



Mothers, Daughters and Sex:

**Negotiating young women's
sexuality in British and Hong
Kong families**

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In western sociology much had been made of the impact of rapid social change on sexual lives over the last half century, often told as a story of progress, or, in Jeffrey Weeks' words, 'The World We have Won'. The 'world' however, generally means the western world. This paper will draw on a comparative study of social change and intimate life in Britain and Hong Kong. In East Asia in general, social change has been spectacularly rapid along with its accompanying uncertainties and tensions, complicated in Hong Kong by its colonial heritage and its relationship to mainland China. Drawing on data on the lives of young women and their mothers from Britain and Hong Kong, I will explore how young women's sexuality is negotiated and managed within families. I will argue that similarities and differences between Hong Kong and British experiences are related not only to the consequences of global late modernity but to the material conditions of each locale and shifting, but culturally specific, understandings of 'traditional' and 'modern' ideas on female sexuality. In so doing I hope to contribute to moving debates on sexuality and modernity beyond their currently Eurocentric focus and to re-thinking the relationship between global change and local particularities as they impact on sexuality.

Stevi Jackson is Professor of Women's Studies and Director of the Centre for Women's Studies at the University of York, UK. She is author of *Heterosexuality in Question* (Sage 1999), co-author, with Sue Scott, of *Theorizing Sexuality* (Open University Press, 2010) and, with Momin Rahman, of *Gender and Sexuality: Sociological Approaches* (Polity 2010). She has co-edited a number of collections including, with Liu Jieyu and Woo Juhyun, *East Asian Sexualities: Intimacy, Modernity and New Sexual Cultures* (Zed Books 2008). She has also published numerous articles on sexuality and intimacy. She is currently working, with Ho Sik Ying (University of Hong Kong), on a project comparing women's experiences of social change in Britain and Hong Kong and writing a book based on this research provisionally entitled *Women Doing Intimacy: Gender, Family and Modernity in Hong Kong and Britain*, which is to be published in Palgrave Macmillan's 'Studies in Family and Intimate Life' series.

Lecture in English / No registration necessary