team to go through content in efforts to help minimize these issues.

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35. liúliàng/traffic 流量

RENEE ZENG

流量 (traffic/liúliàng)



Tao, William Chan, LuHan, Li Yifeng

“Traffic” refers to the data traffic on the internet, which can be used to measure the popularity of a star. On the internet in mainland China, a certain star is called a “traffic star” (流量明星,) often implying that he does not have the strength to match his internet popularity. Because the amount of online traffic that a person or a topic can generate is a reflection of their popularity and may lead to sales revenue or advertisement income, online shopkeepers and celebrities make a lot of effort to attract online traffic.

The concept of 流量 emerged around 2014, and from 2014 to 2017,

流量明星 also reached its peak in a few years. The very first person who made people realize 流量 was Yang Mi, whose early films were *The Legend of the Condor Heroes* and *Dream of the Red Chamber*. Later, Yang Mi played the role of Xueyuan in *Beauty's Rival in Palace*, which was well-received and really opened up the market. After *Palace: The Lock Heart Jade* hit the air, she also got the title “Queen of Traffic.” Since then, every single work which has her play a role that has become popular, and as long as she plays the leading role, she can always contribute extremely high ratings and hot searches.



YangMi

When the popularity climbed to its peak, things began to change. This group of 流量明星 was always scolded because of their poor acting skills and the worrying quality of the works they starred in. And around 2017 and 2018, the number of anti-fans is increasing day by day, and they can even be included in hot searches because of being scolded. What is even more worrying is that 流量 needs to be continuously perfect and hot to achieve. Once your personal behavior destroyed the perfect fantasy in the hearts of fans. If there is a crisis, it must be resolved. The 流量明星 has entered the stage of

changing their appearance one after another. Yang Mi, who always plays the little fairy, played a disabled girl with a strong local flavor in “Baby” Transformation is a good trend, but there are gains and losses. Yang Mi’s attempt in “Baby” was not recognized. Personal changes such as marriage and divorce will inevitably affect her commercial value and traffic popularity.



YangMi in Movie “Baby”

Today, it has been replaced by second-generation and third-generation 流量. Behind 流量 is a group of young talents whose acting skills and image management are becoming more mature and have relatively high popularity. This group is sitting on high-quality film and television resources. Artists with a fan base are challenging the status of first-gen 流量明星. On the contrary, 流量 are a very risky branch of the entertainment industry. The popularity of standing still, the perfect image, and the good psychological quality of being able to keep smiling even when being scolded or hacked are all testing the artist under this title.

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One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://uhlibraries.pressbooks.pub/chin3343sp23/?p=178#audio-178-1>

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36. Lying Flat 躺平

躺平

ANONYMOUS 2

Lying flat (Tǎng Píng) is the act of being passive about work. It is rejecting the notion of working excessively hard to slowly improve oneself. It supports the idea that working grueling jobs or hours is not to core principle of life. It is associated with the youth of China who aren't worried about their professional careers excessively. It shares similarities to the anti-work movement in western countries.

China's labor laws make more than 44 hours in a week unpaid illegal. All overtime must be paid. This has never been enforced. It is well known that modern tech companies in China have a 996 culture. This means working 9AM – 9PM 6 days every week. This has caused backlash within China. A few high profile deaths occurred which were at least popularly attributed to over-work. This includes suicides and collapsing from exhaustion. The government tends to ignore all concerns until it causes instability within the country. Once it became a topic of public resentment, China stepped in and several court cases against employers were decided in the employees' favor (Yip).

Besides online comments against the practice, some younger people are seeing the whole thing as pointless. They are not seeking grueling work schedules and demanding work. They “lie flat” and treat work as something far removed from the central goal of life. People are avoiding the stressful jobs. China's pressure on a few high profile companies has also caused many others to not risk excessive overtime. The work place cultures are to blame. In many countries around the world, it is seen as lazy to only work the scheduled hours in office type jobs. This is seen in Japanese

culture. In America, the same thing can be sometimes seen as well. People have started to compare it to growing leeks. They struggle and grow only to be cut down. The euphemism shows they believe their abuse is nearly never for their own gain and simply to make massive companies richer at significant personal cost.

Outright resistance and confrontation with the government doesn't often end well for citizens in mainland China (violent crackdowns, harrasment from the government). Lying flat is therefore much more passive. This has created turmoil within the government. It's hard to identify and punish people who would choose such a lifestyle. It would also be extremely risky for the government to even try to punish those people. They have a good grip on the internet and public sentiment, but they are not in complete control. This is also easy to see with the way COVID restrictions suddenly ended. Protests were growing, so the government simply pulled back nearly every restriction without warning. The effects of China's one child policy now means there are nowhere near enough people to fill factories, high tech jobs, and carry out China's goal of being mostly self-sufficient. They need these youth, so they are trying improve work culture by attacking companies and encouraging youth to avoid sloth. They actively attack the notion as lazy, un-patriotic, and contemptible (Bandurksi).

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37. Martial Arts 武俠

M. C. HALTEK

武俠 or 武侠 (Wǔxiá) (Martial Arts Heroes)

Wǔxiá is a genre of Chinese fiction featuring martial artists in ancient China. Wǔxiá means “martial arts chivalry” or “martial arts heroes.” There is often an element of mysticism with the usage of superhuman abilities, cultivation, and items like miracle pills or drugs. Traditionally, it was used for historical fiction but has since been popularized to apply to Chinese opera, manhua (Chinese comics), TV shows, movies and films, books, and video games. It is commonly found and produced in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, especially in manhua and films. The creators of the genre are often attributed to Jin Yong, Gu Long, and Liang Yusheng. A wǔxiá film’s setting must have a time period hundreds of years in the past (mostly Yuan, Ming, or Qing Dynasty) and is set in China.

The 武 (wǔ) refers to martial arts, while the 俠 or 侠 (xiá) refers to chivalry or honorable warriors. This is typically a male lead, who has some type of martial arts prowess and is kind-hearted. Historical examples of this include Guan Yu, Ip Man, and Li Shuwen. Contemporary examples include Jackie Chan, Bruce Lee, and Donnie Yen. There is often a female lead acting as a romantic interest for the xiá and is usually beautiful while also excelling at martial arts.

There is an emphasis on martial arts, physical prowess, miracle drugs/medicine, and secret manuals. Popular forms of martial arts used are Wushu (Kung Fu) and Qinggong (轻功). There are also techniques and abilities used in combat, both defensively and offensively, featuring an inner energy known as qi, which can allow users to shoot energy-based projectiles or beams.

