

## 04.11-Family

### Family

#### Young, single and what about it?

This article looks at the **sharp** rise in young Chinese happy to live by themselves; the next at old people less happy to do so  
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#### Vocab

1. **sharp** adj. sudden and rapid, especially of a change in sth 急剧的, 骤然的 (变化)  
e.g. He heard a **sharp intake of breath**. 他听到猛地倒吸一口气的声音。

#### Sentence

the next at old people less happy to do so

the next 在这里表示, the next article

这里 at 有目的的意思 expressing the object of a look, gesture, thought, action, or plan 向, 朝; 对于

e.g. **policies aimed at reducing taxation**. 旨在降低税收的政策。

to do so 的 so 在这里表示前文的 live by themselves

IN HER tiny flat, which she shares with two cats and a **flock of porcelain owls**, Chi Yingying describes her parents as wanting to be the controlling shareholders in her life. Even when she was in her early 20s, her mother **raged** at her for being unmarried. At 28 Ms Chi took “the most **courageous** decision of my life” and moved into her own home. Now 33, she **relishes** the privacy—**at a price**: her monthly rent of 4,000 yuan (\$625) **swallows** nearly half her salary.

#### Vocab

1. **flock** n. (鸟、羊)群 A **flock of** birds, sheep, or goats is a group of them.

e.g. They kept a small **flock of sheep**... 他们养了一小群羊。

2. **porcelain** n. 瓷 **Porcelain** is a hard, shiny substance made by heating clay. It is used to make delicate cups, plates, and ornaments.

e.g. There were lilies everywhere in tall white **porcelain vases**. 高高的白色瓷瓶上绘满了百合花。

3. **owl** n. 猫头鹰; 鸮 An **owl** is a bird with a flat face, large eyes, and a small sharp beak. Most owls obtain their food by hunting small animals at night.

4. **rage** v. 发脾气; 大怒 If you **rage** about something, you speak or think very angrily about it.

e.g. Inside, Frannie was **raging**... 弗兰妮正在屋里大发脾气。

5. **courageous** adj. =**brave** showing courage 勇敢的; 无畏的

e.g. a very courageous decision 十分勇敢的决定

6. **relish** v. =**enjoy** to get great pleasure from sth; to want very much to do or have sth 享受; 从...获得乐趣; 渴望; 喜欢

e.g. I **don't relish the prospect** of getting up early tomorrow. 我可不愿意明天早上早起。

7. **at a price** **IDM at a 'price** involving sth unpleasant 付代价

e.g. He'll help you—at a price! 他会帮助你的——要付代价!

8. **swallow** v. ~ sb/ sth (up) to use up sth completely, especially an amount of money 用尽, 耗尽, 花光 (钱等)

e.g. Most of my salary gets swallowed (up) by the rent and bills. 我的工资大多支付房租和各种日常费用了。

In many countries leaving the family home well before marriage is a **rite of passage**. But in China choosing to live alone and unmarried as Ms Chi has done is **eccentric verging on taboo**. Chinese culture **attaches** a particularly high value to the idea that families should live together. Yet ever more people are living alone.

### Vocab

1. **rite of passage** **[IDIOMS]** a ceremony or event marking an important stage in someone's life, especially birth, initiation, marriage, and death 通过礼仪 (指为人生进入一个重要阶段而举行的仪式, 尤指为出生、命名、结婚、死亡而举行的仪式); 人生重大阶段的事件

2. **eccentric** adj. considered by other people to be strange or unusual 古怪的; 异乎寻常的  
e.g. eccentric behaviour/ clothes 古怪的行为; 奇装异服

3. **verge on** =border on sth **PHR V** 'verge on sth to be very close to an extreme state or condition 极接近; 濒于

e.g. Some of his suggestions verged on the outrageous. 他的一些建议都快到了荒唐的地步。

4. **attach** v. ~ importance, significance, value, weight, etc. (to sth) to believe that sth is important or worth thinking about 认为有重要性 (或意义、价值、分量等); 重视

e.g. I attach great importance to this research. 我认为这项研究十分重要。

### Sentence

But in China choosing to live alone and unmarried as Ms Chi has done is eccentric verging on taboo.

主干: XXX is eccentric verging on taboo. 前面的都是做主语结构

in China choosing to live alone unmarried 在中国未结婚但选择一个人住

as Ms Chi has done 这里 as 是“就像”的意思

In the decade to 2010 the number of single-person households doubled. Today over 58m Chinese live by themselves, according to **census** data, a bigger number of one-person homes than in America, Britain and France combined. Solo **dwellers** make up 14% of all households. That is still low compared with rates found in Japan or Taiwan (see chart), but the proportion will certainly increase.

