



An Inquiry into the Lives of Queer Chinese Malaysians: The Quest for Queer Space and Identity Reconciliation

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ABSTRACT

Drawing on intersectionality and Queer theory, this study is an in-depth examination of the intricate identities of Queer Chinese Malaysians (QCM) within the dynamic landscape of Malaysian society. The research seeks to unravel the intricate tapestry of Queer spatial navigation, particularly within the ever-changing terrain of new media and migratory shifts.

This qualitative study is based on a post-structuralist paradigm and a nuanced blend of relativist ontology and social constructionist epistemology. It aims to capture lived experiences with unparalleled authenticity. The aim of adopting a bottom-up, inductive approach is to discern the subtle strategies employed by the participants as they negotiate the intricate intersections of Queer identity and prevailing sociocultural norms. Leveraging an innovative data collection method that integrates the go-along methodology with the depth of semi-structured interviews and the visual richness of photo elicitation, this study will shed light on the multifaceted ways in which QCMs navigate migration pathways and harness the transformative power of new media to assert their identities and carve out Queer spaces in an environment marked by heteronormative hegemony.

This study aspires to transcend mere inquiry, offering a profound narrative that not only elucidates the challenges and barriers faced by QCMs but also serves as a beacon of insight into the broader discourse surrounding identity, spacemaking and Queer rights, ultimately contributing to the ongoing struggle for equality and social change.

Keywords: LGBTQ; Malaysia; Migration; New Media; Queer Space