abstract

This dissertation begins from a hypothesis that gender representations were embodied within the dwelling. This set of representations or images was then (re)produced in the city spaces. But how were they re-enacted and re-created in the city? Did the layering of gender manifest itself mainly in the form of spatial organization into public and private, the regulation of land for segregation, and through the use of physical boundaries? The essay argues that women in patriarchal societies did not have direct access to power relations. How did they articulate alternative representations in relative to their male counterparts? In particular, this dissertation seeks to question beyond the above norms, beyond the historically inscribed inequalities and patterns of discrimination. It also attempts to draw out meanings of the representations or images that were specifically gendered. Three examples are identified for this study. They are ancient Greece during the fifth century, twentieth century China and the Ottoman empire during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.