Notice of the Final Oral Examination  
for the Degree of Master of Arts  
of  
ALEXI TIANYANG HU  
BA (Lanzhou University, 2015)  
“Social Tolerance of Homosexuality: the Patterns of Chinese Societies”  
Department of Sociology  
Monday, August 24, 2020  
1:00 P.M.  
Conducted Remotely  

Supervisory Committee:  
Dr. Min Zhou, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)  
Dr. Douglas Baer, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business, UVic (Outside Member)  

External Examiner:  
Dr. Feng Xu, Department of Political Science, UVic  

Chair of Oral Examination:  
Dr. Nathan Lachowsky, School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic  

Dr. Stephen Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

In this thesis, three culturally similar yet distinct Chinese societies, China, Taiwan, and Singapore, are analyzed in the context of their (in)tolerance towards homosexuality. Although they share many cultural similarities based on Chinese cultural heritage, these three societies are not always culturally and politically homogenous. Differences between the political and social systems in these three eastern societies, as well as China’s historical progress since 1949, point to divergences in social tolerance of homosexuality. Therefore, the social tolerance of homosexuality and the sociopolitical mechanisms behind it are explored and examined in order to comprehend three Chinese societies.

The research starts with an introduction to the primary purpose of the thesis and contextualizes homosexuality in a historically traditional Chinese culture. It then discerns whether Chinese people are more or less homophobic when compared to others on a global scale. Afterwards, through quantitative approaches and under Inglehart’s postmaterialist theoretical framework, the research explores and examines the socioeconomic and sociopolitical heterogeneity within Chinese societies and also social mechanism and political structure exclusively in China. Overall, the findings confirm that homosexuality is still a form of identity politics in Chinese societies and their political and economic structures profoundly influence the tolerance of homosexuality. Also, Mainland China displays some unusual pattern of the relationship between the economy and the tolerance, which sheds new light on the particularity of Chinese politics.