

Causes of ban on Chinese celebrities and their fan clubs on social media by Chinese government

Author

Erham Ahmed

Email: erhamahmad7@gmail.com

Abstract

This article states the latest distress between the government of China and the celebrities and their fan clubs on social media. It analyses the reasons behind government impose ban on these celebrities and their fan clubs on social media, their data being entirely erased from the Internet. Fan clubs and fan communities are the vital part of any celebrity's professional career, life and fame. The article assesses the reasons behind imposition of ban by the Chinese government as they generally use celebrities for their projects' promotions and the recent development is how much in favor of government by curbing the rising craze of celebrities and their fan communities.

Keywords: Chinese celebrities, fan club ban on social media, Chinese Govt., fan communities.

Introduction

Media has always been an important pillar of any contemporary political system. Social media sites and media workers are also the crucial participants. Recently Chinese government has imposed ban of fan clubs of entertainment celebrities and the data of few celebrities removed from the internet as well. These celebrities are from TV and social media platforms. The government is of the view that the fan clubs are destroying the youth and system of the country. President Xi Jinping's recent act is done in order to reduce the prevailing celebrity culture in society. China's regulatory authority said that proposed ban is against unethical celebrities, having incorrect political behaviors.

Media in China is regulated by the Chinese Communist Party's Central Publicity Department. The CPD sets the boundaries the members of media industry had to follow and put into effect as it works on a control mechanism. In 2005, an editor criticized the authorities for only allowing content to get public that have pleasing effect on authorities. Many researchers argued that media control administration is executed through the legal and structural instruments (Hassid, 2008). Banning celebrities from their work is against the notion of freedom of expression. The expansion of social media sites and its extensive usage by Chinese celebrities is another reason behind the ban. It is believed that problems arise whenever digital innovations came across with freedom of expression (Sydow, 2016). The TV and social media celebrities most of the time possess characteristics that contradict the Chinese cultural values. Elitism, status, wealth, success are among these cultural values and effecting the country's youth (shmin law, 2016).

It is considered hard for celebrities with political misconduct to comeback public stream, as compared to celebs with moral misconduct or other reasons. Researchers have identified few reasons for banning celebrities officially in China were tax invasion, prostitutions, drug abuse, supporting freedom movements in Hong Kong and Taiwan, outspoken opinions on country's politics, corruption vulgar artistic works, academic misconduct, extra marital affairs and religious reasons. These celebrities were banned during 2013 to 2020 from TV, production, music and internet platforms across China (Xu & Yang, 2021).

Fan clubs

Fans are the biggest support system for every celebrity but the Chinese stars have ruined the fan culture by fan club sales. That helped them to maintain their luxury life style and status. The fans of celebrities linked through social media to form an online community across different sections of the world. They exercise influence on popular culture through celebrity's fan clubs, economy through fan economy system and advertising, promotion practices (Huang, 2015). Fan groups are vast, composite and do not have unified leadership. The unrestricted structure and association of fan culture permit opinion leaders to take up a huge part in driving the fan clubs. These powerful opinion privileged individuals become the initiators of gathering standards and direct the fans' combined ways of behaving. Some are intolerant, outrageous and unproductive and they exude negative energy within the fan clubs and groups (Jia, Hung, & Zhang, 2020).

Banning and restricting celebrities is a part Chinese communist party's political campaigns from a long time. It continues to make use of their powerful influence over social and cultural elites and to generate an alarming situation among celebrities and community (Xu J. , 2016). Earlier, a number of television entertainment celebrities faced restrictions and bans. Similarly, now Chinese popular stars, including both from TV and social media industry, Zhao Wei, Zheng Shuang and Zhang Zhehan came under China's government ban notifications, they have been removed from their projects and investigations have been started against them over different concerns. Due to ban on their fan clubs, the celebrities could no longer make any financial benefits from their fandom. Some political and academic analysts observe that these restrictions were because of the content on TV and social media platforms are against the nationalistic culture and moral values and the celebrity culture that is developing may cause chaos in the society, but Chinese authorities are claiming it to be for cultivating patriotic atmosphere. There is a need to discuss the issue to get the answer why Chinese authorities takes these steps, what will the effect of these restrictions and are these new legislations effective or not.

