

Proposal

Title - The Chinese Gender Ratio: The Gender Ratio's Cause and Effect

Program of Study – Chinese Minor – English and Modern Languages

Presentation Type – **Choose one of the following:** Print Poster

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Category – **Choose one of the following:** Experimental - Theoretical

Abstract example: In modern day China, the sex ratio is very imbalanced, according to research done in 2013, the ratio is approximately 120 male births for every 100 female. The goal of this research project is to analyze the varying causes of this gender imbalance and propose potential solutions to them. It will be hypothesized and shown that causes range from traditional Confucius thought, which prioritizes men over women, to economic motivators such as the male versus female profit margin present especially in rural provinces. Also, evidence will show that governmental policies, such as the Family Planning Law also known as China's One-Child Policy, which limits couples to having one child except in some provinces where a second child is allowed if the first is a girl, as well as policies intended to promote or encourage couples to want daughters is likely playing a role in the 'disappearance of women' in the generation currently becoming adults. Lastly, the introduction of new affordable prenatal health care technologies, such as ultra-sounds and abortions, usually acting in cooperation with one another, can also be attributed to the gender imbalance in China. Moreover, an extremely large imbalance of genders in a particular generation often gives rise to further issues that extends beyond the individual family unit. Therefore, it is especially important to understand the issues or effects that the gender ratio has since these effects indeed posit that the disproportion of sexes is indeed a negative influence in China that must be somehow fixed, and so those will also be addressed.

An example of one such negative effect can be summarized as follows, an imbalance in countries where one gender, specifically men, greatly outnumber the other, in this case women, often leads to rife social problems such as increasing crime rates or decelerating economic development.

Christian worldview integration: As a Christian, my goal is to approach this project carefully and respectfully, with the intent to assist and offer understanding of the motivations behind Chinese traditional thoughts and the subsequent effects that those thoughts have – the specific effect being referenced here being the Gender Ratio Imbalance, which favors sons over daughters. My goal is not to reprimand that which I find to be wrong and as having a negative influence, but to encourage others to seek change that will impact society as a whole. First of all, in Chinese society, I hope their traditional Confucius views, which have the unfortunate effect of devaluing women worth especially in rural provinces, can be adjusted to value women as they do men. While in other societies, such as American society, which may be quick to lay blame to the Chinese government or people without a full understanding of the economic, political, social, and cultural situation, I wish to promote both awareness and empathetic understanding of the situation that does not lead to disdain for those with differing beliefs. Therefore, my research does focus strongly on the traditional thoughts of the Chinese people, but I do not turn a blind eye to other potential causes and motivators for the disproportionate ratio of men to women. Moreover, as a Christian I believe in the equality of the sexes, however, not all the world possesses the same Christian foundation I do, therefore I hope to find empirical evidence that provides a foundation for the belief that women are as essential as men and should have equal rights and be equally prized outside of my own creed, and consequently allows easier transference of ideas and thoughts across various cultural, societal, and religious boundaries.