Characters are usually divided into good and bad factions, with the good triumphing in the end. Like all genres, there are many common tropes such as an evil martial arts school, blood brothers,

old masters, one-man army, etc. A famous example of the blood brother trope is the oath of the peach garden between Liu Bei, Guan Yu, and Zhang Fei in the Romance of the Three Kingdoms.

In contemporary times, wǔxiá is especially popular among male teenagers/students and young men. This is likely attributed to the rise in films, manhwa, and video games featuring it. For manhwa, the tales of action and adventure are especially appealing to this demographic. Some examples of modern films include *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), *Flying Swords of Dragon Gate* (2011), and *Shadow* (2018). Examples of modern manhwa include *Blades of the Guardian*, *Oriental Heroes*, and *Tales of Demons and Gods*. Examples of video games include *Songs of Wuxia*, *Age of Wushu*, and *Tale of Wuxia*. All of which demonstrate the impact and reach of the genre on modern society. Elements of wǔxiá can be found across the world, especially in America films like *Kung Fu Panda* or *Rogue One*, through the character of Chirrut Imwe portrayed by Donnie Yen.

Ex: “Hey have you seen any new wǔxiá manhwa or movies recently?” or “Wǔxiá is my favorite genre!”



Statue of Zhuge Liang/Kongming at Taoyuan Weitian Temple. Image by Jarrovia via Pixabay's Content License.



Statue of a Chinese warrior or deity at Luzhou Yonglian Temple. Photo by Jarrovia via Pixabay's Common License.



Statue of Guan Yu at Taoyuan Weitian Temple. Photo by Jarrovia via Pixabay's Common License.

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- Jarrow Guan Yu (Taoyuan Weitian Temple) © Jarrow



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38. Mulan 木蘭

NATHAN ABARCA



Mulan is a mythical person based on a story that was produced in the fourth or fifth century A.D that tells of a Chinese woman who was being drafted to fight a war because her family did not have a son who can take her father's place instead, so Mulan decided to disguises herself to look like a male to serve in her father's place in the ancient Chinese army to avoid having her father to fight in the war. After Mulan fought 12 years of the war against the Rourans, Mulan was honored and was given a position to become one of the top government officials of the state department due to her service in the ancient Chinese military, but she rejected the offer because she desired to return to her home. Mulan's full name in the mythical story is Hua Mulan. The meaning of the name of Mulan is "magnolia," and the meaning of Hua means "flower," thus, "Magnolia

Flower.” Also, the Chinese symbols of Hua Mulan’s name in simplified Chinese is 花木兰 and in traditional Chinese is 花木蘭. The pinyin of Hua Mulan is Huā mùlán. The cultural phenomenon of Mulan was her bravery especially in the myth of Mulan tells that she was confronting danger by fighting in the rigors of war for 12 years and perform brave acts that she has gained the admiration from her military officers, as well from the Chinese emperor that made the myth of Mulan more unique than other myths about women being heroic because ancient China along with other ancient civilizations and cultures did not spread myths of women being heroic very often. In the following centuries in after the myth of Mulan was produced, Mulan’s cultural phenomenon of bravery was being share with the ancient Chinese army because when the Tang Dynasty was founded in the sixth century, the founder was using the myth of Mulan to enhanced the morality of the Chinese soldiers to be motivated to gain success while fighting against their enemies. In the seventeenth century, the myth of Mulan has another cultural phenomenon was changing the story from the original myth of Mulan because the novel called “*Sui-Tang Romance*” tells that Mulan who was being forced to become the Khan’s concubine, but she committed suicide instead of being the Khan’s concubine as brave act of sole loyalty to her father and resistance against the Khan. What extended more of Mulan’s cultural phenomenon of her bravery to serve in the military in the twentieth century was that the Chinese created the film “*Mulan Joins the Army*” to serve as nationalism motivation widespread in China to encourage the Chinese to enlist in the Chinese military to liberate themselves from the Japanese occupation in China because film showed the story of the myth of Mulan and that she has gained fame through her military services, which has encouraged the Chinese to join the military to gain fame as well.

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39. Naked marriage (裸婚)

HANNAH R

simplified Chinese: 裸婚; **pinyin:** luǒhūn

Definition

Sometimes referred to as “bare marriage,” describes a couple who get hitched without any major assets and who spend little on their wedding ceremony. In recent years, there is a growing number of Chinese youth who opt out of expensive preparations and rituals. These trendy weddings are a sharp contradiction from traditional Chinese weddings that won't happen until the couple owns an apartment, a car, and wedding rings, and holds a grand, lavish ceremony. China's established marriage customs also encourage parents to help lay the material foundation for their children's marriage. Another trend among Chinese youth that diverges from Chinese tradition is “**flash marriage**”, a Chinese slang for a marriage between partners who have known each other less than one month. Both “naked marriage” and “flash marriage” represent a departure from traditional Chinese values and exemplify the changing attitudes of the Chinese youth.

Naked culture became popular after the **Global Financial Crisis**, which increased China's living costs and job competition. Under the influence of the financial crisis, naked culture grew in popularity. Two viral people who exemplified this culture were a college student that streaked on the street to the naked bathing beach of Sanya and the naked anchor doing push-ups. Thus “nakedness” is both a literal and figurative term. It is Chinese **netizens** who spread the ideology of naked culture.

Before the Chinese Valentine's Day, **Qixi Festival**, the social investigation of the China Daily conducted a 2011 poll in which nearly 48% of 3,214 respondents said they supported “naked marriages,” while 23% opposed it. Marriage has always been a cardinal issue for Chinese people, and the tradition of creating a material foundation comes from its symbolization of a family's social status. Unlike this family conception of marriage, modern young people place an emphasis on independence and freedom. Naked marriage also reflects a new mindset toward materialism in the modern world.

Examples

1.) “Compared with my peers who had everything when being married, my **naked marriage** seems a bit ‘shabby.’ But we’ve been together for eight years, and I think the foundation of marriage is love, rather than money.” *Wang Haimin, a PhD candidate in Beijing*

2.) An engaged young Chinese couple sits on a bicycle as they pose for wedding photographs to the theme of **naked wedding**, on a pedestrian bridge over a busy highway in a traffic jam on Valentines Day in Beijing, China, on February 14, 2011.



