

EAPL-S SMALL TRAVEL GRANT 2026 WINNER:

ELEANOR LI

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

I am a current third-year PhD student in Criminology at Loughborough University, UK. My research mainly focuses on the examination of rape myths in Chinese societies.

My research explores the sociocultural construction of rape myths within Chinese society, examining how deeply embedded cultural norms, such as traditional gender roles, notions of female chastity, and collectivist values around family honour, shape public understanding and interpretation of sexual violence. I am particularly interested in how these cultural frameworks influence attribution of blame, credibility judgments toward survivors, and the broader social silence that often surrounds disclosure of sexual assault. By employing both quantitative and qualitative research, my work seeks to identify the specific mechanisms through which rape myths are transmitted, reinforced, and normalised across different social contexts. Ultimately, this research aims to generate evidence-based insights that can inform public education initiatives, policy reform, and community interventions designed to reduce victim-blaming attitudes and create a more supportive environment for survivors of sexual violence in China.