The making of China: The construction of Chineseness during the Beijing Olympics

Zeng, G.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgement

First of all, I wish to dedicate this dissertation to my father Zeng Yunnan, my mother Zhang Jinnü, and my wife Yu Jie, for their unconditional love and support. My parents had made their best efforts in providing me the best education that was available in my home region, and have been supporting every choice I make. I especially wish to commemorate my mother, who passed away on 9 April 2011 after years of suffering from kidney disease. I wish her soul a happy and peaceful life in the world above.

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Jeroen de Kloet. Jeroen took risks inviting me, a candidate with no media studies background, to join his research team of the Beijing Olympics studies in 2009. His patient guidance and wise advice have been of great value for me; his encouragements have helped me defeat the nihilism inflicting many PhD candidates; and his generous and numerous helps in the daily life have made my life a lot easier in Holland. To me, Jeroen is the best supervisor I could expect for my PhD candidacy. I am deeply grateful to my promoter, Professor Josè van Dijck. Josè is a very caring supervisor. She has always been tolerant to my delays in writing, and has encouraged me to probe deeper into my project. She carefully reviewed every sentence of my dissertation and gave me constructive and detailed advices. I have learned a lot from her broad knowledge and critical thinking, and I hope one day I could be as academically productive as her. I am also greatly indebted to Professor Stefan Landsberger. Stefan has been encouraging and supportive since the first day I enrolled in UvA. He also reviewed the drafts of all the chapters, and has provided insightful, critical, and constructive remarks for revision. Meanwhile, I wish to take this
opportunity to thank Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO) and International Institute for Asian Studies (in particular, the former depute director Manon Osseweijer and former director Max Sparreboom) for the financial support of my PhD project.

Pál Nyíri is an intriguing teacher and a nicest friend. I benefit a lot from the numerous discussions with him. Matthew Chew has been a long-term friend and we have co-worked for years. I am deeply indebted to him for his inspirations and help in my research. Susan Brownell provided valuable critiques to chapter three, and I have also learned a lot from the discussions with her on the overall Beijing Olympics studies and China studies. Yuezhi Zhao gave me important advice about Chinese media studies. Nick Couldry generously sent me his unpublished essays and PowerPoint slides on the logics of spectacle, which is very helpful in my writing of chapter two. Anthony Fung, Kuan-Hsing Chen, Rana Mitter, Benjamin van Rooij, Zhu Jiangang, Françoise Papa, and Daya Thussu also gave valuable advice to my dissertation and shared with me their critical insights of the current media studies.

A good academic environment and a supportive system are vital for the pursuit of a PhD. I have greatly benefitted from the daily academic activities in ASCA, the Department of Media Studies at the University of Amsterdam, and the network of China Studies in the Netherlands. A special thank to Carolyn Birdsal, Jenifer Chao, Maghiel van Crevel, David Duindam, Christoph Lindner, Thomas Poell, Lena Scheen, Florian Schneider, Markus Stauff, and Jan Teurlings; and to the Transasia reading group members Gladys Chong, Yiu Fai Chow, Jeroen Groenwegen, Bram Hendrawan, Lonneke van Heugten, Reza Kartosen, David Kloos, Esme Meivogel, Mari Nakamura, Lena Scheen, Leonie Schmidt, Maaikie Siegerist, Olga Sooudi, Markha Valenta, and Ian Yang.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the PhD defense committee: Stefan Landsberger, Christoph Lindner, Pál Nyíri, Jack Linchuan Qiu, Benjamin van Rooij, and Alexandra Schneider. Some of the chapters were presented and discussed in the ASCA Transasia reading group, ACS 2010 Crossroads.
Conference in Hong Kong, and the “Global Media Worlds and China Symposium” at Uppsala University in Sweden, I am grateful to the participants who gave me feedback and offered advice and suggestions. I am also very thankful to Rebecca Chan for her incredibly brilliant editorial work which makes this dissertation a lot more readable, and to Britt Broekhaus for her efficient Dutch translation of the dissertation summary.

I am very obliged to my paranymphs, Leonie Schmidt and Ian Yang, for their kind assistance in the arrangement of the oral defense ceremony, the reception, and other related issues. I also wish to thank Eloe Kingma, Jantine van Gogh in ASCA; Jacqueline Antonissen, Jobien Kuiper, Sandra van Delden in the Department of Media Studies; and Letje Lips, Ammetje Schook, Sandra Kloosterman, Gerard Duin, Eva Coomans in the Faculty of Humanities, for their support and help during my PhD candidacy.

Many people helped me to adapt to the life in Holland. I am deeply indebted to Yiu Fai Chow and Leonie Schmidt. Yiu Fai is the most warm-hearted friend, helping me a lot to adapt to the life in Holland. I also benefitted from the numerous inspiring and motivating conversations with him. Leonie Schmidt has been my best friend in Holland, and has been helpful and supportive both in my research and daily life. I also thank Francisca Thesingh and Gladys Chong for their help in my adaptation to the life in Amsterdam.

Friends are always a vital source of support. My sincere gratitude goes to Wang Chao, Hu Yanbin, Liu Chong, Li Cuiling, Hu Ping, Sun Mingzhan, Wang Xingyi, Yan Xiaojun, Zhai Yunting and Zhang Yin for their help and long-standing friendship. A special thanks goes to the friends in the Netherlands, Shu Chunyan, Dai Guowen, Song Yu, Ian Yang, Song Yang, Yan Huiqi, Yang Lijing, Liao Hongfei, Wang Ting, and Zhang Xiaoxiao, and Lonneke van Heugten, Bram Hendrawan, and many others; and to my officemates David Duindam, David Nieborg, Jennifer Steetskamp, Ellen de Vries, Niels Kerssens and Bart Wallet.
A special thanks to Guan Jun, Zhang Yin, Zhai Yunting, Hu Ping, Jonathan Watts, Shiozawa Eiichi (鹽澤英一), Ke Zhixiong, Dai Zhiyong, Liu Fangfang and many others who accepted my interviews. I am also grateful to Hong Jiachun and Zhou Lei for their help in my fieldwork in Beijing, and to Zhai Yunting and Dai Zhiyong for the fieldwork in Guangzhou. Lü Yuhui and her friends assisted to transcribe the interview records and the CCTV live broadcast records of the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. Dr. Gao Qi, the assistant director of Universities Service Centre for China Studies in the Chinese University of Hong Kong, kindly arranged my data collection in the libraries of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Matthew Chew generously provided accommodation; also, utmost courtesy was offered by Zhang Yin, Zhang Wuyi, Chen Lu, and Wang Haiyan during my data-collection visit to the Chinese University of Hong Kong. I am also thankful to Louis Ho, Irene Yang, Wayne Huang, Jennifer Hubbert, Jake Bevan and Toon van Veelen for their help with getting television recordings of the Beijing Olympics from Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

I owe lots of gratitude to my siblings who have been taking good care of my father (and my mother before she passed away), and for their love and support. I am also grateful to my parents-in-laws, Yu Xiaoping and Cen Xiaoyan, for their support and encouragement. Finally, I must express my greatest gratitude to my wife, Yu Jie. Jie has always been a great supporter to me since we got to know each other on 25 November 2000. She tolerated my constant migration, and sacrificed her promising career in China and followed me to the Netherlands. In the past twelve years, we had a great time together. There are no words that can convey my love to Jie. I genuinely hope we will live our life together to the fullest.