

The Mechanisms of Canal Cultural Heritage Influence on the Evolution and Sustainability of Regional Martial Arts Traditions: A Case Study of Cangzhou Martial Arts in the Grand Canal Context

Feng Miao¹, Minghua Sun²

¹Cangzhou Normal University, Cangzhou, Hebei, China

²Tianjin University of Science and Technology, Tianjin, China

¹czdance@caztc.edu.cn; ²smh86@tust.edu.cn

Abstract: *This study aims to explore the mechanism of the influence of the Grand Canal cultural heritage on the evolution and sustainability of traditional martial arts in Cangzhou. As one of the most important ancient water conservancy projects and transportation arteries in China, the Grand Canal carries profound historical culture and humanistic spirit, which plays an important role in shaping and inheriting local culture. Cangzhou, as one of the important cities along the Grand Canal, has a long history of martial arts culture, which has been passed down from generation to generation and integrated with a large number of local characteristics and historical traditions. However, with the changes of times and social development, Cangzhou martial arts faces new challenges and opportunities. How to inherit and develop in modern society, maintain its uniqueness and vitality become urgent problems. Through in-depth analysis of the relationship between the Grand Canal cultural heritage and Cangzhou martial arts tradition, this study found that the influence of the Grand Canal on Cangzhou martial arts mainly manifests in several aspects. Firstly, the construction and operation of the Grand Canal promoted population mobility and cultural exchange, brought collisions and fusion of martial arts traditions from different regions, and enriched the skills and styles of martial arts. Secondly, the economic and trade activities of the Grand Canal provided a soil and resource support for the development of Cangzhou martial arts, enabling it to be inherited and strengthened. At the same time, the influence of the Grand Canal culture also subtly penetrated into the spiritual connotation and aesthetic taste of Cangzhou martial arts, affecting the identification and pursuit of martial arts practitioners and enthusiasts. In exploring the influence process of the Grand Canal cultural heritage on the sustainability of Cangzhou martial arts, this study emphasizes the importance of updating and innovating cultural traditions. Traditional culture needs to radiate new vitality in contemporary society, which requires not only retaining the essence of tradition but also constantly absorbing external cultural elements and innovative ideas, expanding development space, and achieving the organic combination of tradition and modernity. Therefore, the Grand Canal cultural heritage is not only the historical source of Cangzhou martial arts development but also the inspiration and support for its future development. Through in-depth research on the interactive relationship between the Grand Canal cultural heritage and Cangzhou martial arts tradition, we can better promote the inheritance and innovation of martial arts culture and provide useful references and inspirations for the sustainable development of local culture.*

Keywords: Grand Canal cultural heritage; Cangzhou martial arts; Traditional evolution; Sustainability impact; Cultural heritage conservation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Significance

The Grand Canal, as a crucial transportation artery and cultural heritage in Chinese history, not only interconnected the economic exchanges and development between the north and south in spatial terms but also profoundly shaped the distinctive traditional features and community identities along its route at a cultural level. Its ancient history and rich cultural heritage have exerted profound influences on the social structure, local cultures, and the inheritance of skills and crafts in China [1].

1.1.1 Overview of the Cultural Heritage of the Grand Canal and its Impact on Regional Development History

The Grand Canal, constructed from the Spring and Autumn period to the prosperous Ming and Qing dynasties, spanning over a millennium, has engendered a diverse array of intangible cultural heritages and tangible legacies

along its course [2]. This cultural heritage network has played a significant historical role in regional development, notably through facilitating population migration, commodity trade, cultural exchanges, among other activities, greatly influencing the lifestyle, customs, and dissemination and development of technical skills in the coastal regions. For instance, as it flows through the area of Cangzhou, the Grand Canal infused continuous vitality and innovative elements into the local martial arts tradition, propelling the growth of Cangzhou martial arts to eventually become one of China's first "hometowns of martial arts"[3].

1.1.2 The Importance of Martial Arts Tradition as Intangible Cultural Heritage, Illustrated by Cangzhou Martial Arts

Martial arts, as a quintessential form of intangible cultural heritage, stand as a treasure of the spiritual culture of the Chinese nation [4]. Cangzhou martial arts, with its long-standing history, distinctive style, and profound local cultural heritage, serves as an ideal case study for examining the regional characteristics and evolution process of martial arts culture. The prosperity of Cangzhou martial arts is attributed to the unique geographical conditions and social environment nurtured by the Grand Canal. Its manifestation in boxing techniques, martial virtues, and educational inheritance vividly demonstrates the dynamic changes and enduring vitality of martial arts culture within specific historical and geographic contexts.