China Daily

3.) On April 24, 2016, 20 pairs of young lovers hold a special wedding ceremony in Hangzhou, eastern China's Zhejiang province. Without houses and cars, they wore flowers and green grasses, and kissed each other at the “lover tunnel”. They made their **naked marriage** oath: although I have no money and cars, I will love you all my life. All of the 20 couples were born after 1990.



Haiwainet.cn

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40. National Tide 國潮

ANONYMOUS 4

国潮 (guó cháo) (National Tide)

The definition of this term involves the integration of traditional Chinese culture in with domestic Chinese brands, services, and products for marketing purposes. This term starting in the fashion industry and has been spread to all kinds of industries. This term symbolizes the pride of Chinese nationalism with the upward growth of China's influence around the world. A lot of the younger generations have national pride and confidence in comparison to the older generations.

Some examples of when brands used a 国潮 marketing campaign rather than a regular marketing campaign are as follows: Adidas during their 2020 Chinese New Year campaign, Gucci's collection "Gucci Tian," and the brands: Catkin, White Rabbit, Li-Ning, and Hey-tea. Nowadays, you often see brands hold Chinese New Year campaigns, but some brands are more successful than others by the thought that is put into the campaign. Because brands need to understand the culture and appreciate the traditional things instead of modernizing or appropriating the culture which can turn the brand into a negative light. Another thing to note is that it is important to consider all cultural factors or else it could be very offensive when doing marketing in China. Some examples include in 2018 when Dolce & Gabbana released a campaign where it was depicted to show a Chinese woman struggling to eat Italian food. Or when Versace and Coach came out with a design where it seemed like they acknowledged that Hong Kong is not a part of China. There are so many industries besides the fashion industry that 国潮 has affected such as the food and drinks industry, entertainment industry, cosmetics industry, and online retailers.

The relevance of this term comes from how the Chinese people feel toward their own country now. Another term relates to the

pride of Chinese homegrown products. 屌丝逆袭 (diaosinixi) translates to “loser strikes back,” which is the idea of China’s growth catching up to the West. This trend has created international brands to consider 国潮 when it comes to marketing in China because it can make such an impact as to how well your brand does in China. Chinese brands are able to understand the culture and the Chinese consumerism in what is desired in products such as packaging, a prestigious image, and desirability. Chinese consumers are looking for meaningful connections with brands, which is why it is important for Chinese brands to focus on their market and for international brands to understand their Chinese customers.

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4I. National Trend 国朝

ANONYMOUS

Guochao, 国朝, guó cháo, means “national trend”. This fashion movement rose to prominence in 2018 by Li Ning who combined Chinese modernity with Chinese traditional wear. The brand knew Nike and Adidas had taken over, but they took a great leap of faith and took on a Taoism inspired look.



<https://www.hicom-asia.com/what-is-guochao-this-merging-trend-in-china/>

Guochao really saw its wave during the pandemic, the year of 2020, a year many saw a surge in national pride. This was because there was a growing uncertainty in Chinese ties with the rest of the world. The international tension was perfect fertile grounds in pushing nationalism which is the budding grounds of the guochao fashion movement. The Chinese Cultural Consumers are a group of individuals, mostly millennials and generation z Chinese, that are very tech savvy and very patriotic. They have been very big

consumers and advocates and a main reason guochao has seen such a high wave in its trend. They are influenced by the Cultural Opinion Leaders who are pioneers of culture in China. These individuals do not copy western ideas, they invent their own. They want Chinese business to thrive. And this is another group that has been behind guochao seeing such a high surge in participation. Many different brands have been inspired by the guochao brand and have collaborated with important Chinese institutions to win over groups like the Chinese Cultural Consumers. Guochao has become so trendy in China, it is threatening luxury brands dominance in China. Young Chinese individuals are no longer seeking western luxury brands. They are now only wanting guochao brand items. They have grown a sophisticated taste that only wants their labels to say “designed in China” or “created in China” which has become popular labels since the guochao trend.



Dior embraced the Guochao trend by combining traditional Chinese culture with modern style in its 2021 fall menswear collection. Image: Dior. <https://jingdaily.com/why-guochao-is-so-important-to-chinas-cultural-consumers/>

Brands are not solely guochao because they are Chinese. Brands are guochao because they are traditional Chinese with a modern twist.

And because of this, we are seeing western companies go to China and try to pick up on the guochao trend as well. This image is of Dove Chocolate trying to imitate the guochao trend.



Dove
chocolate's
2020 Lunar
New Year
collaboration
with The
Forbidden
City.
[https://focus
.cbbc.org/
are-gen-z-ch
inese-consu
mers-getting
-tired-of-the
-guochao-tre
nd/amp/](https://focus.cbbc.org/are-gen-z-chinese-consumers-getting-tired-of-the-guochao-trend/amp/)

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42. OST 原聲帶

JEAN-LUC NGUYEN

原聲帶 (Yuánshēngdài), also known as OST, has a special place in many fans' hearts. OST is an original soundtrack composed of many drama elements, including instrumental, singing, background music, and many more. Although OST is a soundtrack, only a glimpse of it is played in a drama; specific OSTs are played in different situations that match the theme of the song the most. In one article, it expresses how “a good soundtrack is crucial for a TV show, as it signals the tone of the scene and creates the right atmosphere [...] whilst soundtrack can improve a moment, it can also ruin it when the music is inappropriate, too loud, or unnecessary” (Hayley Vo). When an OST matches the scene's theme, it creates strong emotions in the audience; therefore, they will enjoy the scene more and the music. As a result, many fans would search for the full OST and listen to it just like any other song. In addition, many shows bring on famous singers to be featured on their OST; thus, this is a good marketing strategy to bring in more audience for their show.


One of the most popular OST soundtracks that are listened to by many fans is based on the drama “Ashes of Love.” I provided an image below that shows all the songs on that track. In addition, you can see there are many songs that Mao Buyi sings. As we learn in class, he is a very famous Chinese singer; his collaboration in the songs plays an important role in helping the drama grow in popularity. Many fans might not have heard of the drama but learned about it through listening to one of Mao Buyi's OST songs. Another image below displays how various options that come with OST. Not only are there countless songs, but fans can also listen to instrumental versions as well. Each of these OSTs has a specific role in the drama, which helps strengthens the scene and draw in many emotions from the audience. Overall, OST plays a significant role in

a drama through its ability to convey all kinds of emotions to the audience. Additionally, many celebrities collaborate on a variety of OSTs in order to help spread the drama's popularity and also their exposure to more fans.

