

Localising Practices in Feminist Geography: Evolution, Dilemmas and Breakthroughs

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Abstract: Feminist geography is an important sub-school of human geography, the core of which is to critique the gender bias in traditional geography and reveal the mutual construction of gender and space. From the written memories of feminist geography during the preparation for the exams to the in-depth understanding of feminist geography during the postgraduate period with the increase in the number of literature readings, this paper will adopt the methods of literature analysis, comparative research, and critical reflection to sort out the core theories and characteristics of feminist geography, to explore its influence on western human geography and related research in China, and to propose a new perspective on this field with the combination of personal learning and reflections. In addition, the researchers also put forward their views on the future development of the field based on their personal learning and reflection. The study shows that feminist geography takes gendered space as the core of its ontology, stresses the micro-analysis of body-emotion-place and cross-cutting perspectives, and possesses a distinctive critical and interdisciplinary self-reflection. In the future, we should build a localised system based on the social and cultural situation of China, expand diversified research groups and new types of space, and innovate research methods.

Keywords: Feminist Geography; Critical Thinking; Localised Research; Gendered Research.

1. Introduction

Feminist geography is an important sub-school of human geography, which does not simply limit the research object to women, but is a critical academic trend and research method that takes gender as the core analytical perspective to examine, critique and reconstruct the relationship between space, place, environment and people.

Domestic feminist geography was introduced at the end of the 20th century. Compared with the mature theoretical system and rich accumulation of empirical evidence in the West, domestic research started late, but with a grasp of localisation, it has gradually formed a trajectory of development that is both informative and unique. At present, under the multiple backgrounds of the deepening urbanisation process, family structure change and other policies, domestic feminist geography research has been steadily advancing in the directions of localisation of topics, diversification of methods and cross-disciplinary research, responding to the Western academic discourse as well as focusing on gender spatial issues with Chinese characteristics. However, the academic community is still facing the dilemmas of insufficient localisation of theories, homogenisation of research groups, and weak transformation of achievements into policies, etc. How to build a theoretical system of feminist geography rooted in Chinese social and cultural genes, how to expand the boundaries of the research to cover diversified women's groups, and how to realise the effective articulation between academic research and social governance have become important propositions that need to be solved urgently. Taking feminist geography as the research object, this paper adopts a combination of literature analysis, comparative research and critical reflection, and focuses on the "cognitive history - disciplinary kernel - local influence" chapter to sort out the author's cognitive evolution of feminist geography, and show the transition from conceptual memory to methodological consciousness; the second chapter shows the evolution from conceptual memory to methodological

consciousness; the second chapter shows the evolution from conceptual memory to methodological consciousness; and the second chapter shows the evolution from conceptual memory to methodological consciousness. The second chapter defines the core connotation and characteristics of feminist geography, and analyses its theoretical framework and academic ethics; the third chapter explores the influence of western feminist geography on China's related research in terms of issues, methodology and disciplinary ecology; the fourth chapter proposes future development paths in terms of theoretical construction, research dimensions and methodological innovations in view of the current situation of the domestic research; and lastly, the concluding part summarises the core points of the paper, reflecting on the development of feminist geography in China and its impact on China's related research. The last part is the conclusion, which summarises the core ideas of the whole paper, reflects on the limitations of the research and looks forward to the direction of subsequent research.

This paper aims to clarify the theoretical lineage and local development status of feminist geography through systematic sorting and critical discussion, deepen the knowledge of the interaction between gender and space, and at the same time provide ideas for the localised innovation and practice of feminist geography in China, so as to help the discipline to develop to a higher quality.

2. Feminist Geographies and Identities

Feminist geography emerged in the wake of the women's liberation movement and has continued to receive greater attention as the times have gone by. Finally, it has been concluded that it is an interdisciplinary subject with a multidisciplinary character.

