



# Issues in China

# Women in China

- What was women's status in Chinese society in the past?
  - For example...
- What is women's status now?
  - For example...



# Confucianism & Women

- What was a woman's place in Confucianism?



# Feminism in China

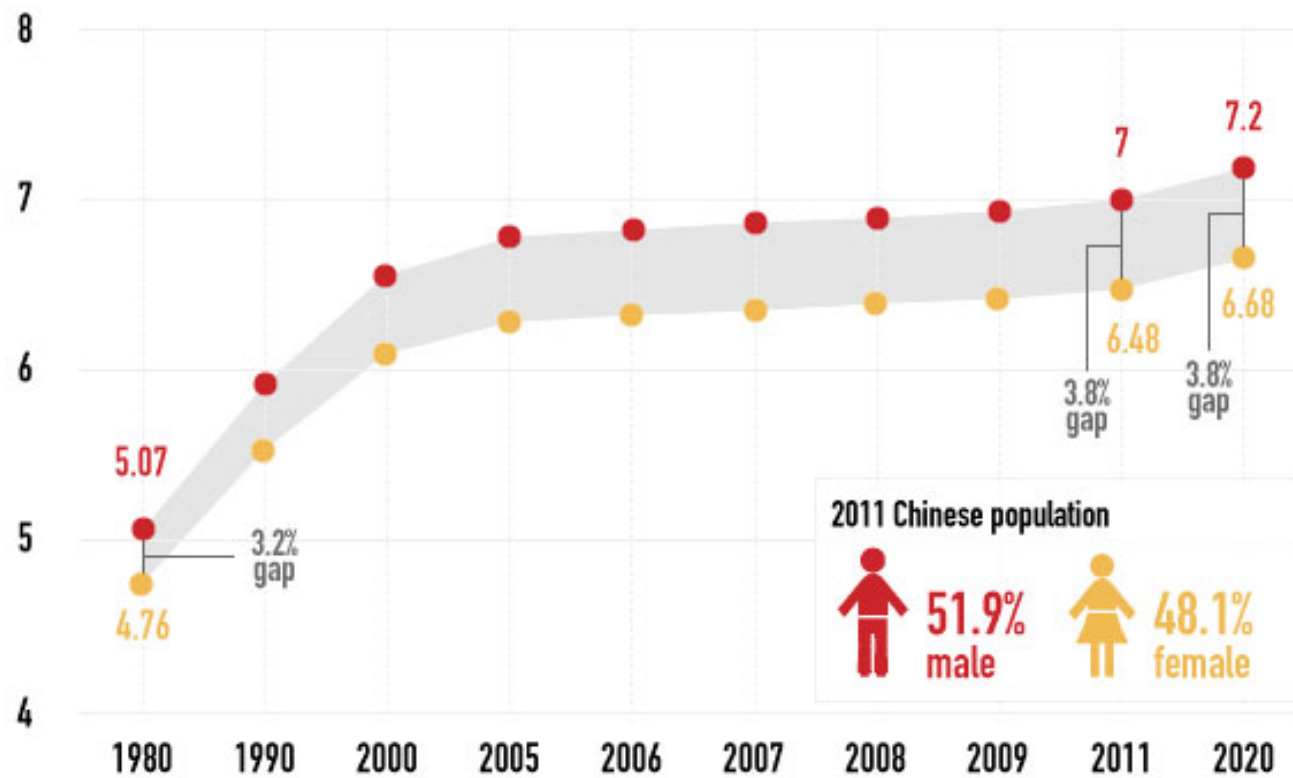
- What do Chinese people think about Feminism now?
- VIDEO – Beijingers on Feminism