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Public Playlist

jeanlucn



Ashes Of Love OST

Playlist com a trilha sonora de Heavy Sweetness, Ash like Frost OST / 香蜜沉沉醉如霜 (電視劇原聲帶), Dorama disponível com legenda PT-BR na Phoenix Fansub. Assista em: <https://phoenixfansub.blogspot.com/2019/08/ashes-of-love.html>

Phoenix Fansubs • 9,798 likes • 12 songs, 50 min 50 sec


Custom order

#	Title	Album	Date added	
1	不染 (主題曲) Mao Buyi	香蜜沉沉醉如霜 (電視劇原聲帶)	Jan 2, 2020	5:26
2	左手摺月 (片尾曲) Sa Dingding	香蜜沉沉醉如霜 (電視劇原聲帶)	Jan 2, 2020	3:50
3	天地無霜 (合唱版) 楊紫, 鄧倫	香蜜沉沉醉如霜 (電視劇原聲帶)	Jan 2, 2020	3:37
4	天地無霜 (合唱伴奏版) 楊紫, 鄧倫	香蜜沉沉醉如霜 (電視劇原聲帶)	Jan 2, 2020	3:37
5	天地無霜 鄧倫	香蜜沉沉醉如霜 (電視劇原聲帶)	Jan 2, 2020	3:37
6	天地無霜 (伴奏版) 鄧倫	香蜜沉沉醉如霜 (電視劇原聲帶)	Jan 2, 2020	3:37
7	情霜 楊紫	香蜜沉沉醉如霜 (電視劇原聲帶)	Jan 2, 2020	4:23
8	情霜 (伴奏版) 楊紫	香蜜沉沉醉如霜 (電視劇原聲帶)	Jan 2, 2020	4:23

- Ashes of Love © Spotify

Public Playlist

jeanlucn



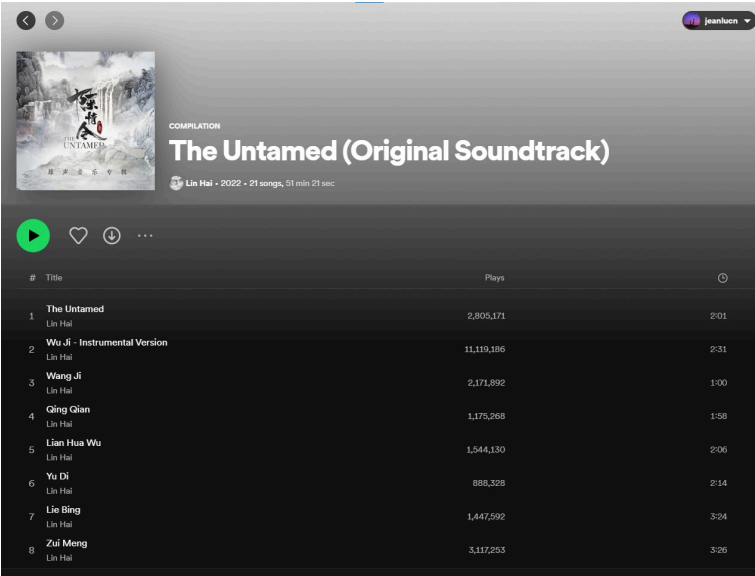
The Untamed OST+Songs

Rosamaria Helgarosse Palastro • 7,304 likes • 116 songs, 6 hr 15 min

Custom order

#	Title	Album	Date added	
1	[Theme Song] Wu Ji - Chorus Edition Xiao Zhan, WANG YIBO	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	4:13
2	[Theme Song] Wu Ji - Xiao Zhan Solo version Xiao Zhan	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	4:13
3	[Theme Song] Wu Ji - Wang Yibo Solo version WANG YIBO	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	4:13
4	[Wei Wuxian] Qu Jin Chen Qing Xiao Zhan	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	3:54
5	[Lan Wangji] Bu Wang WANG YIBO	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	5:17
6	[Wen Ning] Chi Zi Yu Bin	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	4:18
7	[Jiang Cheng] Hen Bie Wang Zhuocheng	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	3:43
8	[Lan Xichen] Bu You Liu Haikuan	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	4:45
9	[Nie Minghao & Nie Huaisang] Qing He Jue Ayunga	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	3:44
10	[Wen Qing] woodland Gao Qiyao	The Untamed	Nov 30, 2021	3:54

- The Untamed © Spotify



- The Untamed © Spotify

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OST 原聲帶 Copyright © by Jean-Luc Nguyen. All Rights Reserved.

43. Ruoxin Xu 許若心

ANONYMOUS

Ruoxin Xu, 若心 許, also referred to as Raw Xu, is changing beauty standards for China's beauty magazines. Her name Ruoxin, means assuming intelligence, heart, soul or mind. She is a published, plus sized model in China.

She was born in Zhejiang, but did most of her business dealings in Beijing. Ruoxin Xu graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in China. From there, she began doing freelance modeling gigs. She was on many covers of different magazines and even featured in a social media campaign for a Scandinavian brand named Ganni. Raw Xu found her way on the cover of March 2022 Vogue China which is a top feature for beauty models.



Vogue China.
Nick Yang.
<https://forums.thefashionspot.com/threads/vogue-china-march-2022-he-cong-ma-yanli-niu-yu-xu-ruoxin-by-nick-yang.406262/>

She is pushing body positivity heavily in China since being thin has been a beauty trend in China for a long time in recent years. She wants to see women of all sizes expressing their fashion and beauty. She is 5 foot 4 inches and 396 pounds at 22 years old. She had been overweight almost her entire life. The last time she was at a weight not considered obese was when she was under the age of 7 years old. She followed in the footsteps of her father and grandmother who are all, also, obese. She made a short film called “fatty meat” that showed all her rolls of fat while laying on a pink sofa, while in school.



<https://inf.news/en/featured/3acb78b1b7b70fda4358961595397a79.html>

She allowed all her skinny friends to touch her belly and made another exhibition called “touching my belly”. As she was doing this, her confidence grew tremendously. She became comfortable in her own skin behind the camera. She wrote a book called “the story of me and flesh” where she interviews and photographs fat people that are supposed to be comfortable in their skin, half naked. She

is an important figure in the body positivity media in China right now. Her importance is because of her changing the view on what is accepted as far as body shapes in the fashion industry and social acceptance.

