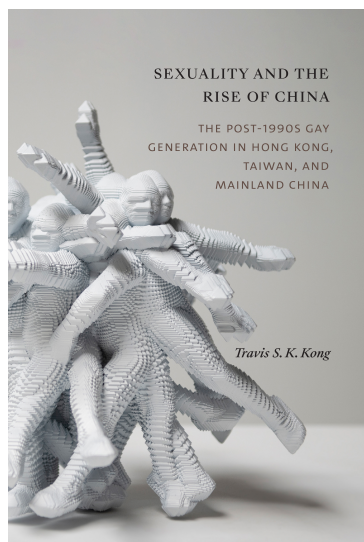




# Gender and Sexualities Workshop Book Club

fall 2023 | This meeting will take place digitally over Zoom

The Sociology Department's Gender and Sexualities Workshop is a group of faculty and graduate students who meet regularly to present and discuss new research. The digital book club is a part of that group.



## Sociology Gender and Sexualities "Digital Book Club" Discussion

### ***Sexuality and the Rise of China: The Post-1990s Generation in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mainland China***

Travis S. K. Kong

Co-Editor, *Sexualities* (Sage journal)

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

The University of Hong Kong, China

**Thursday, November 2, 6:00-7:15 pm PST**

(Note: this is an early evening digital event because Travis is joining us from a distant time zone)

In *Sexuality and the Rise of China* Travis S. K. Kong examines the changing meanings of same-sex identities, communities, and cultures for young Chinese gay men in contemporary Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China. Drawing on ninety life stories, Kong's transnational queer sociological approach shows the complex interplay between personal biography and the dramatically changing social institutions in these three societies. Kong conceptualizes coming out as relational politics and the queer/*tongzhi* community and commons as an affective, imaginative means of connecting, governed by homonormative masculinity. He shows how monogamy is a form of cruel optimism and envisions state and sexuality intertwining in different versions of homonationalism in each location. Tracing the alternately diverging and converging paths of being young, "Chinese," gay, and male, Kong reveals how both Western and emerging inter- and intra- Asian queer cultures shape queer/*tongzhi* experiences. Most significantly, at this historical juncture characterized by the rise of China, Kong criticizes the globalization of sexuality by emphasizing inter-Asia modeling, referencing, and solidarities and debunks the essentializing myth of Chineseness, thereby decolonizing Western sexual knowledge and demonstrating the differential meanings of Chineseness/queerness across the Sinophone world.

**Dr. Travis Kong**, is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Hong Kong and, since 2012, has served as Co-Editor at *Sexualities: Studies in Culture and Society*. His work is part of the newly emerging interdisciplinary field of Asian queer studies, a body of scholarship that aims to understand the complex process of Western, local and inter-regional knowledge systems in shaping experiences, identities and desires in specific sites in and throughout Asia. He is among the leading interdisciplinary scholars of Chinese masculinities and has published widely, internationally, and interdisciplinarily on this topic.

