



Student Handout #2: Making Sense of Their Personal Stories

After reading the article entitled Chinese Feminists Continue to Resist Amidst Repression 30 Years After Beijing Conference on Women (by International Service on Human Rights, 3/4/25), select several quotes from the movie (below) and write an essay connecting the political landscape for women in China with their personal experiences in the film. Include what moved you from this film and what you want to learn more about.

Movie quotes from previous generation(s) of women:

“Nüshu is about misery.”

“They had to listen to their husbands to survive.”

“We used to think that we should feel blessed if men didn’t scold or beat us.”

Movie quotes from the current generation of women (and a few quotes from men in the film):

“They (village officials) belittled her without a man.”

“Don’t be worried about other people’s gossip about you.”

“We prayed for boys.”

“My ex-husband beat me and wouldn’t let me cry because his cousin’s house was right next door.”

“Nüshu is a hobby, you don’t get paid for it.” (Said by a man in the film.)

“The three qualities Chinese women must have: obedience, acceptance, and resilience.” (Said by a man in the film.)

“When I gave up my singing career and took care of my family full-time, I felt devalued.”

“I have peace when I write Nüshu. It’s my place of joy.”

“Nüshu is my lighthouse. It shines my way ahead.”

“Women are half the world. We must feel entitled to own our power.”

“I need someone to win my heart and understand me intellectually.”

“Let your free soul fill your days.”

“To us it is art. Not to them (men). It was created to rebel.”

“I realized that when I am strong, Nüshu is revived.”