### Vocab

1. **census** n. the process of officially counting sth, especially a country's population, and recording various facts (官方的) 统计; 人口普查; 人口调查

2. **dweller** n. 居民; 居住者 A city **dweller** or slum **dweller**, for example, is a person who lives in the kind of place or house indicated.

e.g. The number of city dwellers is growing... 城市居民的数量正在增长。

### Sentence

That is still low compared with rates found in Japan or Taiwan (see chart), but the proportion will certainly increase.

主干: that is still low....

这里 that 是指代前面的比例

compared 这里做介词意思如下: **PREP-PHRASE** 短语介词 与...相比;和...比起来 If you say, for

example, that one thing is large or small **compared with** another or **compared to** another, you mean that it is larger or smaller than the other thing.

the proportion 同样是指 that 所指代的对象，即前句的比例

The pattern of Chinese living alone is somewhat different from that in the West, because tens of millions of (mainly poor) migrant workers have moved away from home to find work in more **prosperous** regions of China; many in this group live alone, often in **shoeboxes**. Yet for the most part younger Chinese living alone are from among the **better-off**. “Freedom and new wealth” have broken China’s traditional family structures, says Jing Jun of Tsinghua University in Beijing.

### Vocab

1. **prosperous** adj. =**affluent** rich and successful 繁荣的；成功的；兴旺的

e.g. prosperous countries 繁荣的国家

2. **shoebox** n. (*disapproving*) a very small house with a square shape and no interesting features, especially one that is very similar to all the ones around it (尤指千篇一律的)小平房，鞋盒式住房

3. **better-off** adj. 较富裕的；境况较好的

### Sentence

The pattern of Chinese living alone is somewhat different from that in the West,

这里 from that in the West 的 that 指代的是 the pattern，即该句表示的是：中国人独居的模式和西方人是有一些不同的

The better-educated under-30-year-olds are, and the more money they have, the more likely they are to live alone. Rich parts of China have more **non-widowed** single dwellers: in Beijing a fifth of homes house only one person. The marriage age is rising, particularly in big cities such as Shanghai and Guangzhou, where the average man marries after 30 and the average woman at 28, older than their American **counterparts**. Divorce rates are also increasing, though they are still much lower than in America. More than 3.5m Chinese couples split up each year, which adds to the number of single households.

### Vocab

1. **widow** n. a woman whose husband has died and who has not married again 寡妇；遗孀

2. **counterpart** n. 职能(或地位)相当的人;对应的事物 Someone's or something's **counterpart** is another person or thing that has a similar function or position in a different place.

e.g. The Foreign Secretary telephoned his Italian **counterpart** to protest. 外交部长致电意大利外长表示抗议。

### Sentence

The better-educated under-30-year-olds are, and the more money they have, the more likely they are to live alone.

这里三个比较成分：The better-educated..., and the more..., the more likely...

前两层由 and 连接，表示并列的比较对象，最后一个是递进的成，即：教育程度越高，并且收入越高，则独居的可能性越大

For some, living alone is a **transitional** stage on the way to marriage, remarriage or family **reunification**. But for a growing number of people it may be a **permanent**

state. In cities, many educated, urban women stay single, often as a positive choice — a sign of rising status and better employment opportunities. Rural areas, by contrast, have a skewed sex ratio in which men outnumber women, a consequence of families preferring sons and aborting female fetuses or abandoning baby girls. The consequence is millions of reluctant bachelors.

### Vocab

1. **transitional** adj. 过渡性的;过渡时期的 **Transitional** is used to describe something that happens or exists during a transitional period.

e.g. The main rebel groups have agreed to join in a meeting to set up a **transitional** government. 主要叛乱集团已同意参加会议讨论建立一个过渡政府。

2. **reunification** n. 重新统一 The **reunification** of a country or city that has been divided into two or more parts for some time is the joining of it together again.

e.g. ...the **reunification** of East and West Beirut in 1991. 东、西贝鲁特在1991年的重新统一

3. **permanent** adj. lasting for a long time or for all time in the future; existing all the time 永久的;永恒的;长久的

e.g. They are now living together on a permanent basis. 他们现在决定长期同住。

4. **skewed** adj. not accurate or correct 歪曲的;有偏颇的;不准确的

e.g. skewed statistics 不准确的统计

5. **abort** v. to give birth to a child or young animal too early for it to survive 流产;小产

e.g. The virus can cause pregnant animals to abort. 这种病毒可能导致怀孕动物流产。

6. **fetus** =foetus n. 胎儿 A **foetus** is an animal or human being in its later stages of development before it is born.