2.1. Feminist Geography and Its Connotations

Feminist geography has gone through a long process of development, constantly evolving and improving with the changes of the times. Feminist research culminated in the

second women's movement in the mid- to late twentieth century, and was mainly reflected in sociology, architecture and other disciplines, including geographic research[1]. In the 1970s, the emergence of feminist geography was facilitated by the academic critique of the traditional notion of geography as gender-blind and of gender differences, and by the geographic community's rethinking of theories of geography[2]. In 1980, the world's first Women and Geography Research Group was established at the Institute of Geographers in the United Kingdom, marking the formal establishment of feminist geography. Feminist geography is an interdisciplinary field with a multidisciplinary character and overflow. It emphasises the gendering of space and the identification of women's identities, focusing on the process of identity production of gendered individuals, valuing women's characteristics and embodying equal rights between men and women. In addition, feminist geography is defined domestically as "a science that focuses on the themes of gender, space and place, emphasizing the female perspective and the development of gender studies on the differences in spatial behaviour between the sexes, as well as the study of women's geography"[3].

2.2. Characteristics of Female Geographies

Feminist geography, as an important sub-school of human geography, is a critical academic field with the following characteristics: taking "gendered space" as the core of its ontology, and emphasising that all spaces are deeply inscribed by gender power in terms of their design, use and symbols, and that there is no "gender-neutral" geographical process. the geographical process of "gender neutrality"[4]. Taking the "body-emotion-place" trinity as a micro-unit of analysis, the study highlights how everyday experiences such as emotion and fear interact with spatial disciplines by treating the female body as a place of the smallest scale, thus elevating "private" experiences to the status of legitimate objects of study, thereby elevating "private" experience to a legitimate object of study[5]. Deconstructing single identities through the lens of "intersectionality", revealing how multiple marginalisations are superimposed or cancelled out at different scales. Deconstructing single identities through the lens of "intersectionality", revealing how multiple marginalisations overlap or counteract each other at different scales[6]. The participatory, collaborative, anti-authoritarian methodology is used as a tool to emphasise the reduction of the distance between the researcher and the researched, and the process itself as an empowering action. The participatory, collaborative and anti-authoritarian methodology is used as a tool to emphasise the weakening of the distance between the researcher and the researched, and the research process itself as an empowering action. With the academic ethos of "knowledge as politics", Rie stresses the equal importance of theoretical production, empirical analysis and policy advocacy, and pursues a transformative geography that moves from explaining spatial inequality to recreating gender justice[7].

Feminist geography has greatly enriched the study of geography through its unique perspectives and methods, and has provided an indispensable and important dimension for our understanding of gender relations, the operation of power, and the social construction of space.

The application value of traditional embroidery in modern fashion design

Traditional embroidery art still has wide application value

in contemporary fashion design. For modern fashion design, it still has a very strong sound. First of all, we need to break the integrity of the design. Traditional embroidery art is often lack of abstractness, and the pattern image is very complete, but it has the characteristics of rigidity. It is not conducive to the long-term promotion of traditional ideas, and modern fashion design in the process of integration must break through the limitations of traditional embroidery, the integrity of the continuous to be broken, in order to innovate. For fashion designers, we can divide the patterns properly and pick up the relevant composition methods to make them more in line with modern people's clothing aesthetics. For example, when designing a dress, you can combine embroidery art to form a hollow way, so as to decorate the waist line and make the design effect of the whole curve more prominent. The second is to strengthen the aesthetic level of clothes and make them more in line with people's understanding of beauty. Traditional embroidery art is rooted in traditional culture, so the pattern is very exquisite and meticulous, which makes embroidery art unique and coquettish. It can enhance the aesthetic feeling of modern fashion design, so as to optimize contemporary fashion design. At present, many designers will actively try embroidery techniques in the process of design, so as to enhance the artistic value of clothing design, and even properly use embroidery techniques in foreign high-definition clothing, so as to further improve the quality of clothing.

3. The Impact of Feminist Geographies on Domestic Research

Domestic research on feminist geography originated at the end of the 20th century, and compared with foreign countries, the relevant research in China started later, and the amount of literature is relatively small[7]. However, the attention of scholars to it has been increasing, as has the relevant research, and the importance of women has been rising. However, the attention of scholars has continued to increase, as have related studies, and the importance of women's[3].

