

THE POLITICS OF DATING APPS

Gender, Sexuality, and Emergent
Publics in Urban China

Lik Sam Chan

In this exploration of dating app culture in China, Lik Sam Chan argues that these popular mobile apps are not merely a platform for personal relationships but also an emerging arena for gender and queer politics. Chan examines the opportunities dating apps present for women's empowerment and men's performances of masculinity, and he links experiences of queer dating app users with their vulnerable position as sexual minorities. He finds that dating apps are both portals to an exciting virtual world of relational possibilities and sites of power dynamics that reflect the heteronormativity and patriarchy of Chinese society.

Lik Sam Chan is Assistant Professor in the School of Journalism and Communication at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

THE INFORMATION SOCIETY SERIES

"The Politics of Dating Apps offers an expansive study of Chinese dating culture. Chan's research spans demographic boundaries, offering fresh insights into the infrastructures of intimacy at work in the PRC today."

Sharif Mowlabocus, Associate Professor, Fordham University; author of *Gaydar Culture*

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Larry Gross, Professor of Communication, USC Annenberg School; editor of *International Journal of Communication*

"In-depth, comprehensive, and inspiring, this book explains how rapid technological changes have transformed the ways the Chinese negotiate gender identity and sexual desires online using dating apps."

Susanne Choi, coauthor of *Masculine Compromise: Migration, Family, and Gender in China*

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