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## **Gendered ritual and performative literacy : Yao Women, goddesses of fertility, and the Chinese imperial state**

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## PROPOSITIONS

Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift

### **Gendered Ritual and Performative Literacy: Yao Women, Goddesses of Fertility and the Chinese Imperial State**

1. So far scholarship on Yao ritual traditions has still been dominated by a male perspective and Han Chinese ethnocentrism.
2. From the viewpoint of many non-Han Chinese societies in South China, singing is seen as a form of 'performative literacy'; its importance parallels or indeed even outweighs an ability to read and write.
3. The Yao ritual texts about goddesses of fertility actually have nothing to do with fertility. Instead, they recount women's pursuit of individuation and transcendence.
4. In this dissertation I attempt to offer non-Han Chinese perceptions of the Chinese imperial state that are often underrepresented in the study of Chinese history.
5. A comparative perspective proves to be of great value in the investigation into the relationship between gender and religion among the different non-Han Chinese cultures of South China.
6. A long-term fieldwork investigation serves as an excellent vantage point from which to pursue further library based research.
7. To digitize all the available Yao ritual manuscripts would be time-consuming and costly but, if successful, would be an enormous contribution to encouraging more exciting research into the history and ethnicity of imperial China.
8. Innovation arises from the courage to follow one's own instincts.
9. 'When you want something in life, you just gotta reach out and grab it.'—Christopher McCandless (from the film *Into the Wild*)
10. This dissertation might not be able to facilitate world peace, but it certainly hopes to encourage a better appreciation of cultural and religious diversity.
11. Love is the motivation behind this research.