1.1.3 Exploring the Reasons for the Influence of Grand Canal Cultural Heritage on the Evolution and Sustainability of Regional Martial Arts Traditions

Against the current backdrop, a thorough exploration of how the Grand Canal cultural heritage concretely and systematically impacts the evolution process of regional martial arts traditions and to what extent it ensures the sustainable development of these traditional martial art forms holds immense academic value and practical significance. This study will focus on Cangzhou martial arts, dissecting how the Grand Canal cultural heritage nurtures the legends of martial arts culture, unveiling new opportunities for the protection and development of martial arts traditions in the face of direct interactions, cultural permeation, and modern economic and social transformations, thereby revealing the unique contributions of the canal culture to the evolutionary path and enduring inheritance of martial arts traditions.

1.2 Research Questions and Objectives

This study aims to delve into the interactive relationship between the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal and martial arts in Cangzhou, with the following key research questions:

1.2.1 How does the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal influence the evolution of Cangzhou martial arts?

This question will explore how the Grand Canal, as a carrier of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, historically influenced the content, form, and transmission modes of Cangzhou martial arts through facilitating population migration, cultural exchanges, and technical dissemination. It will shed light on the canal's role in driving the evolution and development of martial arts in terms of style, techniques, and philosophies.

1.2.2 What role does the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal play in ensuring the sustainability of this martial arts tradition?

Through studying the cultural ecology along the Grand Canal, community structures, and modern societal development strategies, this research will analyze how the cultural heritage of the canal provides intrinsic motivation and external support for the continuity and development of Cangzhou martial arts. It will examine how the canal's cultural soil, maintenance of community identity, and stimulation of local protection awareness contribute to the historical continuity and contemporary adaptability of the martial arts tradition.

1.2.3 Identifying innovative mechanisms through which canal cultural heritage influences and shapes martial arts practice.

This study also aims to uncover the innovative mechanisms through which the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal influences the development of martial arts in Cangzhou. These mechanisms include, but are not limited to: innovative mechanisms of cross-regional exchange and integration of martial arts schools; synergistic effects between canal economic activities and the inheritance of martial arts education; mechanisms for exploring and

transforming martial arts cultural resources based on the protection of canal cultural heritage. Understanding these mechanisms will not only shed light on the specific pathways through which the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal influences martial arts traditions but also provide theoretical and practical references for the future protection, utilization, and innovative inheritance of cultural heritage and martial arts culture.

1.3 Methodological Approach

1.3.1 Description of the Case Study Method

This study employs a case study approach, focusing on Cangzhou martial arts within the specific cultural context of the Grand Canal as a representative case. The case study method emphasizes in-depth exploration of phenomena and processes within specific contexts, revealing underlying causal relationships and dynamic changes through detailed analysis of one or multiple cases. Cangzhou martial arts is chosen for this study due to its distinctive regional characteristics, profound historical roots, and close association with the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal, making it an ideal subject for investigating the influence of cultural heritage on martial arts traditions.

1.3.2 Explanation of Data Collection Methods

Diverse methods will be employed for data collection to ensure the diversity and reliability of information sources, including:

Archival Research: Extracting records of the historical changes of the Grand Canal and its impact on the development of Cangzhou martial arts from historical literature, local chronicles, policy documents, and other relevant archival materials to provide a historical basis for the study.

Interviews with Martial Artists: Conducting in-depth interviews to directly obtain perspectives and experiences from frontline martial arts inheritors, coaches, scholars, and enthusiasts, exploring the specific ways in which the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal influences the inheritance practices, technical innovations, and community identity of Cangzhou martial arts.

Observations of Practical Activities: Participating in and observing martial arts teaching, competitions, performances, and celebrations in the Cangzhou area to capture details related to the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal during martial arts practices, such as site selection, ceremonial activities, and technical exchanges, thereby revealing the actual role of canal culture in daily martial arts practice.

Through the comprehensive data collection strategies described above, this study aims to construct a multidimensional, comprehensive perspective, systematically demonstrating how the cultural heritage of the Grand Canal influences the traditional evolution and sustainable development of Cangzhou martial arts.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Theoretical Perspectives on the Influence of Cultural Heritage on Regional Identity and Tradition

In the field of cultural heritage studies, it is widely acknowledged that cultural heritage serves not only as a historical testament but also as a core element in constructing, maintaining, and reshaping regional identity. Drawing upon Anderson's theory of "imagined communities," shared cultural memory and symbolic representations play a crucial role in shaping collective identities [5]. Within the context of regional cultures, cultural heritage serves as an important marker of local distinctiveness through its dual role in material and intangible cultural expressions [6]. For instance, Harvey emphasizes how space and place are expressed and reinforced through cultural heritage, contributing to regional characteristics and cultural traditions [7]. For intangible cultural heritage such as martial arts, it represents not only the historical evolution and technical transmission of a specific region but also encompasses distinctive values, customs, and social relationship structures.

