# Article information:

Legal Mutilation and Moral Exclusion: Disputations on Integrity and Deformity in Early China in: T'oung Pao Volume 106 Issue 1-2 (2020)  
<https://brill.com/view/journals/tpao/106/1-2/article-p8_2.xml?language=en>

# Article summary:

1. The article examines attitudes towards visually repulsive individuals in pre-imperial and Han sources, particularly those who have undergone a penalty of bodily harm.

2. The analysis considers the perception of physical injury in relation to legal and ritual norms, as well as the moral imperative of physical integrity, and explores the concrete outcomes of mutilation visited upon certain kinds of offenders.

3. The article concludes by focusing on three stories in the Zhuangzi that attempt to change social perceptions of outcasts in a context that was clearly adverse to their possible rehabilitation through fictional dialogues.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Legal Mutilation and Moral Exclusion: Disputations on Integrity and Deformity in Early China" provides an insightful analysis of the attitudes towards visually repulsive individuals in pre-imperial and Han sources. The author examines the perception of bodily harm in the light of legal and ritual norms, as well as the moral imperative of physical integrity. The article also analyzes the concrete outcomes of mutilation visited upon certain kinds of offenders.

One potential bias in this article is that it focuses solely on the negative attitudes towards visually repulsive individuals, without exploring any positive attitudes or actions towards them. This one-sided reporting may lead to a skewed understanding of the historical context.

Additionally, some claims made in the article are unsupported by evidence or not fully explored. For example, while the author argues that certain types of offenders were punished with mutilation, there is no discussion of how common this practice was or whether it was used for all types of crimes.

Furthermore, there are missing points of consideration in this article. For instance, there is no discussion of how these negative attitudes towards visually repulsive individuals may have been influenced by cultural or religious beliefs at the time.

The article also lacks exploration of counterarguments or alternative perspectives. While it is important to highlight negative attitudes towards outcasts, it would be beneficial to explore why these attitudes existed and whether they were justified in any way.

Overall, while this article provides valuable insights into historical attitudes towards visually repulsive individuals in early China, it could benefit from a more balanced approach that explores both positive and negative attitudes and considers alternative perspectives.

# Topics for further research:

* Cultural and religious beliefs influencing attitudes towards visually repulsive individuals in early China
* Positive attitudes towards outcasts in pre-imperial and Han sources
* Alternatives to mutilation as a punishment for certain types of offenders in early China
* Frequency of mutilation as a punishment in early China
* Justification for negative attitudes towards visually repulsive individuals in early China
* Historical context of attitudes towards visually repulsive individuals in early China

# Report location:

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