

Meng Li

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Assistant Professor of Communication Studies

Biography

Dr. Meng Li received her B.A. in journalism from the Communication University of China, and her M.A and Ph.D. in communication studies from the University of Iowa. She specializes in communication and social change, interpersonal and intercultural communication, and qualitative methodologies. Her research examines how migration and marginalization are constructed, experienced, and negotiated communicatively in interpersonal interactions and in public discourses. In particular, her dissertation is a multi-sited ethnography of the annual family reunion ritual practiced by rural-to-urban migrant workers in China. She argues that this ritual has become a pilgrimage-like communal effort to repair and maintain the family bonds that have been disrupted by the increasing mobility of the Chinese population. Dr. Li is currently expanding her dissertation research to study media representations of the reunion ritual and emerging master narratives of rural-urban migrant workers in nonfiction books, documentaries, and news reports outside of China.

Education

University of Iowa

Ph.D. Communication Studies

University of Iowa

M.A. Communication Studies

Communication University of China

B.A. Journalism

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