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Woman, Labor and Subjectivity: An Investigation to Zhao Shuli's Novels

When we discuss the Chinese revolutionary/socialist practice the public labor, as the important content of Chinese women's liberation, should be paid more attention to. The questions we will ask: What did the public labor exactly bring to women's life style, marriage and family, did it change the self/social recognition? And did these changes really link to the "liberation" of Chinese women or not? How to grasp the complicated relationship between women, labor and subjectivity?

In this paper, I want to focus on these questions through reading Zhao Shuli's novels which is a good exemplar for rural life and society in 1950s to 1960s. In order to exam the history of women's life during this period, I also refer to research that has been done by sociologists, for example, Gao Xiaohong, JinYihong and Zuo Jiping. Showing the changes of relationships between women and labor in different historical contexts, I will discuss the various aspects of socialist revolution inheritance.