This survey aims to explore the bullying conditions based on body, gender and sexuality in Chinese high school. Since it was impossible to directly distribute questionnaires relative to sexual orientation in Chinese high school, most questionnaires were written by those who had already graduated from high school. These questionnaires were distributed in two ways. First, more than 40 LGBT-related college student societies across Mainland China directly sent the Questionnaire A and B, respectively, to sexual minority and heterosexual students or faculty/staff on campus. The Questionnaire B did not contain any question related to sexual orientation in order to protect most underground LGBT societies and their members who distributed it. Second, some commercial companies and one NGO posted Questionnaire C on their websites. We did not let NGOs focusing on LGBT issues help us because we have the concern that they might attract too many people with strong political appeals and the bullying condition in the questionnaires might be exaggerated.

One of the key concerns was to avoid misleading questions that may make people exaggerate their bullying condition. Therefore, we adopted two methods. First, the questionnaires were in the name of gender environment in high school rather than of homophobic school bullying condition. Specifically speaking, if the questionnaires were distributed in the second name, those who had never suffered bullying might be less likely to write it because it was none of their business. Second, the questionnaires avoided some misleading questions such as “have you ever suffered from homophobic bullying” that were likely to mislead respondents to establish a prior connection between school bullying and homophobia.

It is worth noting that the original target group of the survey is the young well-educated in Mainland China who have graduated from high school. This is because the vast majority of LGBT student societies we have connection with are in top 100 universities in China. However, for the online Questionnaire C, we cannot control who would write the questionnaire, although we selected some companies and NGOs whose target groups are the young well-educated. Therefore, some observations in the dataset of the Questionnaire C contains some people who are too young (middle/high school students), who come from Taiwan, who are not well-educated (at least not at top universities in China), etc.

Generally, the quality of the offline questionnaires should be better than that of the online one because the students who distribute the questionnaires will report the process, but the offline questionnaires still have two problems. First, since the sample method in the survey is quasi-snowballing, the personnel structures of LGBT student societies do matter. As I know, most LGBT societies in Chinese universities have a similar structure. The vast majorities of their members are bottom (or versatile) gay guys and straight girls. Other members are a few lesbians, top gay guys, bisexuals and one or two straight guys. In this case, it is difficult to tell if the sample is highly representative. Second, although we need not to be concerned much about the representativeness of the Questionnaire B since the questionnaire was randomly sent to their classmates by the members in the societies, we still have to think about whether the respondents were all heterosexual students. 1) We can find that a few heterosexual students mistakenly finished the Questionnaire A. This kind of mistake must occur for the Questionnaire B. 2) Some in-closet sexual minorities might be seen as heterosexual students and finished it. Since the Questionnaire B does not contain the questions related to sexual orientation, it is impossible to filter them out.

Some questions that are not easily identifiable in the dataset

“Have you ever suffered from malicious verbal insulting (tease, name-calling, verbal abuse, etc.)?”

None or very rarely/slightly

Rarely/slightly

Occasionally

Frequently

Very Frequently

“Have you ever suffered from physical harassment, assault or even violence (excluding violence in ordinary quarrel)?”

None or very rarely/slightly

Rarely/slightly

Occasionally

Frequently

Very Frequently

“Have you ever suffered from isolation exclusion or isolation?”

None or very slightly

Slightly

Moderately

Severely

Very Severely

Your gender performance at high school (including physical appearance, speaking voice, body performance, activities you participate in but excluding gendered personality such as virtues of carefulness and firmness):

Normative Masculinity

Masculinity with some Femininity

Neutral

Femininity with some Masculinity

Normative Femininity

Did your high school classmates know or believe that you were sexual minority (based on your classmates’ perception rather than your self-identification)?

Only close friends know/believe or on one knows/believes

Some or many people know/believe