Women’s writings in Taiwan

Female writers became a link between traditional Chinese literature and new ideas, from the May 4th movement and Western/European thinking, after the revolution on the mainland drove them to seek refuge in Taiwan in 1949. Their writing fits the cultural policy of the Nationalist, Guomindang regime as they wrote about the motherland in nostalgic terms, delivering soft propaganda to complement the militaristic stance of their male counterparts in school textbooks and on the entertainment pages of the newspapers. While native Taiwanese writers couldn’t publish their works anymore as Mandarin became the language of the Nationalist Guomindang state, the exiled Chinese writers thrived in Taipei’s closely-knit world of the affluent and well-educated. By analyzing not only the texts of these writers, but also their movements in time and space and their interactions with literary critics, editors and owners of the publishing companies my project attempts to show how prestige construction and literary canonization made them stars which continued to shine even after one-party rule ceased to exist.