Fan communities and social media

Before social media, celebrities do have fans but they were scattered and unconnected. The people, society are now moving towards the new forms of social interactivity. Social media has given birth to many celebrities, which includes stars from television shows and provided a diverse space for writers, celebrities and audiences for engaging with each other through creating celebrity content i.e. fan clubs, fan communities (Muntean & Petersen, 2009). Tieba and Weibo, along with major blog writing websites like Sina, Qzone, Sohu, NetEase and instantaneous messaging forums, for example, Tencent QQ bunch, comprise the core virtual space for fan correspondence (Jeffreys & Xu, 2017). The growth of communication activities and opportunities between celebrity and fans may be negatively interpreted as unauthentic and have exploitive extension of money making

mass culture promotion. Researchers viewed it as, voluntarily developed cultural involvements in a space for many individuals to share, in a comparable form, with dependable recurrence, making the characteristic audience around shared requirements and interests for benefit (Coppa, 2014). Various sites allow the fan to interact and engage with each other like weibo for fans engagement through creating fan communities, fan clubs.

Celebrity idol worship

Talent shows in China started a new phase of idol creation after 2018. The celebrity idol and fan relation progressively recreated, as research found that peer inspiration is the major aspect prompting individuals, fans to become celebrity worshipers. Fans have mutual interests and they share information of their idols among each other (Ang & Chan, 2016). The importance of idol persona has enlarged the variety of topics of discussion and activities among fans. Fans discuss about celebrity idols as they get attracted towards their personality, which paves a way to have multiple areas of communication between fans to fulfill self-identification. This self-identity trait leads the fans towards idol worship. That idol worshipping of celebrities can lead the followers, fans towards negative and harmful behaviors and activities, which costs money and time (Chan, 2020). On the other side the idol worship factor leads the fans to be a part of the talent shows as trainees because some producers induct the fan communities into their shows to analyze and evaluate their shows. This provides the fans an amazing opportunity to work in same environment as of the celebrity who are their idols (Chen, 2021). The impacts of idol worshipping, running charities through fan clubs of celebrities and using them for their personal gains by the celebrities, all that are among the reasons of imposing new restrictions and ban by the Chinese government on fan clubs.

Restrictions

Recently Chinese government put a ban on their entertainment industry's celebrities. These celebrities are from TV and social media platforms. The work of many Chinese celebrities removed from their original projects and stopped from appearing in any shows. President Xi Jinping's recent act is done in order to reduce the prevailing celebrity culture in society. China's regulatory authority said that proposed ban is against unethical celebrities, having incorrect political behaviors. The national identity has been well defined, queried and demarcated by numerous forces with many social, cultural, political and commercial goals. The CCP had a key role in constructing the national identity since the party appeared with full strength in 1920s and particularly after forming government in China in 1949 (Gorfinkel, 2018).

A number of mainstream celebrities from entertainment industry faced restrictions and bans over unlawful and immoral conducts. The Chinese film industry was the pioneer in legalizing the moral requirements in celebrities. A chapter in Article 9 of the Film Industry Promotion Law, implemented in March 2017, specifies that the ethical training of celebrities should be improved in the film industry. The actors and directors should follow both professional distinction and ethical truthfulness, conform laws and regulations, respect societal morals, obey professional ethics, develop discipline in themselves and build a constructive public image (China Law, 2016). The laws generally take time as they go through the processes of drafting, discussion and implementation. Therefore, the notices by regulatory authorities can be drafted, circulated and executed in quite short time. These regulatory notices are issued to deal with crucial issues related

to celebrities. In recent years, the high payments to these celebrities had effected the Chinese entertainment TV industry's growth and it is criticized for promoting love for money and rapid fame among youth (NRTA, 2018).

Laws and regulations

As media has always been controlled in China and numerous laws and regulations are introduced in the media and entertainment industry to restrict their work and limit their activities. The new regulations introduced by Chinese authorities are said to strengthen the moral structure and reinforce the national identity among the masses. Few scholars believe that the newly imposed restrictions and regulations are meant to curtail the entertainment industry. Vast access to media and its content must leads towards imposing restrictions through laws and regulations (law, 2016).