# China's Missing Women



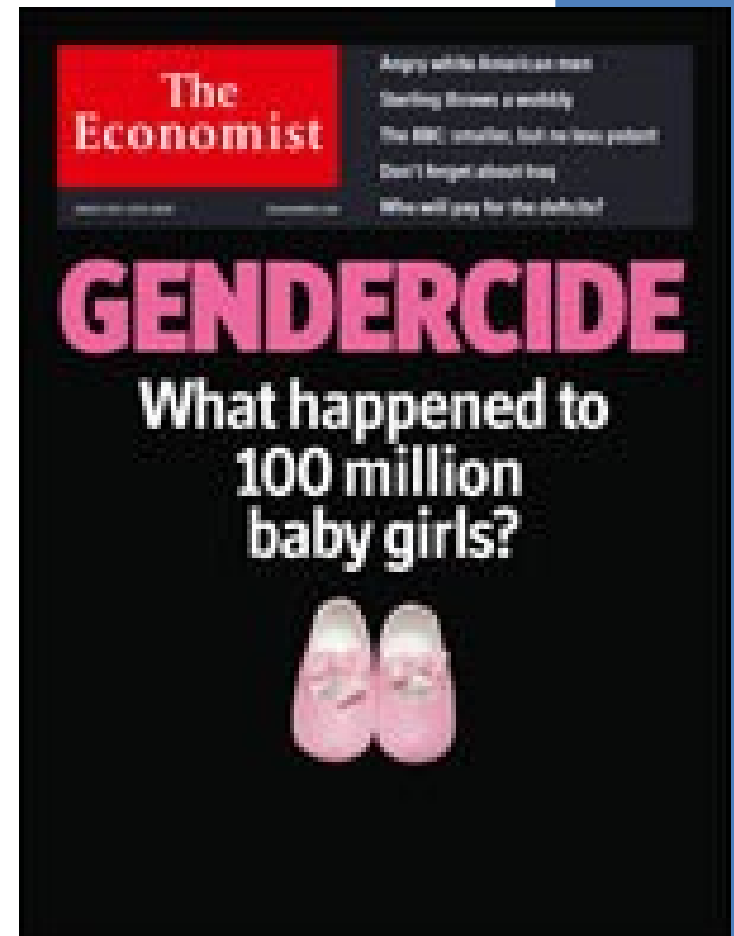
# CHINA'S GENDER GULF (in hundred millions)



Source: United Nations Development Programme

# Missing Women

- There are 50 million fewer women in China than there should be. Why?



# Missing Women

- Sex-selective abortion
- Female infanticide
  - 2,000 year history
- Inadequate nutrition for girls
- Non-registration of female babies at birth





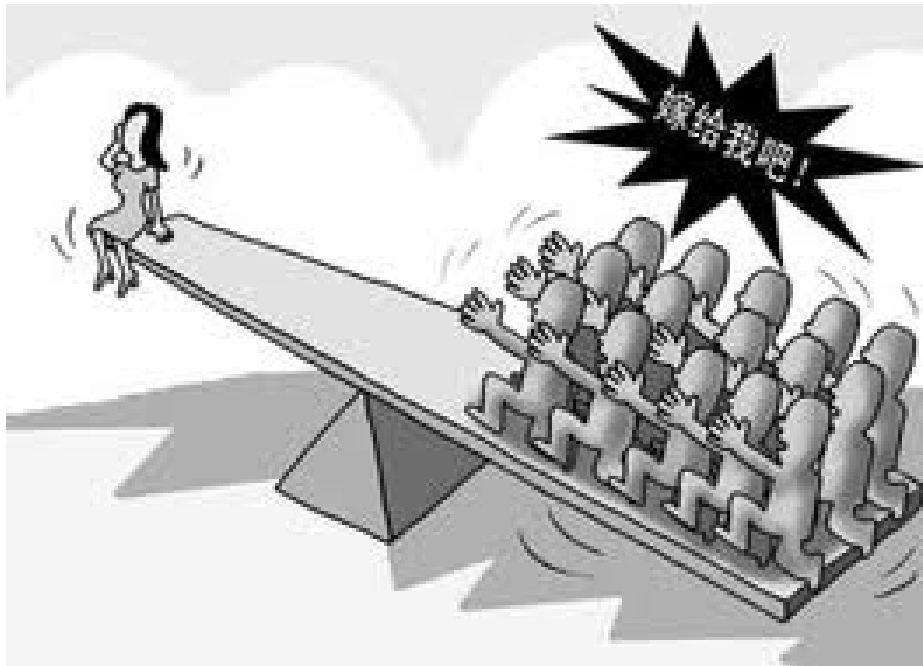
# Missing Women

- What are the effects of having missing women?