e.g. Pregnant women who are heavy drinkers risk damaging the unborn **foetus**. 孕妇酗酒可能会危及腹中胎儿。

7. **bachelor** n. a man who has never been married 未婚男子;单身汉

e.g. a **confirmed bachelor** (= a person who does not intend to marry; often used in newspapers to refer to a **HOMOSEXUAL** man) 信守独身主义的单身汉 (报章上常用来指同性恋男子)

### Sentence

Rural areas, by contrast, have a skewed sex ratio in which men outnumber women, a consequence of families preferring sons and aborting female fetuses or abandoning baby girls.

主干: Rural areas have a skewed sex ratio

by contrast 这里把转折放到了主语和谓语之间,而不是句首。

consequence 这里的 consequence 是指前半句的结果,即男性数量大于女性的结果,一个什么样的结果,即表示导致男性数量大于女性的结果是由于 preferring sons and aborting female fetuses or abandoning baby girls.

In the past, adulthood in China used, almost without exception, to mean marriage and having children within supervised rural or urban structures. Now a growing number of Chinese live beyond prying eyes, able to pursue the social and sexual lives they choose.

### Vocab

1. **exception** n. a person or thing that is not included in a general statement 一般情况以外的人(或事物);例外

e.g. Nobody had much money at the time and I was **no exception**. 那时候谁都没有很多钱,我也不例外。

2. **within** prep. inside the range or limits of sth 不出 (某范围或限度) ; 在 (某范围) 之内  
e.g. That question is not within the scope of this talk. 那个问题不在本次会谈范围之内。
3. **supervise** v. to be in charge of sb/ sth and make sure that everything is done correctly, safely, etc. 监督 ; 管理 ; 指导 ; 主管
4. **pry** v. 窥探 ; 窥视 ; 偷看 ; 刺探 If someone **pries**, they try to find out about someone else's private affairs, or look at their personal possessions.  
e.g. We do not want people **prying** into our affairs... 我们不希望别人窥探我们的私事。

### Sentence

In the past, adulthood in China used, almost without exception, to mean marriage and having children within supervised rural or urban structures.

这句, 被插入语搞乱了, 其实 used to 是连在一起的, 即: adulthood in China used to mean....

主干: adulthood used to mean marriage and having children...

In the long run that poses a political challenge: the love of individual freedom is something that the Chinese state has long tried to **quash**. Living alone does not have to mean **breaching** social **norms**—phones and the internet make it easier than ever to keep in touch with relations, after all. Yet loosening family ties may open up space for new social networks, interest groups, even political **aspirations** of which the state may come to disapprove.

### Vocab

1. **quash** v. to officially say that a decision made by a court is no longer valid or correct 宣布 (法庭的裁决) 无效 ; 撤销 (判决)  
e.g. His conviction was later quashed by the Court of Appeal. 后来, 上诉法院撤销了对他的判决。
2. **breach** n. ~ of sth a failure to do sth that must be done by law 违背, 违犯 (法规等)  
e.g. a **breach of contract/ copyright/ warranty** 违犯合同 ; 侵犯版权 ; 违反保证
3. **norm** n. a situation or a pattern of behaviour that is usual or expected 常态 ; 正常行为  
e.g. Older parents seem to be the norm rather than the exception nowadays. 高龄父母健在, 在今天似乎成了常事, 而不是个例。
4. **aspiration** n. ~ (for sth) | ~ (to do sth) a strong desire to have or do sth 渴望 ; 抱负 ; 志向  
e.g. I didn't realize you had political aspirations. 我没有意识到你有政治上的抱负。

For now those who live alone are often subject to **mockery**. Unmarried females are labelled “leftover women”; unmarried men, “bare branches”—for the family tree they will never grow. An online group called “women living alone” is **stacked with** complaints about being told to “get a boyfriend”.

### Vocab

1. **mockery** n. comments or actions that are intended to make sb/ sth seem ridiculous 嘲笑 ; 愚弄  
e.g. She couldn't stand any more of their mockery. 她再也无法忍受他们的愚弄了。
2. **stacked with** adj. 堆满了...的 If a place or surface is **stacked with** objects, it is filled with piles of them.  
e.g. Shops in Ho Chi Minh City are **stacked with** goods. 胡志明市的商店里堆满了商品。

### Sentence

Unmarried females are labelled “leftover women”; unmarried men, “bare branches”—for the

family tree they will never grow.