3.1. Localisation of Issues and Attention to Group Differences

Although relevant domestic research started relatively late and the number of relevant research literature is relatively small, based on Western feminist geography, the number of topics has been increasing and the research themes are rich and varied, mainly including the study of women's activities and experiences in urban space, family space and workspace, as well as focusing on the spatial needs and rights and interests of different groups of women, such as rural women and laid-off women workers[4]. In addition, influenced by the fact that Western feminist geography has gradually paid attention to the differences within women's groups in the course of its development, domestic research has also begun to pay attention to the differences between women of different classes, geographical areas, ethnic groups and ages, stressing the application of intersectional perspectives in spatial analyses[8]. The study has gradually expanded from a single gender dimension to the interaction between gender and multiple social attributes such as urban and rural backgrounds, occupational status and educational level. Gradually expanding from a single gender dimension to the interaction between gender and multiple social attributes such as urban and rural backgrounds, occupational status, and educational level, revealing women's pluralistic experiences and complex

power structures in spatial practices, and promoting the deepening of localized research and the possibility of theoretical dialogue[9].

3.2. Methodological Rethinking and the Rise of Mixed Methods

Domestic feminist geography has been influenced by Western critical positivism, and its long-held positivist position has been shaken[10]. While traditional studies of spatio-temporal behaviour ignore differences in gender identities in terms of route choice, length of stay, etc., feminist geography points out that so-called "neutral" data are themselves embedded in male paradigms of life, and that "de-gendering" is thus a form of reproducing unequal intellectual violence[11]. Therefore, domestic scholars have begun to question the presupposition of "objective neutrality" and emphasise that the cognitive authority of female respondents has the same explanatory power as emotional knowledge. As a result, scholars in China have begun to question the presupposition of "objective neutrality", emphasising that the cognitive authority and emotional knowledge of female interviewees are equally valid as explanations. In addition, this rethinking has given rise to a hybrid path of "quantitative trajectories" and "qualitative stories".

In summary, the critique of positivism in Western feminist geography has not led to the abandonment of quantitative analyses in domestic research, but rather has led to the localisation of the hybrid path of quantitative and qualitative analyses, which has been examined and reshaped in two dimensions.

3.3. Disciplinary Introspection and Diversity of Voices

Feminist geography has prompted the Chinese geography community to recognise the value load of knowledge production. This has led to a self-reflection within Chinese geography that continues to this day. When the West pointed out that "all knowledge is loaded with profit", domestic journals and societies responded positively to the question[12]. The value-loading of the journal. For example, since 2015, domestic journals have launched columns or topics such as "gender and space", signalling the recognition of the legitimacy of the value load. Secondly, the appearance of columns not only expands the group of authors, but also attracts the participation of sociology, tourism, literature, communication and other "external disciplines", forming an interdisciplinary network. At the same time, institutional innovations at the level of societies have further consolidated the plurality of voices[13].

In summary, the spread of feminist geography in China has not only led geography to acknowledge the unavoidability of "value loads", but has also transformed the discipline's self-reflection into an "institutionalised plurality of voices" through journal features or columns, interdisciplinary networks, and policy interventions rather than a simple descriptive science. It has also transformed disciplinary self-reflection into an "institutionalised pluralistic voice" rather than a simple descriptive science through journal features or columns and policy interventions.

4. Research Perspectives on Feminist Geography in China

According to the above overview and the current situation

of domestic research, China's feminist geography needs to make a breakthrough in theoretical construction, research dimension, methodological innovation, etc., to get rid of the attachment of traditional ideas, and to build a research system with both local characteristics and global values[14]. At present, domestic research is closely related to urbanisation, gender equality and other real issues. At present, although domestic research is closely related to urbanisation, gender equality and other real issues, the lack of localisation of theories and homogenisation of research groups still constrain the in-depth development of the discipline[15].

4.1. Constructing a Localised Theoretical System

At present, domestic research is still dominated by Western feminist geography, which lacks the theoretical refinement of China's local gender spatial experience and has yet to form an exclusive core concept and theoretical system[16]. In the future, we should base ourselves on China's unique social and cultural genes, summarise the rules and refine theories from practical research, explore the logic of gender-space interaction with Chinese characteristics, and break the attachment to traditional Western theories. In the future, based on China's unique social and cultural genes, we should summarise the rules and refine theories from practical research, and discover the interactive logic of gender-space with Chinese characteristics, so as to break the dependence on traditional Western theories. In addition, we should promote the cross-fertilization of gender and space, sustainable development and other fields, enrich the interdisciplinary connotation of theories, and form a dialogueable framework of Chinese feminist geography[17].

