

Media Representations and Identities of People with Intellectual Disability in China

雙重“他者”：中國智能障礙者的媒體再現和身份想像



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People with intellectual /developmental disabilities are often stigmatized in an industrial capitalist system where "able-bodiedness" is deemed as "the norm". This marginal "other" identity in popular culture and disability culture is primarily rooted in social constructions and maintained within media discourses. This article explores media representation in TV shows and feature reports over the past five years, documentaries, and comedies from Chinese mainstream media, analyzing the contextualized discourse and imagined identities of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The article explores four primary discourses and the hidden medical discourse that constructed the label of "*zhizhang*": *supercrip* discourse, family discourse, humorous discourse, and

civilized discourse, discussing the effect of traditional culture and social psychology. Discourses intertwined and negotiated in the text, and the resulting imagined identities show contradiction and complexity in the opposition between "backward" and "progress", "city" and "countryside", "independence" and "dependence". The personal autonomy of people with intellectual disabilities has dissolved in mainstream media. TV shows about Chinese families are a kind of "empowerment", but also enhance the "normalcy" that our society should protect.

智慧障礙者在「健全」被視作「正常」的社會體系下常遭汙名。這種大眾文化和殘障文化中的雙重「他者」身份，很大程度上基於社會建構，並以媒體話語複製和維持。文章選取了中國當代官方媒體的紀錄片、喜劇、近五年的電視節目和專題報道，探討主流媒體如何再現智慧障礙者及其家庭，構成怎樣的公共空間和身份想像。文章發現，「智障」作為一種身份標籤，在英雄話語、幽默話語、家庭話語、文明話語和隱身的醫療話語中被創造和加強，並討論了傳統文化、社會心理等影響因素。各話語在文本中交織、對話和協商，由此在「落後」和「進步」，「城市」和「鄉村」，「獨立」和「依賴」等對立中想像出充滿矛盾性和複雜性的殘障者和照顧者身份，智慧障礙者本身的自主權卻在主流話語中被消解。展現中國家庭的電視節目雖然是一種「賦權」，但也建構/加強了一個社會應該爭取和保護的「正常」。