主干: Unmarried females are labelled...

“bare branches” 其实是省略了谓语, 即: unmarried men are labelled “bare branches”

—for the family tree they will never grow. 解释的作用

Even eating out can be a trial, since Chinese food culture is associated with groups of people sharing a whole range of dishes. After repeated criticism for dining alone, in 2014 Yanni Cai, a Shanghai **journalist**, wrote “Eating Alone”, a book on how singletons can adapt Chinese **cuisine** to make a single plate a meal in itself. According to tradition, even a **frugal** Chinese meal comprises “four dishes and one soup”. A single diner is likely to find that rather too much to stomach.

### Vocab

1. **journalist** n. 新闻记者; 新闻工作者 A **journalist** is a person whose job is to collect news and write about it for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio.

2. **cuisine** n. a style of cooking 烹饪; 风味

e.g. Italian cuisine 意大利式烹饪

3. **frugal** adj. using only as much money or food as is necessary (对金钱、食物等) 节约的, 节俭的

### Sentence

A single diner is likely to find that rather too much to stomach.

be likely to 可能(做...)的; 有(...)倾向的 If someone or something is **likely to** do a particular thing, they will very probably do it.

**这里 rather 的意思是:** used to mean 'fairly' or 'to some degree', often when you are expressing slight criticism, disappointment or surprise (常用于表示轻微的批评、失望或惊讶) 相当, 在某种程度上

e.g. He was conscious that he was talking **rather too** much. 他意识到他说得实在太多了。

From the print edition: China

## Family

### Young, single and what about it?

家庭: 年轻, 单身, 又怎样?

This article looks at the sharp rise in young Chinese happy to live by themselves; the next at old people less happy to do so.

这篇文章关注愿意独自居住的中国青年数量急剧上升这一现象。下一篇文章会关注很少乐意独居的老年人。

In her tiny flat, which she shares with two cats and a flock of porcelain owls, Chi Yingying describes her parents as wanting to be the controlling shareholders in her life. Even when she was in her early 20s, her mother raged at her for being unmarried. At 28 Ms Chi took “the most courageous decision of my life” and moved into her own home. Now 33, she relishes the privacy—at a price: her monthly rent of 4,000 yuan (\$625) swallows nearly half her salary.

迟莹莹房里除了两只猫, 同时放着一堆猫头鹰的瓷玩偶, 她说她的父母干涉她的生活就好像她是她们的投资品一样。即即便当她还只是二十岁出头的黄毛丫头,

妈妈还是会因为她没结婚而数落她。28岁时，迟小姐做了“我一生人中最勇敢的决定”，搬进了她自己的房子里。现在33岁的她享受着个人空间，当然是有代价的：每月4000人民币（625美元）的房租几乎是她工资的一半。

In many countries leaving the family home well before marriage is a rite of passage. But in China choosing to live alone and unmarried as Ms Chi has done is eccentric verging on taboo. Chinese culture attaches a particularly high value to the idea that families should live together. Yet ever more people are living alone.

在许多国家，结婚前就搬离父母是一个成人仪式，没什么稀奇的。但在中国，像迟小姐这样没结婚，但选择独自居住的做法是近乎禁忌般反常的。中国文化里，和家人应该住在一起是非常珍视的一环。然而，现在有越来越多的人选择独自居住。

In the decade to 2010 the number of single-person households doubled. Today over 58m Chinese live by themselves, according to census data, a bigger number of one-person homes than in America, Britain and France combined. Solo dwellers make up 14% of all households. That is still low compared with rates found in Japan or Taiwan, but the proportion will certainly increase.

到2010年为止的十年中，单人独居人数增加了一倍。人口普查显示，中国现有超过5800万人独自居住，这比美国、英国和法国单人独居人数相加还要多。独居者数量占有所有家庭数量的14%。虽然这个比例相较日本和台湾依然偏低，但这个趋势必然会蔓延。

The pattern of Chinese living alone is somewhat different from that in the West, because tens of millions of (mainly poor) migrant workers have moved away from home to find work in more prosperous regions of China; many in this group live alone, often in shoeboxes. Yet for the most part younger Chinese living alone are from among the better-off. “Freedom and new wealth” have broken China's traditional family structures, says Jing Jun of Tsinghua University in Beijing.