Relationship between dependent and independent variables

Fan clubs and restrictions

The restrictions imposed on fan clubs of celebrities are due to the unfair economy practices of celebrities through the fan clubs. The fan economy talks about to the consumption activities of fans for admiring idols. The consumer manners of fans are established on the major work of their celebrity's works and that eventually develops into the promotion of their celebrity idols and other relative commodities. Due to the rise of social media despite of its short age, its impact has been huge. The social media fan clubs and fan community pages are considered to be new way of supporting celebrity and their works. The use of social media for doing promotions and advertising for them as a shorter and brighter way for becoming famous. The famous celebrities on social media are more reliable among their fan followers. It makes the huge commercial benefits of the fan economy, which is increasing apparently (Yang, 2020).

Fan economy and idol worship

The economy generated due to fans' activities is attribute to the rapid increase of internet and social media. The fan-based economy is the new advertising technique but also the new form of economy centered on digital media. The consumer activities of fans is principally the consumption of idol focused products to attain emotional relief. The advertising and race of other merchants for the great quality consumer base signified by fans will promote the expansion of the entire business. Due to advancement of technology, the commercial advantages created by idol are developing progressively. The strong connection among the idol and fans is the major motivating power and the utmost efficient bond. The fan economy is the combine product of the cooperation of emotional and substantial requisites. The fan economy has its disadvantages as well. The fan-based economy utilizes social media as a means to disseminate information, which can be manipulated by few fan club creators. Social media has huge audience comprised of young generation. It allows the followers to not only blindly follow their celebrity stars and must have a clear consumption idea for the further growth in fans' economy (Yang, 2020).

Celebrity worship mirrors an extraverted persona and is basically a hobby for time pass for most people for entertainment. That form of celebrity worship comprises innocuous actions such as having knowledge about a celebrity. This type of celebrity or idol worship encompasses sympathy with a celebrity's failures and achievements, obsessed to know every aspect of their lives and to create a sense of identification with them (Gibson, 2009). A study in 2011 showed that

one-third of the world population is adversely affected because of celebrity worship and it is still increasing.

Idol industry

The film and television celebrities have become famous in China through the mid-twentieth century. Due to this popularity of film and television celebrities, a new form of idol industry appeared steadily from the late 1990s, due to the impact of the production group techniques connected with K-pop, a Korean music band and the progression of the digital economy and online digital media (Zhang & Negus, 2020).

The space for fans to communicate with idols principally lies in the digital web. Youngsters have been effortlessly constrained by the intense power of idol media and their inclinations have been controlled. In this manner, the bad impact of idols on youngsters has previously turned into a significant issue currently. The consideration of media on young fans frequently centers around them being money worshipping trades (Chen, 2021).

Methodology

For data analysis, the present research followed the content analysis. The research was qualitative in nature as the qualitative study is a method of reviewing and interpreting data to describe and explicate the phenomenon examined. The present research study the news stories of major online news outlets published on ban on Chinese celebrities and their fan clubs. The research focused on the articles in the public domain that are easily available to every individual.

It is necessary to select those news stories that were written in complete sentences with main theme (Lynch & Peer, 2002). The present study analyzed six news stories written on main theme of study, causes of ban on Chinese celebrities. The search for news stories relied on related keywords of ban, china, celebrities and social media.

Data collection

For present research, six news stories reported on ban on Chinese celebrities were taken into consideration for analysis. The selection of news stories for present research had done through purposive sampling method. The news stories selected were published on online news portals between Aug to Nov 2021. These dates were chosen because at that time China impose ban on their celebrities of entertainment industry and social media. These online news portals were Bloomberg, Nikkei Asia, Business Insider, The Guardian, Daily Mail and China Daily. The study excluded those news stories reported on particular banned celebrities and their activities.

In US, few researchers analyze the content of media reporting addressing increased minimum age of legal access (MLA) for tobacco. It focused on the key words used in reporting like smoking, tobacco, minimum age or tobacco control (Huey & Apollonio, 2018). Another researchers Li, Xu and Cuomo (2020) use content analysis to observe the posts on social media blogging site Weibo during the initial period of COVID-19 outbreak. Through qualitative content analysis, they identify the major classifications of news and topics related to COVID-19 by the Weibo users. Microblogging in China is gaining popularity with time and Xiang Zhou examine

the online blogs about the removal of Shanghai leader Chen Liangyu. The researcher study the blogs posted on NetEase website in China and the results demonstrates that bloggers responded quickly to the dismissal of Shanghai leader and actively discussed the sensitive political issues and voiced multiple views and strongly criticized the Chinese government (Zhou, 2009).

