THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

ANNOUNCES THE FINAL EXAMINATION OF

Tao Wei

FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

GRADUATE COLLEGE

Department of Health Promotion Sciences

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College of Public Health Building, Room 144

MEASURING MINORITY STIGMA AMONG CHINESE WOMEN WITH SAME-SEX ATTRACTION

COMMITTEE IN CHARGE: Thomas A. Teasdale, DrPH, Chair
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ABSTRACT: The association between minority stigma and disproportionately high rates of substance abuse/mental health problems have been widely explored and reported in a large number of studies among lesbian women in Western countries. However, similar research efforts among Chinese women with same-sex attraction remain scarce. This study devoted itself to understanding minority stigma that Chinese women with same-sex attraction (WSSA) have experienced in order to provide insights into the everyday lives of millions of Chinese WSSA. The findings of this study would lay the groundwork for measuring minority stigma and its impact on mental health of Chinese WSSA. The ultimate goal of this study was to inform health promotion programs and policies for the rarely studied minority---Chinese WSSA, in the rarely studied locus---Mainland China. The point of this project was not to apply minority stigma scales developed in Western countries to WSSA in mainland China, but rather to subject these instruments to a specifically Chinese reformulation. Mixed research methodologies were employed to collect data both through in-depth telephone interview with semi-structured qualitative questions, and through survey with structured questions built upon stigma measurements commonly used in the US and Europe. Culturally sensitive qualitative analysis and statistical path analysis utilizing structural equation modeling were employed to understand stigma experiences of Chinese WSSA and to estimate direct and indirect effects of latent variables which are recognized as difficult and error-prone.