



**University of Guelph
Department of History**

MA Thesis Defence

Student: Rui (Raymond) Li

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Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Place: Virtual (link provided upon request)

“Nationalist and Feminist Propaganda in Manchukuo’s Early Period and the Response: Focus on the Educational System, Mass Media, and Literary Works.”

Abstract

As a nation established in Northeast Asia during World War II, the establishment of Manchukuo (1932-1945) was an attempt at a brand-new national system. The nature of Manchuria, a borderland located in Northeast Asia, also challenged the nation-building of Manchukuo. Under such unprecedented circumstances, the intellectuals of Manchukuo and Japan began to promote the official ideology of Manchukuo to construct a new discourse system. Soon after the founding of Manchukuo, its government set about reforming the education system to accommodate Manchukuo’s propaganda discourse. Policymakers chose “the Kingly Way,” introduced by the Japanese Empire, as the keynote of Manchukuo’s nation-building discourse to unify the people living in Manchukuo into their rule. Under the propaganda of this nationalist discourse, the requirements for women, “Good Wife, Wise Mother,” became the key to the discourse system of Manchukuo’s nation-building. By analyzing the official propaganda discourse of Manchukuo, this study concludes that its internal logic was still based on the hegemony of patriarchal discourse; that is, the status of nationalism is still higher than that of women. This study also analyzes the literary works of several female writers to explore the internal logic of being recipients and resisters of the official propaganda discourse system of Manchukuo so as to describe the living conditions of women during the Manchukuo rule.

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