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Emerging Lala Cultural Activism in China

Since the emergence of identity-based local and country-wide lala communities from the late 1990s, creative efforts have been put into the building of a unique mainland lala culture across cities. Diverse lala cultural projects in the form of oral history, newsletter, magazine, visual representation, web radio, virtual community, literature, and symbolic street actions or celebrations are developing in different cities in China. In this paper, I would map out the ongoing sites and strategies of lala cultural activism in China. The paper will include a discussion of the socio-political context of the post-reform China that contributes to the formation of more visible and politically conscious tongzhi communities in the recent decade, and a preliminary examination of those cultural practices in the aspect of their impact on the construction of lala subjecthood and community politics.