Situational Theory of Publics

With the rapid use of digital media, people can expand their reach at a vast level and easily find other individuals with common interests, which leads to forming fan community and fan clubs. Grunig (1997) explained the communication manners of individuals during the creation of public on certain subjects or matters through the situational theory of publics. In the present research, the researcher used the situational theory of publics to refer to the communication manners and behaviors of fans in the modern digital media setting. In digital media sphere, individuals are wide-open to ample of information to experience it anywhere anytime. Individuals in recent time usually passively involved in information, are known as reading public, as they expose their presence and social impact through online views or searches (Jang, 2021).

In the digital media sphere, the fan can get familiarity with a celebrity as a star as well as a friend (Chang & Park, 2019), through establishing a para-social interaction digitally. Involvement in social activities works as a gauge to assess the result of involvement and participation digitally. The individuals' participations distributed into one-off contributions, such as annual donation drives and exceptional occasions and constant contribution, creating fan clubs by persistent involvements (Courneya & McAuley, 1993).

Results and analysis

For data analysis, the coding sheet was created to sort the reasons and causes of ban on Chinese celebrities stated in the news stories. First coding sheet created was based on the relevant keywords used to identify the news stories. Coding for news story of Bloomberg is 1, Nikkei Asia 2, Business Insider 3, The Guardian 4, Daily Mail 5 and China Daily is coded as 6. The number of keywords usage in these stories is given below in the table 1.

Table 1 News stories and keywords used

News stories	Keywords used			
	Ban	China	Celebrities/ stars	Social media
1	2	5	3	1
2	3	2	2	0
3	2	9	4	7
4	4	2	7	1
5	5	21	17	11
6	1	3	8	1

The news stories discussed the potential causes of banning the Chinese celebrities while few of them also stated the reasons of ban on fan community of celebrities. The researcher examined the news stories to disclose several reasons that have provoked the ban on celebrities. The table 2 highlights the causes behind the banning the entertainment celebrities by the Chinese government.

Table 2 News stories, reasons and government actions stated in news stories

News stories/ date published	Reasons	Government actions described in news stories to control
Bloomberg (3 Sep, 2021)	Incorrect politics, moral behavior, doubtful tax practices, effeminacy	Control salaries, limit celebrity fan culture
Nikkei Asia (3 Sep, 2021)	Effeminacy by male stars, unethical conduct, wrong politics	Regulations
Business Insider (24 Nov, 2021)	Unethical content, showing off wealth, extravagant life style, fan clubs causing social disorder, illegal financial gain	Following core socialist values
The Guardian (27 Aug, 2021)	To eradicate fan culture, illegal fundraising by celebrities, economic misconduct, bullying, effecting youngsters negatively	Removing celebrity rank lists, ban onscreen appearances, heavy fines
Daily Mail (24 Sep, 2021)	Wealth show off, publicizing false or private information to provoke fan community, tax evasion, promoting individualism and money worship, undeclared income, shady contracts	Promotion of socialist values, stick to social ethics and morals , heavy fines, Banning video games not having clear gender characters, pulled offended content from TV, censoring few celebrities from major video streaming sites of China
China Daily (28 Aug, 2021)	Moral misconduct, chaotic fandom, illogical celebrity idolization, harmful content on social media, illegal fundraising	Strict punishments, education on art ethics, ban on talent shows

In the present analysis of news stories, idol worship, chaotic fan culture, show off wealth, presenting effeminacy through celebrity's appearances, tax evasion and incorrect politics are among the most discussed reasons of ban and restrictions on Chinese celebrities.

Discussion

Restrictions and barring celebrities is a part of China's entertainment industry and Chinese politics. The government used celebrities for the promotion of their projects, ventures and cultural values. The CCP usually utilizes the non-state actors to regulate culture and society. In recent course of events, one of the few reasons of imposing ban is the incorrect politics of celebrities. The celebrities that were once used by the Chinese government for cultural promotion, are now caught in activities that were against China's socialist values. Through analysis of news stories, the study explored that indecent content, involving fandom for false information dissemination, non-payment of taxes, making youth money oriented and lastly, pointing out government officials wrong deeds were among the actual reasons of imposing ban on celebrities. The table 2 provide the brief insight of the reasons published by the news outlets in their online news stories. The causes of imposed ban were well highlighted along with the proposed government actions to curb the celebrity actions and activities.