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44. Shang Chi 尚志

ZUBAIR

The 1970s saw the creation of the Marvel Comics superhero Shang-Chi by Jim Starlin and Steve Englehart. He is a well-known “Master of Kung Fu” and an accomplished martial artist. Chinese culture has been significantly influenced by Shang-Chi, both inside the comic book industry and outside of it. Shang Chi’s portrayal of Chinese identity has one of the biggest effects on Chinese culture. Chinese characters were scarce in American comic books at the time of his creation, and those that were there were frequently stereotyped or belittled. On the other hand, Shang-Chi was a fully developed Chinese character with a fascinating past and a distinctive set of skills. This portrayal opened the path for more complex depictions of Chinese characters in popular media and served to humanize Chinese characters in American comics. Shang Chi was made to be a hero who embodied the best aspects of Chinese tradition. He was portrayed as a martial arts expert who had a thorough grasp of these principles. He further underlined the significance of these principles in Chinese culture by giving his character a feeling of dignity and respect for tradition. Chinese popular culture has been impacted by Shang Chi’s success. Chi’s persona has appeared in a variety of media, such as movies, video games, and products. This exposure helped spread the superhero comics genre more broadly in China and helped Chinese consumers become more familiar with the character. More recently, the release of a live-action Shang-Chi film has generated significant excitement among Chinese audiences. The movie, which has a largely Asian cast and crew, and is seen as a huge improvement in the portrayal of Asians in Hollywood. Simu Liu, the star of the movie, has also spoken out about the value of diversity in media, saying that he hopes the movie will encourage a new generation of Asian kids to chase their dreams. This exposure helped spread the superhero comics genre

more broadly in China and helped Chinese consumers become more familiar with the character.

Shang-Chi is a notable figure in the history of comic books because of the way he represents Chinese identity and the way he influences how Chinese martial arts are portrayed in popular culture. Due to the character's success, Chinese viewers are becoming more familiar with him, and the superhero comics genre as a whole is being promoted in China. Shang-Chi will probably continue to have an increasing influence on Chinese society for years to come, especially with the recent release of a live-action hit movie.



Shang Chi

By George Marston

Licensed Under GM

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45. Taobao 淘寶

JANICE PAN

淘宝 (Táobao)

Taobao is China's biggest online shopping platform operated by technology company Alibaba. It was first launched in 2003 and by 2010, had comprised 80 percent of China's online shopping market. As of 2019, Taobao has over 711 million active users with a transaction total of over three trillion Chinese yuan. Currently, Taobao is mainly catered towards Chinese-speaking regions such as Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, but has also launched a site targeted for Southeast Asian markets.

Taobao operates primarily as a Consumer-to-Consumer (C2C) and Business-to-Consumer (B2C) marketplace, meaning that businesses and individuals can sell to consumers through virtual online stores. Sellers on Taobao can either list their products as fixed prices or as an auction, allowing consumers to set the price. However, most products on Taobao are sold through the fixed price method. Buyers can also view a store's reviews, rating, and store details, allowing the consumer to make informed purchases.

Taobao also has a system of services built into the site that is unique when compared to Western ecommerce marketplaces like Amazon or Ebay. Firstly, buyers on Taobao can contact shops through an instant messaging system called Ali Wang Wang. This allows the consumer to ask questions about the product or make product customizations and specifications. Once the customer decides to make a purchase, they can do so using Alipay, an escrow-based online payment platform. Only once the consumer has received the goods and is satisfied with the product is the payment released to the seller, ensuring that promised goods are received.

In 2018, Taobao also launched a service called Taobao Live, contributing to the exponential rise of live-streaming commerce seen in Chinese markets. In the live-streaming commerce, a seller

will livestream their pitch about various cosmetic, clothing, food, or electronic products. Consumers can buy directly from these livestreams, and sellers will often promote short-term discounts that viewers can take advantage of. Taobao Live is a significant example of the success of live-streaming commerce, with daily sales of over \$3 billion.

Throughout the year, Taobao hosts multiple shopping events with deals and other promotions. One significant event is Single's Day on November 11th. It was first introduced in 2009 as a twenty-four-hour promotional festival offering shopping discounts, but slowly grew in popularity. Today, Single's Day is the largest physical retail and online shopping day in the world, with many of Taobao's competitors also hopping on the trend and promoting discounts on this unofficial holiday.

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46. Teens in Times 時代少年團

RENEE ZENG

时代少年团 (TNT/Teens in Times/Shídài shàonián tuán)



TNT group photo

TNT is the third boy group formed by Time Fengjun Entertainment in China after TFBOYS and Typhoon Teens(now disbanded). TNT has

become one of the most popular Chinese groups. TNT consists of seven members: Ma Jiaqi, Ding Chengxin, Song Yaxuan, Liu Yaowen, Zhang Zhenyuan, Yan Haoxiang, and He Junlin. Teens in Times means that the teens are full of unstoppable firepower future in the future, representing the optimism and courage of the group's seven members to fight against adversity. On August 25, 2019, the seven members were announced as a group, the group name was officially released on October 11, 2019. They participated in the 2019 Tmall Double Eleven Global Carnival Night on November 10th and formally debuted on November 23, 2019.

On December 6, 2019, they won the title of 2019 iQIYI Scream Night Annual Potential Combination of the Year. On December 8, 2019, they won the title of Annual New Sound Generation Group Award at TMEA Tencent Music Entertainment Festival. On December 31, 2019, they attended the 2020 Hunan Satellite TV New Year Concert. On July 19, 2020, they attended the 27th Oriental Billboard and won the Best New Group Award. On December 10, 2020, the theme song of the same name sung for the film “Qing Ya Ji” was launched. On December 6, 2020, they attended the QQ Music BOOM BOOM AWARD 2020 and won the Popular Idol Group of the Year Award. On December 20, 2020, they won the title of Trend Group of the Year for Tencent Starlight Awards 2020. On December 28, 2020, the single “2035 Is the Young” was released digitally. On December 31, 2020, they attended the New Year celebration of Oriental satellite TV. On February 11, 2021, they boarded the stage of the Spring Festival Gala of CCTV 2021 and performed the song “Running Youth.” On February 28, 2021, they won the Popular Group of the Year Award for Weibo Night Award 2020.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online

here: <https://uhlibraries.pressbooks.pub/chin3343sp23/?p=176#video-176-1>

The members of TNT have attracted attention since they were trainees because they are the next generation of TFBOYS. In Time Fengjun Entertainment, as everyone knows, since the TFBOYS period, the company films documentaries of trainees' practice and posts them online. Because the members have been exposed to the public before their debut, each member gains many fans during these times. It also laid a foundation for their status in the current mainland entertainment area.