4.2. Deepening Research on Intersectionality and Group Differentiation

Nowadays, domestic feminist geography mostly focuses on "male-female contrasts", and needs to realise the dual development of "group expansion" and "topic extension"[16]. On the one hand, the programme breaks the limitation of focusing on mainstream women in first- and second-tier cities, and extends its perspective to special groups such as elderly women and migrant women, paying attention to their differentiated spatial experiences and claims for rights. On the other hand, we will expand our research topics in the light of the new propositions of the new era, focusing on emerging areas such as digital space and health space. We will reveal the spatial mechanism of multiple edges and develop corresponding micro-scale and emotional geography methods.

4.3. Promoting Methodological Innovation and Policy Translation

In the light of the above, the impact of Western feminist geography on the country has led to the conclusion that the research methodology is a combination of "quantitative and qualitative" analyses. Therefore, there is a need to promote a deeper integration of quantitative and qualitative research and to strengthen the use of technological tools[18]. Currently, domestic research is still dominated by traditional social surveys, case studies and other implementation analyses. Currently, domestic research is still dominated by traditional social surveys, case studies and other executive analyses, and the systematicity and precision of the research needs to be improved. For example, technology such as geographic

information system can be introduced to achieve accurate portrayal of women's spatial and temporal behaviours. In addition, the advantages of qualitative methods such as structured interviews can be optimised, and the logic behind the research can be explored in depth, so as to break the limitations of a single research method.

Although the current domestic research has made some progress, there are still deficiencies, such as insufficient localisation of theories, etc. The future development should combine western theories with Chinese reality, focus on local issues, enrich the global discourse and provide reference for the domestic approach. In the future, it is necessary to combine Western theories with Chinese reality and focus on local issues, so as to enrich the global discourse and provide reference for the domestic approach[19].

5. Conclusion

This paper aims to further deepen the understanding of feminist geography through literature review and other methods. The paper analyses feminist geography by sorting out the personal cognitive history, analysing the core connotation and characteristics of the discipline, exploring its influence on domestic related research, and looking forward to the future development of local research. The following thoughts and conclusions are drawn.

First of all, feminist geography, as an important critical branch of human geography, breaks through the traditional ideological cognition of traditional geography and builds a theoretical and methodological system with "gendered space" as its core. It takes the body-emotion-place as the micro-unit of analysis, intersectionality as the core perspective, participatory methodology as the tool, and "knowledge as politics" as the ethical principle. This understanding provides an indispensable theoretical dimension for analysing the complex relationship between gender relations and spatial construction. Secondly, the process of my personal knowledge of the discipline, from "memorizing points" in the examination stage to forming a systematic methodological knowledge through theoretical dialogues, also proves the academic vitality of feminist geography, which transcends paper concepts and empowers the analysis of reality. Finally, the influence of Western feminist geography on China's related research shows an evolutionary trajectory of "borrowing-reflection-localisation reconstruction". This influence is not a simple "theoretical transplantation", but a selective absorption and transformation by domestic scholars in the local context, which lays the foundation for the localised development of the discipline. Although China's feminist geography has already made a stage-by-stage progress, it still faces such practical dilemmas as insufficient localisation of theories and homogenisation of research groups, and still needs to make a breakthrough in the future.

Generally speaking, the development of feminist geography in China is not only a response and supplement to the global academic discourse, but also an academic empowerment to the local gender equality practice. With the deepening of urbanisation and the improvement of social governance, feminist geography will usher in a broader space for development. Only by adhering to the principle of "equal emphasis on theoretical innovation and practical implementation, and taking into account both global vision and local care" can we truly build a research system of feminist geography in China that is of academic value and social significance, and contribute to the promotion of spatial

justice and gender equality in the discipline. We will also contribute to the promotion of spatial justice and gender equality.

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