Conclusion

The news item identified few names from entertainment industry who came under ban, discussed as cultural crackdown by Chinese authorities. The celebrities the popular faces of entertainment and cultural practices. They holds huge powerful influence in the projection of Chinese Communist Party's propaganda and sociopolitical efforts. So it is necessary for the authorities to not only keep a leash on these celebrities but also govern them culturally i.e. through banning celebrities, making them part of government activities. It was also discussed in few studies that involvement in tax evasion, drugs, incorrect politics, going against China Communist Party's values, having religious and moral misconduct and supporting independence campaigns in China. They were banned during 2013 to 2020 from entertainment industry (Xu & Yang, 2021). These banned actors, singers, directors and social media stars includes Fan Bingbing, Huang Haibo, Li Daimo, Denise Ho Wansee, Li Zhi, Li Tianyou and Yuan Li. In recent imposition of restrictions, called as cultural crackdown, barred many TV and social media stars from their onscreen appearances and their artwork. According to insider's report, 88 celebrities including Zhang Zhehan, Zhao Wei, Kris Wu, Zheng Shuang and Guo Laoshi were the prominent names came under radar of government ban and permanently prohibited from re-entering the industry (Teh, 2021). Governments to maintain their control over the people usually do such practices.

Ban, restrictions and regulations must be made to regularize the media, entertainment industry but not to conceal the wrongdoings of the authorities and their officials. It is also the celebrities' responsibility to act responsibly as they are public figures and people. Their fans adore them and try to follow them as much as they can to create a sense of relatability with them. This creation of celebrity idols and fan communities have created many issues in the regulatory systems. Fans in order to relate and get praise from their favorite celebrities sometimes crosses the moral and ethical boundaries, which often damage the celebrity's image. It is the celebrities' responsibility to promote positivity through their work, actions, most importantly fan community and try to avoid irrational and illegal means to spread word of mouth or get fame and popularity.

Limitations

While searching and selecting news stories for present research, it was difficult to get access to content of few news stories, as they are paid news websites. Few of prominent news stories form South China Morning Post and New York Times did not make part of the research as

they only have paid access to read these stories. Other than that, the selected news stories for present research were easily available and have open access for everyone.

References

- Ang, C., & Chan, N. (2016). Adolescents' views on celebrity worship: A qualitative study. *Current Psychology*, 37, 139–148.
- Baker, S. (2021, November 24). *China bans celebrities from 'showing off wealth' or 'extravagant pleasure' on social media as communist rulers continue their crackdown on the entertainment industry*. Retrieved from Daily Mail Online: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10237617/China-bans-celebrities-showing-wealth-extravagant-pleasure-social-media.html>
- Chan, D. (2020). Implication of idol personality, fan club's self-identity and group cohesiveness on Chinese fan club's worship behavior: A case study of Wang Yibo fan club. 131.
- Chang, W., & Park, S. (2019). The fandom of Hallyu, a tribe in the digital network era: the case of ARMY of BTS. *Kritika Kultura*, 96, 260-287.
- Chen, X. (2021). Consumption Oriented Idol Worship in China. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research*, 615, 101-105.
- China Law Translate. (2016). *Film industry promotion law 2016*.
- Coppa, F. (2014). *Pop culture, fans and social media*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Courneya, K., & McAuley, E. (1993). Can Short-range intentions predict physical activity participation? *Perceptual and motor skills*, 77(1), 115-122.
- Davidson, H. (2021, Aug 27). *China bans celebrity rankings in bid to 'rectify chaos in the fan community'*. Retrieved from The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/27/china-bans-celebrity-rankings-in-bid-to-rectify-chaos-in-the-fan-community>
- Gibson. (2009). *The psychology behind celebrity worship*. Retrieved from Psychology about: <http://psychology.about.com/b/2009/09/01/the-psychology-behind-celebrity-worship.htm>
- Glamann, P., Liu, L., Li, J., Wang, F., & Lyu, D. (2021, September 3). *China to Ban Celebrities With 'Incorrect' Politics, Limit Pay*. Retrieved from Bloomberg: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-03/china-to-ban-film-stars-with-incorrect-politics-limit-pay>
- Gorfinkel, L. (2018). *Chinese Television and National Identity construction*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Grunig, J. E. (1997). A situational theory of publics: Conceptual history, recent challenges and new research. *Public relations research: An international perspective*, 3, 48.

