

Maoyi Peixuan Report

It has been an inspiring three days experience. Learning from academia, researchers, archivists and historians, from their years of work on preserving memories which were ignored and erased, I see an art of remembering. Coming from a visual art background, it takes a lot to absorb the diverse and intense presentations. As many of the presentations taught me, what a queer archive project can be, why it is important, and how wide a range of questions we can ask in the history.

At the conference opening, the issue on the lack of non-white-European presenters has brought up the, when speaker Sanni Est said “Who’s memory has been prioritized, and why”, it takes me into a mind battle. Although a lot of reasons can be questioned, I also reflect on my own surroundings, where LGBTQ+ and feminist organization stay underground for the safety reasons, the illegal status are keeping lots of intension to work on the field strangled in the cradle. It is hard to imaging a project dealing with queer history can take place in decades of conservative political climate. When a serious proposals and questions were brought up in the queer town twinning, I felt that not these question weren’t important, but they might be irrelevant to what we are dealing with now in my narrative.

It makes me wonder, how can I bring all these materials and experience to China, how to transform them into a different kind of strategy to cope with the current climate in China. The answers stay unknown, it is hard to assume a change without a radical change in our minds and actions. But I would say that this conference has opened my eyes on what can be done, and what we had missing in queer memories in east Asian.