Teen idols are always a hot topic in China because of their education level, behaviors, also fans' behaviors. Different from others, Time Fengju's artists are all keeping up with their studies, even though it is difficult to take care of their studies with their busy schedules. But they must do well in their school work because their "older brother" TFBOYS did good jobs before. The net citizens always compare TNT members with TFBOYS, especially some TFBOYS fans. They always complain about the company taking all the time to take care of TNT rather than TFBOYS. I think these sights and pressures are also the reason why they perform better among the existing Chinese mainland idols.

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Teens in Times 時代少年團 by Renee Zeng is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License, except where otherwise noted.

47. Time Concert 時光音樂會

ANONYMOUS 3

In the crowded field of singing shows in China, there are few that stand out above the rest for their unique concept or execution, but the show 時光音樂會 (shíguāng yīnyuè huì), or Time Concert, accomplishes this feat. This show first aired in 2021 on 芒果TV (mángguǒ TV or MangoTV) with some household names like Alan Tam, Terry Lin, and Jason Zhang to name a few. The high-profile cast certainly garnered interest in the new show, but it was the show's relaxed and enjoyable theme that kept viewers' interest and allowed the show to air a second season the following year in 2022. In this show a regular cast of seven experienced singers of different backgrounds gather together and perform a song individually or in pairs in accordance to the theme of that episode. The themes of these episodes are usually based around the one or two guest singers that appear for an episode or two, with the general format of all of the singers in that particular episode performing a song originally performed by the chosen singer for that episode. The chosen singer is either pulled from the regular cast, or from the guest singers. (Some of the guests for the first season include Hacken Lee, He Jiong, and Han Hong.) And in a rather unique set up for a celebrity singing show, these singers are not competing at all with each other, they are simply performing for each other. This is the main draw for the show since many viewers feel anxious when their favorite singer(s) is competing and instead want to simply bask in the skills of the singer(s) without worry. Time Concert gives viewers this opportunity.

Furthermore, another key feature of this show is that the singers and original performer of the songs get to share stories and express

the meaning behind the songs. By doing this they allow everyone to feel more connected to them on a personal level and this brings new insight and respect for all the artists. On a marketing level, it is a brilliant strategy since no one goes home with the burden of having lost over their head; both the singers and the viewers are allowed to simply enjoy themselves and enjoy their profession without the worry of a ranking system. And on a personal level, everyone gets to feel that they won in their own way and was able to make meaningful connections with the other singers they may not have previously had a chance to interact with as well as with the viewers.



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48. Watermelon-eating people (吃瓜群眾)

HANNAH R

simplified Chinese: 吃瓜群眾; **pinyin:** chī guā qún zhòng

Definition

Literally means “people eating watermelon”; figuratively means people on Internet forums who don’t know the facts of the topic or those who don’t care what is being discussed. Since 2016, people started to call these passive spectators “watermelon-eating people.” Being unaware of a fact is a rather neutral meaning but netizens often use the term for those who gossip about matters that don’t affect them. This term has gained enough recognition to be included in the list of top 10 buzzwords of 2016 posted by the entertainment magazine *Yaowen Jiaozi*.

There is no concrete origin for this term. A popular belief is that it came from a 2016 roadside interview in which a reporter questioned an elder bystander who witnessed a fatal traffic accident. The witness told the reporter: ‘I don’t know anything. I was eating a watermelon.’ Another origin comes from a Weibo post of a watermelon exploding from the heat on a supermarket shelf in Shenyang, Liaoning province. Netizens remarked, “别吃瓜了，瓜都吐了”。The term “瓜” is used as a pun of the Chinese word for gossip, 卦, since both are pronounced “gua”. One more speculation suggests that the term comes from a fifth to third-century BCE book titled *Book of Rites*, which describes how different classes of people enjoy eating melons: people of higher social status enjoyed the peeled

melon covered with a fine cloth, whereas the ordinary masses must peel off the skin and eat it along the rind—thus never uncovering the appearance of the melon inside.

This popular term became the book title of Liu Zhenyun's ***The Era of Watermelon Eaters***. The title is inspired by a popular internet meme that is used when people are indifferent to what's happening around them. Liu is a China contemporary writer who addresses the startling apathy of internet vigilantes. He provides an extreme example of this indifference in the novel when Yang Kaituo, head of the provincial highway authority bureau, is caught smiling at cameras while inspecting a major bridge collapse. Therefore, his novel suggests that watermelon eaters are not only indifferent to the current issues but also find enjoyment in them.



Watermelon
Eating
People Meme

Examples

1.)

每个新闻都会有很多吃瓜群众围观。

There will be many **onlookers** behind every piece of news.

2.)

A: 你对白百合出轨怎么看？

What do you think of Bai Baihe having an extra-marital affair?

B: 我没什么看法，我只是一个吃瓜群众。

Nothing. I am just a **watermelon eater**.

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Media Attributions

- Watermelon Eating People Meme



Watermelon-eating people (吃瓜群眾) by Hannah R is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License, except where otherwise noted.

49. WeChat 微信

微信

ANONYMOUS 2

WeChat (Wēixin 微信) is a very popular messaging app used primarily in mainland China and by overseas Chinese from the mainland. It is not used much in Taiwan. It serves the basic messaging function of many other phone apps. It also includes the ability to pay and transfer money.

In the early 2010s, QQ was among the most popular messaging apps available. It was available on PCs independent of cell phones. QQ is more comparable to Facebook. It is produced by Tencent, a Chinese technology company. They later released WeChat, which at the beginning had many of the same functions but served more as a messaging app. It is phone based, but there are ways to use it from a PC, but they still require a phone installation and often require logging in through a phone.

In the mid-2010s, it became widely used within mainland China to pay for goods and services at many smaller stores or roadside vendors. WeChat's Chinese name means micro-message, a reference to its quick messaging style. Many street vendors in China will display QR codes for WeChat and Alipay. A user opens either app and scans a QR code. They can easily be used for person to person transfer as well. The receiver can quickly create a QR code in the app and show it to the payer. The person paying scans the code, then types in the amount being sent. Alipay is more financially centered (essentially mobile banking) as opposed to a messaging system such as WeChat.