# Consequences of Missing Women

- “Bare Branches”
  - Wifeless men
- Increased trafficking of women



# Trafficking

- VIDEO

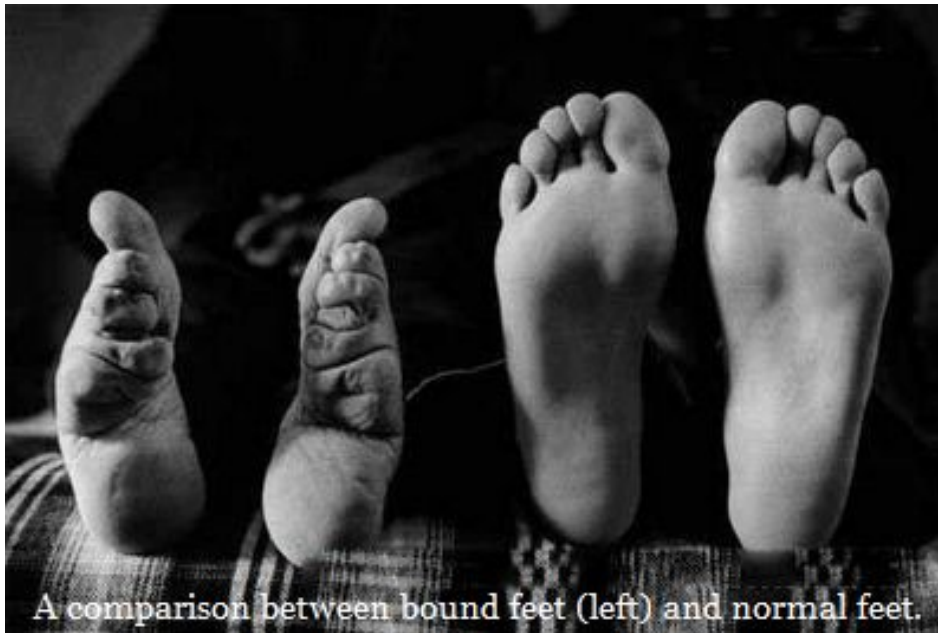


# Body Expectations in China



# Footbinding

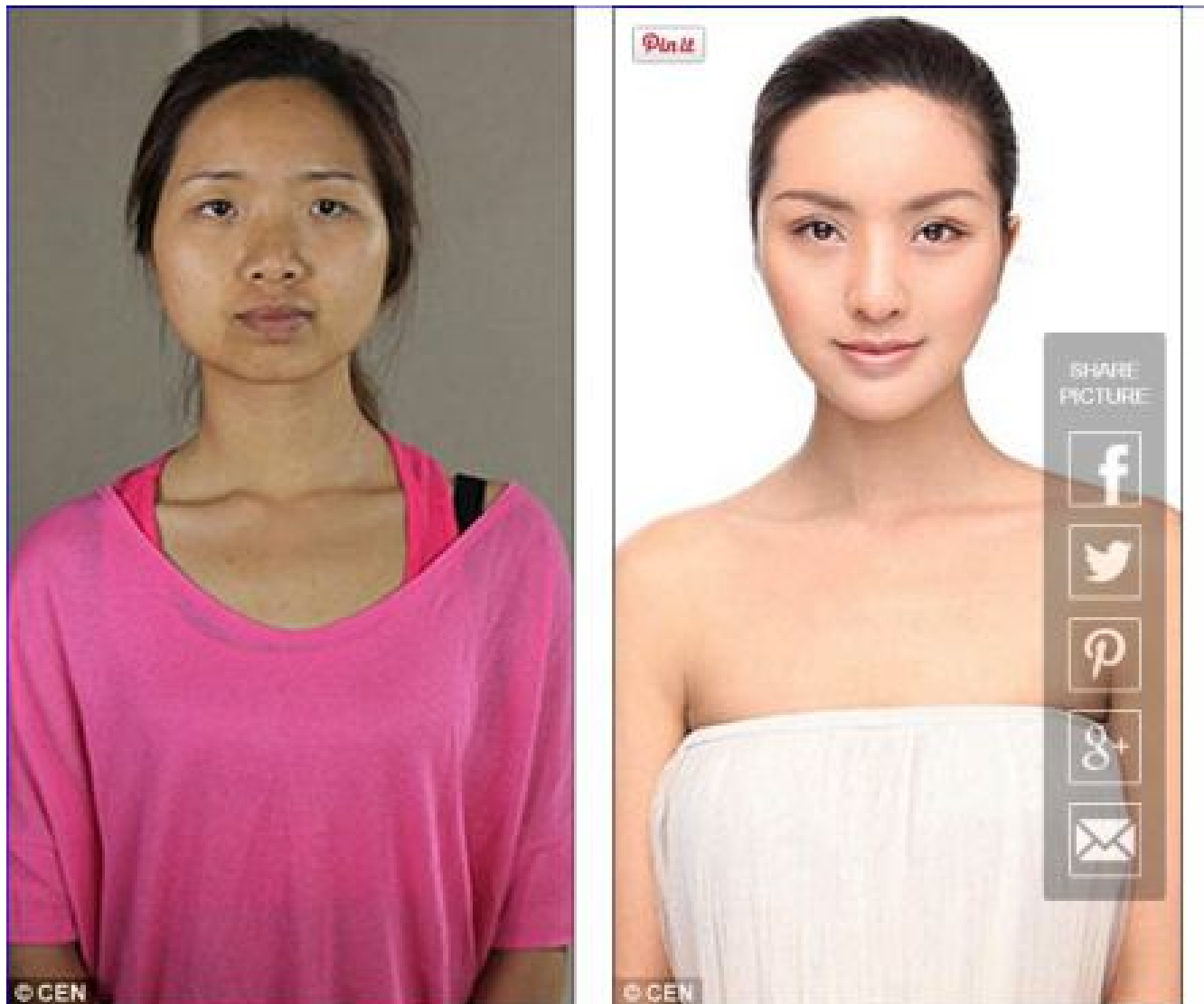
- What was footbinding?
- Why did footbinding exist?



A comparison between bound feet (left) and normal feet.

# Footbinding

- Now, China doesn't have footbinding.
- What are the expectations for women's bodies these days?



Liu Yisong, a 26-year-old dance teacher, before (left) and after (right) her plastic surgery

Before & After

장은솔씨 이목구비 얼굴성형 시술전후 사진입니다.





# Women's Bodies

- VIDEO – Armpit hair



# Chinese New Year Gala 2015



# Chinese New Year Gala 2015

- Start 4m50s
- A woman in her late 20s complained to her brothers about not having a job or a boyfriend. The brothers called upon a model to help their beleaguered sister; the model and the daughter then did a dance called “the ‘manly lady’ and the ‘goddess,’” referring to Internet slang terms that describe an unladylike woman and a pretty woman, respectively. The model (“the goddess”) chanted, “I have big eyes, small lips, and a tall nose. I have thin arms and thin legs.” The “manly lady” responded with self-deprecating jokes about her own body and her lack of male suitors.

