

《文化多样性是否隔绝了中英两国的交流？》

导读:英国女王评价中国“粗鲁”一事引起了国际轰动，但这是否只是因为中英两国对文化的认知不同？



The good news is that Chinese food remains as popular as ever, with surveys consistently showing the cuisine among the world's favourites.

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Meanwhile, China now sends more tourists abroad than any other country - their cash making a major contribution to the coffers of those host nations able to pull them in with the offer of beaches, beauty spots and heritage sites.

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Yet the increasing encounters between Chinese people and the rest of the world also provide more possibilities for cultural misunderstanding and for the perception of rudeness.

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A little more understanding is called for by Jieyu Liu, a sociologist at London's School of Oriental and African Studies. She argues that anyone's behaviour is determined by the time and place of their upbringing and that rules of etiquette are never universal.

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"A lot of Chinese people work in factories, with machines in the background," she says by way of example. "That's why Chinese people speak loudly and can appear rude when they talk loudly in public."

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The perception of rudeness also cuts both ways, according to Eddie Chan. Chinese people, he says, often have an image of foreigners from films and the British in particular are imagined as being terribly polite, doffing their hats at passers-by and drinking tea with exquisite care.

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"We don't understand where they're coming from," says Rod Wye, a former Foreign Office official who spent 10 years at Britain's embassy in Beijing. Chinese history and more importantly, the way Chinese people perceive their history are just not appreciated sufficiently, he believes.

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"We will all get more sophisticated as there is more personal interaction. But there will always be

misunderstandings and these will be construed as rudeness."

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