The app provides the convenience of credit cards without the

fees for transfers. Businesses in the United States will pay credit card transaction rates that tend to be around 3 percent. It allowed people to avoid banking fees for simple transfers, so it quickly took off. It does limit the amount of money being transferred without a mainland Chinese bank account. Since foreign visitors aren't allowed mainland accounts, it prevents extensive financial use by foreigners without work permits. It can, however, be used for purchases of up to a few tens of dollars such as food and drinks.

The app has become near ubiquitous within. Business is often conducted through the app. Many sales people will have their WeChat contact information (which is normally their phone number) included wherever they include contact information. It passed one billion active users in 2018 (Jao).

There are some concerns about WeChat's privacy. The app must comply with all Chinese laws, which ensures the Chinese government monitors activity within the app. This will include the ability to find location history of users. It also means mass surveillance and censorship even within messages among friends (Davidson).

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50. Weibo 微博

JEAN-LUC NGUYEN

微博 (wēi bó), also known as Weibo, is one of China's biggest social media platforms; it is a microblogging space that allows users to interact with each other. Similarly, it can be compared to powerhouse names such as Twitter, Facebook, etc. As a result, many people refer to Weibo as “Chinese Twitter.” One of the most significant factors in its exponential growth since its launch in 2009 is that the country banned all social media-related platforms; there were many incidents regarding riots and suspicion of foreign spies; therefore, the Chinese government has to take precautionary measures. Thus, the vast majority of Chinese people depend on Weibo as the leading platform to voice their opinions on various topics worldwide; in addition, it is an excellent tool for fans to express themselves concerning celebrities or other current events. Although the ban had some backlash, it benefited China's economy because there were no competitors; hence, it encouraged more users to be active on Weibo instead. According to Weibo, there are “582 million monthly users [...] net addition of approximately 51 million users on a year-over-year basis” (Yahoo Finance). This data signifies that Weibo plays a crucial role in the daily lives of many. Therefore, people would use this cultural term, such as “What is your Weibo?” as a way to connect with one another. Like in the states, we would ask each other for details regarding their Instagram/Facebook when trying to get to know someone.

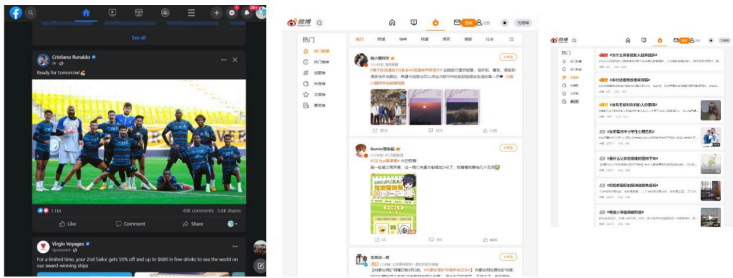
The image I provided below is a screenshot of Yang Mi's account on Weibo and Instagram. She is a famous actress best known for her role in ‘Eternal Love’. Moreover, you can see the resemblance between the two social media platforms. Likewise, celebrities and users can post pictures while allowing their followers to interact with them. Furthermore, they have a section on the site under “热门微博” to see what is trending. There is also a section for 话题榜 (topic

list) and 要闻榜 (news), which provides users with various topics they can click and read about. I thought this is very interesting because this side of Weibo resembles Facebook; this explains why they are popular because it provides users with so much flexibility and options. Although China bans the big names social media websites, Weibo can provide users with features that are on par with those platforms; it is essentially a combination of all of them, which I think is extremely convenient.

Weibo constantly updates and adds new features as it continues to dominate the social media industry; it has beaten all its competitors to become China's social media powerhouse platform and will continue to do so in the upcoming years.

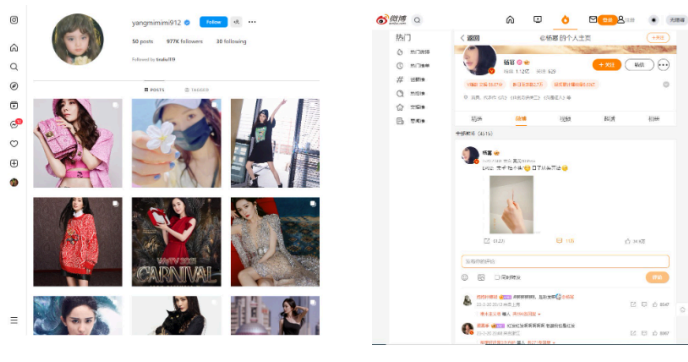
Weibo vs Facebook

Weibo vs Facebook



- Screenshot @ Weibo

Weibo vs Instagram



- Yang Mi © Weibo

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Media Attributions

- Weibo vs Facebook © Weibo
- Weibo Screenshot © Weibo

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51. Wong Kar Wai 王家衛

SANA RAJENDRAN

Wong Kar-Wai, known in Mandarin Chinese as 王家衛 (Wángjiāwèi), is an extremely influential director from Hong Kong. His films typically center Chinese people, and he uses complex narratives and storytelling to depict love, tragedy, and loss. Wong is multi talented in the film industry, and he is credited in a number of his films as not only the director, but the writer, cinematographer, and producer. However, what he is most famous for is his cinematography and directing.

His most notable films include *In the Mood for Love*, *Chungking Express*, and *Happy Together*. All of these movies show unconventional characters and narratives, as Wong goes to great lengths to show different types of lifestyles. As a Chinese director operating in the 90s and early 2000s, his decision to make a film featuring queer leads was incredibly bold. He is also known for not concluding his films with a satisfying ending — in other words, there are few happy endings in his movies. For example, *In the Mood for Love* follows two main characters, a man and a woman, both of whom are being cheated on by their spouse. Once the two realize that their respective spouses are actually having an affair with each other, they begin to bond over their shared grieving of their marriage. As a new relationship blooms in the shadow of another, the two go through a wide range of emotions. They wonder if they are falling in love, or if they are in love with the idea of each other, or worse yet, if they are only pretending to love to feel what their spouses felt. This type of exploration of the complexities of love is so specific to Wong's screenwriting style, and he uses his skills to ask the audience to self-reflect.

A lot of Wong Kar Wai's cinematic shots are selected for in-depth analysis due to the intricacy of their composition, lighting, framing,

etc. For example, *Chungking Express* is particularly lauded by film critics for its use of shaky shots to communicate the feeling of uncertainty that the main characters have. Throughout the film, there are flashes of unclear, fast footage that breaks up the continuity. This is one example of a cinematography technique that he is known for. Wong has become an international household name, and global audiences appreciate the feelings that he transmits through his art — they surpass language and cultural barriers.