# Chinese New Year Gala 2015

- Start 3m49s
- A female official instructed a subordinate in how to ingratiate herself to the new male boss. “Let me show you how I climbed my way up,” the woman said, pointing to a chart on her laptop detailing all her previous bosses’ penchants. “This boss liked fishing, so I dived into the water and put the bait on the fishhook. This boss liked to play mahjong, so I sacrificed my good tiles to let him win. This one liked me.” She paused and added, “Now you know how I got my position.” The insinuation was clear – that the woman had risen through the ranks by sleeping with her boss. Many believed that the skits stigmatized single women in their late 20s and reinforced a stereotype that female government and corporate leaders in China are more likely to climb the career ladder through sex.

# Chinese New Year Gala 2015

- Starting 5m53s
- In one skit, a father was waiting to meet his daughter's boyfriend for the first time, but also, it happened, was trying to pawn off an old coat at a thrift store. (A daughter who is good to her parents is known in one Chinese expression as a "thoughtful cotton coat.")
- In a mix-up, the father mistook the thrift store employee for his future son-in-law. The employee proposed a price of around \$5, declaring his offer fair because the object of discussion was "used" and "secondhand."
- Later, when the father met the boyfriend, who the father thought was the thrift store employee, he said he intended to "donate" the coat (or was that his daughter?) to college students.

Marriage



# Marriage

- Why did people get married in the past?
- Why do people get married now?



# Leftover Women

- What does this term mean?
- Is it different for men and women?
- What are the effects of this term?





# Domestic Violence

- Thirty percent of the women in China experienced domestic violence within their homes. [2004]



# Domestic Violence

- Domestic violence was criminalized in 2005
  - Amendment of the Law of Protection of Rights and Interests of Women.
- In 2003, 10 percent of violence in families involved male victims.



# Mosuo People

- VIDEO



# Feminist Activism in China



# Protests

- Do you know about any feminist protests in China?





# “Bloody Wedding Gowns” protests

- On Valentine’s Day 2012 in Beijing
- VIDEO



# “Bloody Wedding Gowns” protests

- Three volunteers dressed in white bridal gowns smeared with red paint to raise awareness about domestic violence.



# “Bald Sisters” protest

- August 2012 in Guangzhou





# “Bald Sisters” protest

- Four female students from Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, shaved their heads in order to protest discriminatory admissions rates.
- Only a day later, three more girls in Beijing shaved their heads for the same reason
- Men and women who had never met the original “Bald Sisters” shaved their heads in solidarity and posted the pictures online.
- “Hair has symbolic meaning for women, so a bald head represents a complete break with the traditional social image of a woman.” [Xiao Meini]

- Subway Protest
- June 2012 (possibly in Shanghai)





@想起的花开  
weibo.com/xiangqi119

# •Subway Protest

- After a subway operation in Shanghai posted a message on its blog, accompanied by a picture of a girl in a sheer dress. "It's no wonder that some people get harassed if they dress like this," the post said. "There are plenty of groopers on the subway. Please pay attention to how you dress, ladies."
- Two protestors walked through the subway carrying signs that read, "Just because I'm slutty doesn't mean you can be dirty."

# Occupy the Men's Room

- 2012 in Guangzhou













# Occupy the Men's Room

- A group of college girls in Guangzhou protested in front of a men's room at Yuexiu Park
- Women protested the long lines that always seem to accompany women's public restrooms. The protestors requested a law that requires a 1:2 toilet ratio for men's and women's restrooms.
- During the protest, men were still allowed to use the facility, but many appeared to be very embarrassed walking in and out through blocks of young girls. When the queue started to grow over the lady's room, however, volunteers would stop men who were heading to the toilet and ask them to wait and let the ladies use it first.
- According to China Daily, an online survey found 84% support for the construction of more female toilets.

# The Vagina Monologues

## [ 阴道独白 ]

- November 2013 at Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU)
- VIDEO: In Guangzhou (0:00 – 5:46)



# The Vagina Monologues

## [ 阴道独白 ]

- 17 female students at the Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), one of China's most prestigious colleges, posted photographs of themselves holding up messages to promote the show.
- What is the point of this show?









