

# Reproducing Women

MEDICINE, METAPHOR, AND CHILDBIRTH  
IN LATE IMPERIAL CHINA | Yi-Li Wu

REPRODUCING WOMEN



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This innovative book uses the lens of cultural history to examine the development of medicine in Qing dynasty China. Focusing on the specialty of “medicine for women” (fuke), Yi-Li Wu explores the material and ideological issues associated with childbearing in the late imperial period. She draws on a rich array of medical writings that circulated in seventeenth- to nineteenth-century China to analyze the points of convergence and contention that shaped people's views of women's reproductive diseases. These points of contention touched on fundamental issues: How different were women's bodies from men's? What drugs were best for promoting conception and preventing miscarriage? Was childbirth inherently dangerous? And who was best qualified to judge? Wu shows that late imperial medicine approached these questions with a new, positive perspective.

## 作者介绍:

Yi-Li Wu is an independent scholar and a Center Associate of the Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan.

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1. Late Imperial Fuke and the Literate Medical Tradition
2. Amateur as Arbiter: Popular Fuke Manuals in the Qing
3. Function and Structure in the Female Body
4. An Uncertain Harvest: Pregnancy and Miscarriage
5. “Born Like a Lamb” : The Discourse of Cosmologically Resonant Childbirth
6. To Generate and Transform: Strategies for Postpartum Health

Epilogue: Body, Gender, and Medical Legitimacy  
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## 标签

医疗史

女性

海外中国研究

身体

海外汉学

历史学

gender

Gender

## 评论

传送 <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ajo4WHjuTR-hghdq5iW06tNGpGQ>  
三星半。材料扎实严谨、个案详细是优点，但理论构建以及观点表达实在太晦涩了，结论在我看来有些虚——想正面刚一发费奶奶，然而并没有说服我

嚴謹之作，到了結論才進入理論層面的發揮。主要在反駁Charlotte Furth對中國身體的觀點。

终于把它看完了。

整本书充满了大量的个案，观点不免被冗余的故事淹没。可以看做是跟Furth奶奶的对话，认为宋之后的女性身体除了涉及分娩时候，与男性并无二致。结论有诡辩的感觉且太富有解构性。另外，第二章显得很凑数，且总体文字艰涩。

From androgyny to infinite body, inspiring conceptualization.

和Furth 那本比展现了更复杂多面的历史

文章結構是從醫書的流通和自證合法性開始，再講婦女的產前，生產和產後護理。在結論中，不同與Furth的論點（她把黃帝內經中中國古代身體觀抽象為androgynous entity，同時宋代以來越來越強調gender difference，從而產生婦科），Wu 引入語言學的inflectional morphology來解釋中國醫學的身體觀—an infinitive body，

being conjugated into male and female, into the young and old, depending on different circumstances.

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写的超级用心

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认真读了第四章，给我提供了不少思路哈哈哈哈。

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算是把我想读的读完了吧。有启发的就是医疗文本分专业和业余两方面来谈那两章。医学书籍的编纂以及印刷流传。“作为业余者的仲裁者”，业余者却更拥有话语权。一是专业医生往往是科考失败者，富有学识的业余者具有更好的教育背景，更具权威性。二是医学最终面向大众。

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书评

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