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52. Xi Jinping Winnie the Pooh

MATTHEW TAO

Winnie the Pooh (also known as Pooh or Pooh bear) is a household name in the Western world; its many books, movies, toys, and adaptations, have taught children to love, forgive, be patient, and accept, among many other virtuous lessons. However, unbeknownst to many, the beloved cartoon bear is loathed by the Chinese government, and more specifically, by their leader Xi Jinping.

Chinese leadership's hatred of Pooh stems from a diplomatic meeting in 2013. As Chinese President Xi Jinping deboarded the plane to greet former American President Barack Obama, many photographers clamored to get a snapshot of the historic moment.

However, the precedence of Xi and Obama's meeting was not the focus of online viewers. Instead, many were quick to point out and ridicule the pictures taken: Xi and Obama's pictures appeared to have an uncanny resemblance of a scene out of the Pooh book series:



It is, without a doubt, that Xi was Winnie the Pooh and Obama was Tigger. Despite the heavy ridicule Xi received from this photo, it took two more incidents for the Chinese government

First, following the same year, President Xi was captured in another photograph striking the same pose but this time with Japan's prime minister Shinzo Abe. And again, Xi was mocked all over social media.

And finally, in 2015, a picture of Xi at a parade with a Winnie the Pooh decoration mocking him in the background was the final nail in the coffin. The photo went viral and was the most censored picture of the year.

Following this incident, the Chinese government declared its dissent of the infamous meme: they stated that the infamous likening undermined the authority and power of both the regime and the leader. However, most have speculated that it was mainly just Xi personally that do not like the comparison.

The Chinese ban on anything Pooh related obviously did not thwart its use outside of China; instead, it did the complete opposite. For example: amid the heightened tensions along the China-India border in 2020, tweets directed against China included some kind of hashtag referring to Pooh:



However, do not get it twisted: Western propaganda has put out the narrative that China is an obsessive communist regime and has wiped out anything Pooh related in China. Yet if we give a quick

search on a popular Chinese search engine Baidu, Winnie the Pooh is well and alive:



To set the record straight, Winnie the Pooh as a derogatory reference to Chinese leader Xi is banned in China. Thus, the meme is commonly used by Chinese people outside of China (especially by young Chinese Americans) and everywhere else but in China.

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Media Attributions

- Winnie the Pooh and Tigger vs Chinese President Xi Jinping and former US leader Barack Obama © Fandom/Getty Images

- Twitter screenshot
- Baidu Screenshot

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53. Yabi 亚逼

ANONYMOUS

Since the shamate subculture died down in China, a new one has since risen called the Yabi subculture. The term is a compound word using the word ya 亚 meaning sub like subculture and a derogatory term bi逼, usually used for insults like idiot or fake or poser. This new subculture has come from the new wave of underground, urban music. Because of technological advancements the new wave quickly expanded over medias like Xiaohongshu and Douyin. Hipsters to the westerners are similar to what Yabi's are to the Chinese people.



<https://radii.co/>

Some of the things you may see on a Yabi are colorful hair, tattoos, thigh high stockings, lots of accessories, ripped leggings, and much inspiration from the kogaryu schoolgirl style. With that being said, style amongst the Yabi community differs greatly. Some follow a goth aesthetic with blacked out outfits, while some follow handmade, hippie looking outfits with vintage clothing. There has even been some infusion with the neo Chinese style lately with its takeover that has been seen amongst young Chinese individuals.



<https://radii.co/>

While Yabi seems like a fun fashion trend to some, Yabi has grown some controversy over its time. The term yabi is now being used as an insult towards individuals who participate in its trend because people feel it was supposed to be an attack against mainstream and instead it got swallowed by the thoughts of mainstream media. People feel the Yabi individuals care too much about what people think and try too hard to over dress themselves.

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54. Zhanan 渣男

TRISHA NGUYEN

Zhanan(Chinese: 渣男,pinyin: zhānán) is a Chinese internet slang term for men who are self-centered, irresponsible and have a negative personalities, but it can also refer to men who do not work hard for advancement in their careers. It is also used to describe creepy perverted males. In Chinese, “zha” is one of the lowest possible rating people can give to people. Zha-渣, which translates roughly as “dregs” or “dross,” which serves no purpose and should be eliminated, and nan-男 means male. In China, zhanan most commonly refers to unfaithful men or playboys. It translates to “rubbish man” or “jerk” in English. Currently, many non-Chinese speakers mistakenly think that zhanan also means “ugly man”. However, these two words have completely different meanings. Ugly man is just about the person’s appearance is not appealing to society’s standard. Zhanan refers to a man who has bad personalities and manners. The term gained its popularity through modern Chinese romance novels, which later makes it also popular among young people. It was originally used to describe male antagonists in romance novels, who have distinct characteristics such as being self-centered, unfaithful in relationships, inconsiderate, etc. They can be men who cheat when in a relationship or playboys who often break. Sometimes, they also refer to men who are not motivated to work hard for career advancement. Those characters are usually the cause of the main story’s plot, serving as obstacles to the main characters’ relationship. As the story ended, zhanan characters often face the consequences of their bad actions. The term zha also apply to women who share the same characteristic as zhanan, those women are called zhanu(渣女).

According to psychologists, the root cause of zhanan is low self-esteem, which leads men to believe they are unworthy of a genuine

relationship. They attempt to mask their insecurities through cocky appearances and actions. They believe they can overcome their insecurities by bringing other people down and viewing others as a “challenge,” the more challenges they can pass, the more worthy they are. It can also come from their family’s poor education, as many zhanan are closed-minded and view women as an object which explain their terrible actions toward women. As a result, they will settle for whoever they can get because people usually only accept the kind of love they believe they deserve.

Example:

A: This guy I’m seeing shows up every other week to spend time with me, then just goes incommunicado. It’s been months. What is wrong with him?

B: Either he’s a spy or a zhanan.

A: But I like him. I can’t live without his sweet words on WeChat.

B: Wake up. You are such an enabler.

(“Chinese Urban Dictionary: Zhanan”)

Citations

“Chinese Urban Dictionary: Zhanan.” *That’s Online*, www.thatsmags.com/shanghai/post/14505/chinese-urban-dictionary-zha-nan.

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