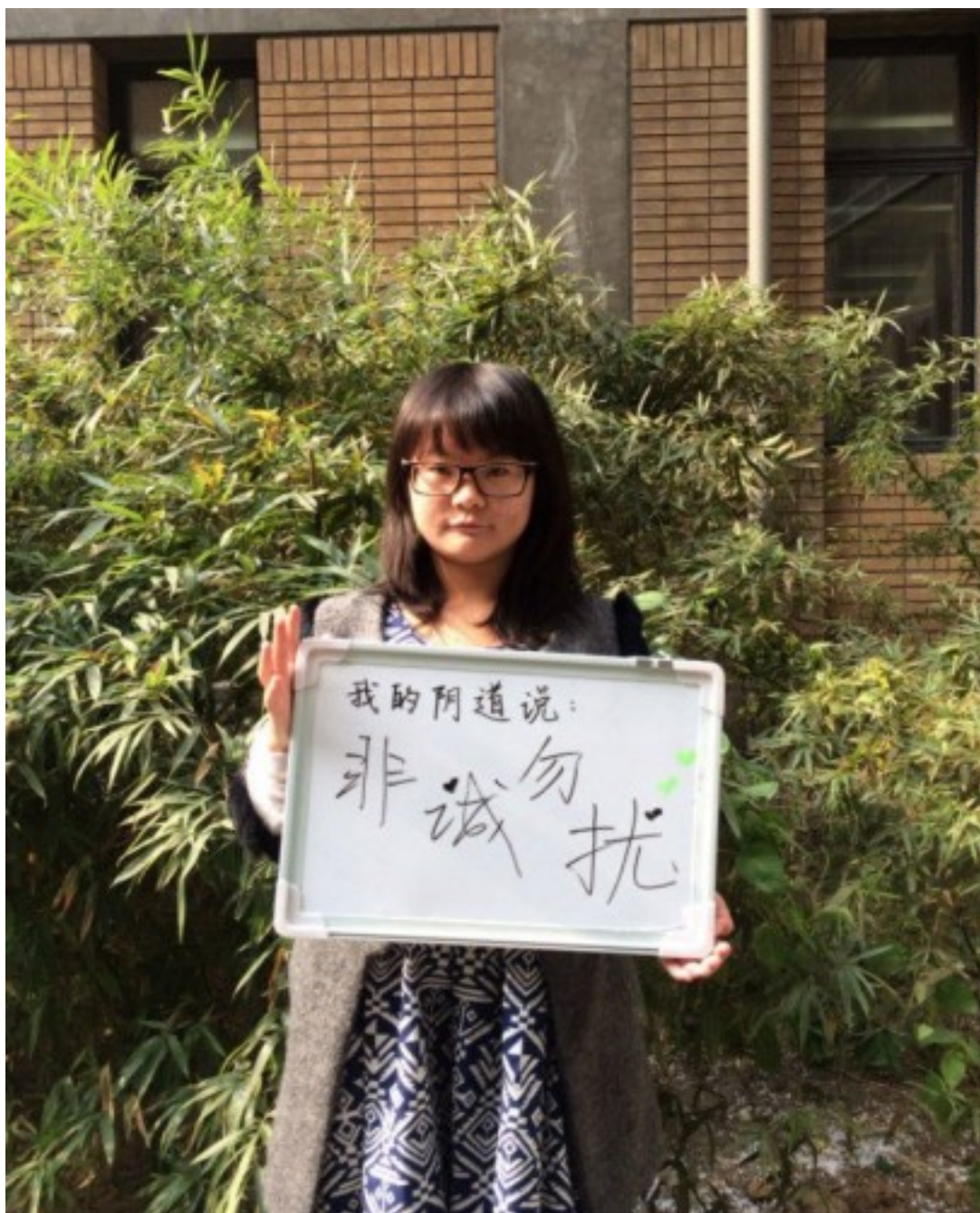
我的阴道说：  
认识自我  
‘教育’很重要！！

