

應用社會科學畢業生憑女同性戀研究奪美國心理學會大獎

Applied Social Studies graduate receives international award for homosexuality study



(於2008年8月28日刊登)

香港城市大學（城大）應用社會科學系應屆畢業生鄒家怡獲得「美國心理學會屬下第52號學會—國際心理學會」頒發的學生研究比賽大獎，並且是今年唯一的本科生得獎者。

鄒家怡的研究題目為「香港與內地女同性戀者之比較研究」，主要探討香港和內地不同文化背景下的女同性戀者如何因羞恥心、自我評價、同性戀者身分認同及親朋支持等因素，作出「出櫃」（即公開表明同性戀者身分）的決定。

今年1月至5月期間，鄒家怡收集了231名香港女同性戀者及199名內地女同性戀者的問卷回應，然後加以分析。結果發現，羞恥心會使女同性戀者降低自我評價，減低其對同性戀者身分的認同，最後減少「出櫃」的意願。此外，兩地女同性戀者的調查結果沒有明顯差別。

鄒家怡發現，兩地女同性戀者受羞恥心影響作出「出櫃」決定的程度相若，這與中國傳統價值觀有關，她說：「雖然香港人受西方思想影響較大，但只限於日常生活表面和習慣；在更深層意義上，中國傳統思想和價值觀並沒有受到影響。所以兩地的女同性戀者都認為，自己的行為未必得到大眾認同。」

該女同性戀研究原本是鄒家怡今年的畢業習作，當時只針對香港女同性戀者，後經應用社會科學系鄭相德教授提議和鼓勵，加入內地女同性戀者研究部分。鄭教授表示，鄒家怡很勤奮，能夠以本科生身分在多數由研究生囊括獎項的國際比賽中脫穎而出，實在難得。

鄒家怡所做的香港女同性戀者研究發現，較多受訪者選擇向朋友傾訴衷曲，而較少向家人或親屬吐露隱衷。九成以上受訪者表示，父親和兄弟俱不是傾訴對象；六成受訪者曾向家人透露同性戀傾向，而95%的人曾向朋友透露同性戀傾向。研究結果反映，香港女同性戀者認為朋輩關係約束較小，朋友比父母更能接受其性取向。

鄒家怡還表示，由於很多女同性戀者沒有公開身分，接觸她們有一定難度。她透過朋友、同性戀者網站及同性戀者機構，花了五個月時間才收集到足夠數據完成研究，最後憑研究獲獎，感到十分高興。

美國心理學會是全球最大的心理學家組織，擁有15萬名會員，其屬下的國際心理學會今年只向三名學生頒發大獎，唯鄒家怡為本科生。

(Published on 28 August 2008)

A psychology research paper by Pizza Chow Ka-ye, a recent Applied Social Studies graduate of City University of Hong Kong (CityU), received the Award of Excellence in the 2008 Student International Research Awards organised by Division 52 (International Psychology) of the American Psychological Association (APA). Pizza was the only undergraduate among the three award-winning students.

In her research paper, *Self-stigma, Homosexual Identity and "Coming Out": A Comparative Study of Lesbians in Hong Kong and Mainland China*, Pizza investigated how publicly "coming out" was influenced by perceptions of shame, stigmatisation, homosexual identity and expected social support from family and friends.

Pizza conducted a survey questioning 231 lesbians from Hong Kong and 199 from mainland China from January to May 2008. After analysing the data, she found that shame devalued one's perception of their homosexuality, which in turn reduced the likelihood of publicly revealing their sexual preference. Similar results were recorded between the two survey samples.

Pizza said the similarities between Hong Kong and mainland China reflected traditional Chinese values. "Westernisation has a superficial influencing on Hong Kong people's daily lives and habits but not their deep-rooted cultural characteristics and mindset," said Pizza. "Both Hong Kong and mainland Chinese lesbians believe that any behaviour that deviates from the norm is regarded as publicly unacceptable."

Other media coverage :

Newspapers

29-8-2008 Apply Daily 《蘋果日報》, Ming Pao Daily News 《明報》, Sing Tao Daily 《星島日報》, Ta Kung Pao 《大公報》

6-9-2008 South China Morning Post 《南華早報》

9-9-2008 Ta Kung Pao 《大公報》

Related link:

CityU Institutional Repository
<http://hdl.handle.net/2031/5175>



The research evolved from Pizza's final year project, in which she investigated Hong Kong lesbians. Her supervisor, Professor Cheng Sheung-tak, Department of Applied Social Studies, encouraged her to expand her research to include lesbians in mainland China. Professor Cheng said Pizza is a diligent student and who has achieved excellent results in an international competition usually dominated by graduates.

Pizza found the study's subjects choose to talk to their friends in preference to family members. More than 90% indicated they did not confide in fathers or brothers. Only 60% "came out" to family members, while 95% disclosed their sexual orientation to friends. The results show Hong Kong lesbians believe relationships between friends are less inhibited by social mores. Friends tend to be more tolerant of homosexuality than parents.

Pizza experienced difficulty finding subjects since many lesbians did not publicly disclose details of their sexuality. She spent five months collecting data through her personal network and lesbian websites and organisations.

APA, a US-based scientific and professional organisation with 150,000 members, is the largest association of psychologists in the world.