中国人独居的模式和西方人某程度上有所不同。数以亿计相对贫困的外来务工人员从家乡迁徙到中国经济更发达的地区寻找工作，而他们大多也在狭窄的房子里独自居住。然而，在城市打拼的年轻人往往是经济条件较为富裕的。清华大学的景军说，“自由观念和富裕生活”已经打破中国传统的家庭结构。

The better-educated under-30-year-olds are, and the more money they have, the more likely they are to live alone. Rich parts of China have more non-widowed single dwellers: in Beijing a fifth of homes house only one person. The marriage age is rising, particularly in big cities such as Shanghai and Guangzhou, where the average man marries after 30 and the average woman at 28, older than their American counterparts. Divorce rates are also increasing, though they are still much lower than in America. More than 3.5m Chinese

couples split up each year, which adds to the number of single households.

30岁以下的人接受的教育越好，收入越高，独自居住的可能性就越大。相比之下，中国富裕地区有着更多非丧偶独居者，例如在北京，有五分之一的房子都只有一人居住。特别是像上海和广州这样的大城市，结婚平均年龄在逐渐上升。这些地方男性平均结婚年龄在30岁之后，女性则是28岁，相比美国的同龄人要晚。同时，离婚率也在上涨，尽管相比起美国依然处于很低的水平。每年有超过350万对中国夫妇分居，这也增加了独居者的人数。

For some, living alone is a transitional stage on the way to marriage, remarriage or family reunification. But for a growing number of people it may be a permanent state. In cities, many educated, urban women stay single, often as a positive choice—a sign of rising status and better employment opportunities. Rural areas, by contrast, have a skewed sex ratio in which men outnumber women, a consequence of families preferring sons and aborting female fetuses or abandoning baby girls. The consequence is millions of reluctant bachelors.

对有些人来说，独居是迈向婚姻、再婚或者是家庭团聚的过渡性阶段。但对越来越多的人来说，这可能是一种生活常态。在城市中，许多接受良好教育的都市女性保持单身，这是考虑到提升社会地位以及抓住升职机会的正面选择。相反，在农村地区，由于有些家庭偏爱男孩，如果怀的是女婴往往会选择流产或者遗弃，造成男性数量远超女性的性别比例失调。结果就是出现几百万不情不愿的单身汉。

In the past, adulthood in China used, almost without exception, to mean marriage and having children within supervised rural or urban structures. Now a growing number of Chinese live beyond prying eyes, able to pursue the social and sexual lives they choose.

在过去的中国，不论城乡，成年就意味着要在受到各种监管的城乡结构体系的“呵护”下结婚生子。现在，越来越多的中国人摆脱父母的束缚独自居住，这样它们就能够自由选择他们自己的社交和两性生活。

In the long run that poses a political challenge: the love of individual freedom is something that the Chinese state has long tried to quash. Living alone does not have to mean breaching social norms—phones and the internet make it easier than ever to keep in touch with relations, after all. Yet loosening family ties may open up space for new social networks, interest groups, even political aspirations of which the state may come to disapprove.

从长期来看，这也造成了政治上的被动，因为对个人自由的崇拜是中国政府一直以来试图压制的。独居并不意味着要打破社会习俗，毕竟电话和互联网的存在使得与亲人随时保持联系比以前便利了许多。然而家庭关系的疏离或许会给新社交网络、利益集团甚至是官方不赞同的政治导向提供栖身空间。



For now those who live alone are often subject to mockery. Unmarried females are labelled “leftover women” ; unmarried men, “bare branches” —for the family tree they will never grow. An online group called “women living alone” is stacked with complaints about being told to “get a boyfriend”.

现在，那些独居的人常常会成为旁人开涮的工具。未婚女性会被看作是“剩女”，而未婚男性则是“光棍”，因为在族谱上他们不能开枝散叶。在一个叫“独居女人”的网络团体中，时常会出现女性对“该找男友”的抱怨。

Even eating out can be a trial, since Chinese food culture is associated with groups of people sharing a whole range of dishes. After repeated criticism for dining alone, in 2014 Yanni Cai, a Shanghai journalist, wrote “Eating Alone”, a book on how singletons can adapt Chinese cuisine to make a single plate a meal in itself. According to tradition, even a frugal Chinese meal comprises “four dishes and one soup”. A single diner is likely to find that rather too much to stomach.

由于中国餐厅里几个人聚在一起多点几个菜是常态，所以对很多人来说，出去吃饭就像一场考验。因为单独吃饭被叨念多次后，上海记者蔡雅妮在2014年出版了一本叫《一人食》的书，写的是如何用单一物品做出只供一个人食用的中国菜肴。从传统意义来说，即使是节俭的中国餐都要包含“四菜一汤”。若这些给一个人食用的话，可能他胃吃不消。