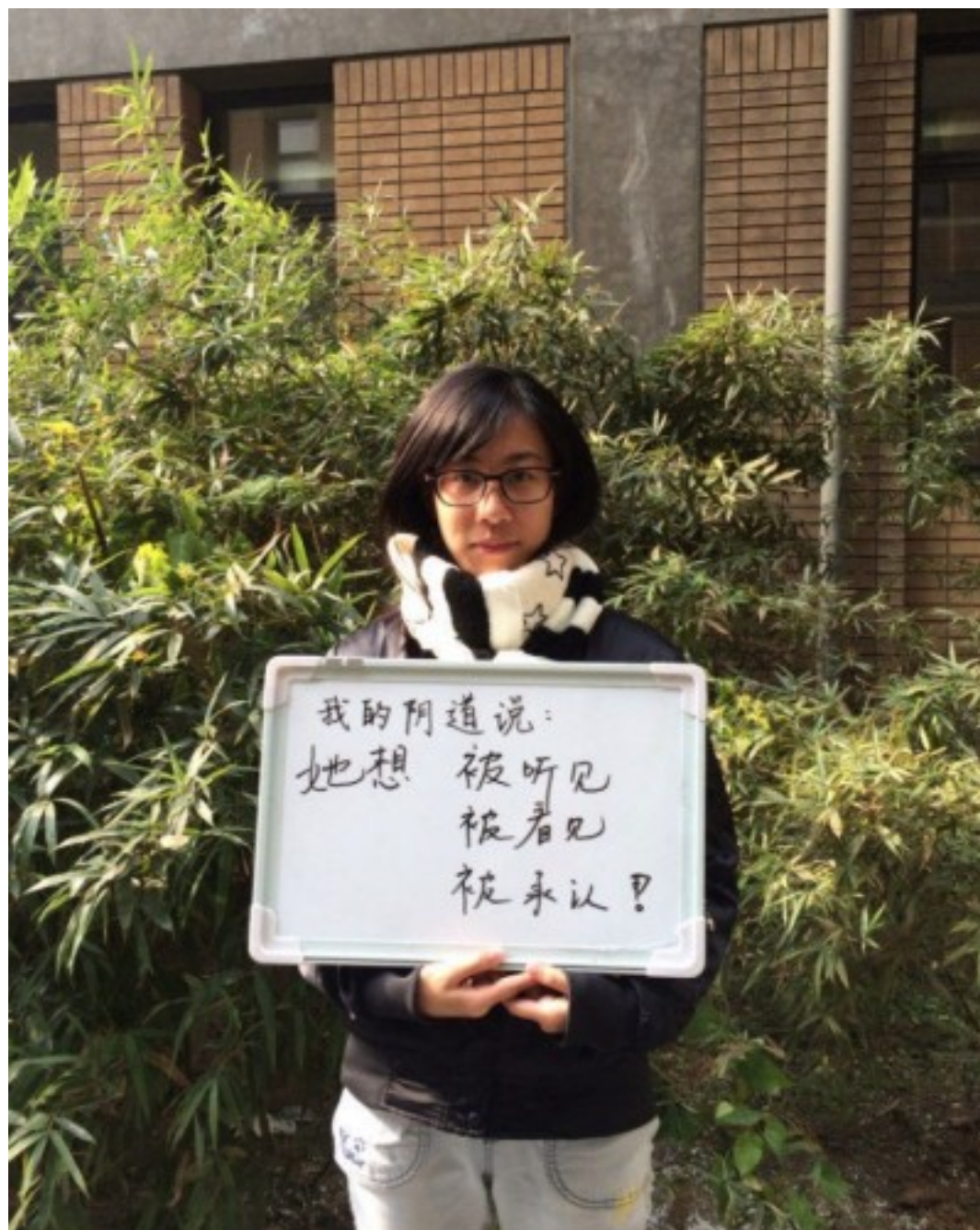


























我的阴道说：  
我可以骚  
你不能扰！