- Hassid, J. (2008). Controlling the Chinese media: An uncertain business. *Asian Survey*, 48(3), 414-430.
- Huang, Y. (2015). *Fans economics*. Beijing: Publishing House of Electronics Industry.
- Huey, J., & Apollonio, D. E. (2018). A content analysis of popular media reporting regarding increases in minimum ages of legal access for tobacco. *BMC Public Health*.
- Jang, H. (2021). A Study on the Effects of Fandom's Digital Media Use on Social Participation : Focused on the Mediating Effect of the Identification. *The Journal of the Korea Contents Association*, 21(6), 480–493.
- Jeffreys , E., & Xu, J. (2017). Celebrity-inspired, Fan-driven: Doing Philanthropy through Social Media in Mainland China. *Asian Studies Review*, 41(2), 244-262. doi:10.1080/10357823.2017.1294145
- Jia, X., Hung, K., & Zhang, K. (2020). Celebrity Fans in China: Motives, Characteristics, and Marketing Impacts. In C. L. Wang, *Handbook of Research on the Impact of Fandom in Society and Consumerism* (pp. 104-126). Publisher Business Science Reference.
- Khan, M. A., & Rasheed, M. R. (2020). Electronic Media and Interpersonal Discourse: Mediation in Crises. *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities*, 28(1)
- law, S. (2016). *Taking Cues from the Past: Evolution of Celebrity Endorsement Regulations in China*. China: Shimin Law Offices.
- Li, J. X. (2020). Data mining and content analysis of the Chinese social media platform Weibo during the early COVID-19 outbreak: retrospective observational infoveillance study. *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance*, 6(2).
- Lynch, S., & Peer, L. (2002). *Analyzing Newspaper Content A How-To Guide*. Evanston, Illinois: The Readership Institute.
- Muntean, N., & Petersen, A. H. (2009). Celebrity Twitter: Strategies of intrusion and disclosure in the age of technoculture. *M/C Journal*, 12(5), 1–6.
- NRTA. (2018). *Guanyu jinyibu jiaqiang guangbo dianshi he tuidong xinshidai guangbo dianshi bochu jigou zuoqiang zuoyou de yijian de (Opinion notice concerning promoting radio and television broadcasting organisations to become more superior and stronger in the new era*. Retrieved from National Radio and Television Administration.
- Rouxi, Z., Cong, G., & Jia, D. (2021, September 3). *China orders showbiz to ban unpatriotic and unethical stars*. Retrieved from Nikkei Asia: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Caixin/China-orders-showbiz-to-ban-unpatriotic-and-unethical-stars>
- shmin law. (2016). *Taking Cues from the Past: Evolution of Celebrity Endorsement Regulations in China*. china.
- Sydow, v. B. (2016). Yttrandefrihetens betydelse för ett fritt folk, The importance of freedom of speech in a free society.

- Towey, H. (2021, Nov 24). *China bars celebrities from showing off wealth and 'extravagant pleasure' on social media, saying pop stars must comply with 'core socialist values'*. Retrieved from Business Insider: <https://www.businessinsider.com/china-bans-celebs-from-showing-off-wealth-on-social-media-2021-11>
- Xu, J. (2016). *Media events in web 2.0 China: interventions of online activism*. Eastbourne: Sussex Academic Press.
- Xu, J., & Yang, L. (2021). Governing entertainment celebrities in China: practices, policies and politics (2005–2020). *Celebrity Studies*, 1-17. doi:10.1080/19392397.2021.1912109
- Yang, S. (2020). Stimulation Effect of Fan Economy to Industrial Development. *International Conference on Financial Economics and Investment Management (FEIM 2020)* (pp. 192-195). HongKong: CSP.
- Yin, C. (2021, Aug 28). *Crackdown on celebrity worship underway*. Retrieved from China Daily : <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202108/28/WS612951d4a310efa1bd66bb51.html>
- Zhang, Q., & Negus, K. (2020). East Asian pop music idol production and the emergence of data fandom in China. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 493–511.
- Zhou, X. (2009). The political blogosphere in China: A content analysis of the blogs regarding the dismissal of Shanghai leader Chen Liangyu. *New media and society*, 11(6), 1003-1022.