2.1.2 Theoretical Perspectives on Martial Arts Tradition, Inheritance, and Evolution

As an integral part of Chinese traditional sports culture, the inheritance and development of martial arts are influenced by various factors. Scholars like Zhang et al [8]. argue that the modes of martial arts inheritance include family-based systems, master-disciple relationships, school education, and modern diversified dissemination, all of which play critical roles in different historical periods and societal contexts. The evolution of martial arts tradition follows a Darwinian pattern of cultural evolution, involving both internal innovations, such as technique improvements and theoretical system enhancements, and external adaptations, including the blending and differentiation of stylistic schools influenced by geographical conditions, economic development levels, and cultural exchanges [9]. Furthermore, the rootedness and development of martial arts in different regions are deeply influenced by local customs, religious beliefs, and ways of life [10].

2.2 Historical Overview of the Grand Canal and the Martial Arts of Cangzhou

2.2.1 The Historical Significance of the Grand Canal in Shaping Local Culture and Economy

The Grand Canal served as a vital transportation artery in ancient China, exerting profound social, economic, and cultural influence on the regions along its route. Throughout history, the Grand Canal not only fulfilled its function of material transportation but also facilitated the exchange and integration of North and South cultures, giving rise to diverse regional cultural phenomena along its banks. Scholarly research indicates that the Grand Canal played a decisive role in urban layout, commercial activities, folk arts, and even the human spirit of the surrounding areas, creating a distinct regional cultural belt characterized by its water system [11].

2.2.2 The Origin, Development, and Unique Characteristics of Cangzhou Martial Arts

Cangzhou martial arts originated from China's ancient martial traditions and gradually formed and thrived with the prosperity of the Grand Canal. According to historical records and archaeological discoveries, the rise of Cangzhou martial arts can be attributed to the frequent exchanges of people and the gathering of martial artists in the area due to the convenience of canal transportation. After centuries of development, Cangzhou martial arts have become renowned for their profound heritage, diverse styles, and practical combat effectiveness, reaching their peak during the Ming and Qing dynasties and giving rise to numerous well-known martial arts schools. The uniqueness of Cangzhou martial arts lies in their combination of the bold and vigorous qualities of northern martial arts with the open and inclusive characteristics nurtured by the canal culture, exemplifying a perfect fusion of regional and pluralistic elements. Furthermore, the Grand Canal has provided a broad platform for the dissemination and abundant resources for the inheritance of Cangzhou martial arts, enabling the continuous development and prosperity of this martial arts [12].

3. INFLUENCE OF THE GRAND CANAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ON THE EVOLUTION OF CANGZHOU MARTIAL ARTS

3.1 Direct Mechanisms

3.1.1 Population Migration and Exchange Facilitated by the Grand Canal: Dissemination of Martial Arts Styles and Techniques

As a crucial transportation route for north-south trade in ancient China, the Grand Canal greatly facilitated population mobility and cultural exchange [13]. In history, the frequent population movement and commercial activities along the Grand Canal attracted martial arts talents from various regions to settle in Cangzhou. Furthermore, through merchants, military forces, and folk performers, different styles of boxing and martial arts techniques were disseminated. For instance, the robust skills of northern nomadic ethnic groups blended with the flexible body movements of southern water regions in Cangzhou, giving rise to a unique and diverse martial arts system. The open environment along the Grand Canal accelerated the fusion between martial arts schools, prompting the development of Cangzhou martial arts from singular to diversified directions, while continuously absorbing the essence from other regions to enrich its own content.

3.1.2 Economic Development Driven by the Grand Canal and its Impact on Martial Arts Support and Practice

The prosperity of the Grand Canal economic belt held decisive significance for the socioeconomic development of the Cangzhou region, directly influencing the inheritance and development of martial arts. With the accumulation of wealth brought by canal trade and the acceleration of urbanization processes, the Cangzhou region gradually

established a certain social foundation and economic conditions favorable for the establishment of martial arts schools, the founding of martial arts studios, and the organization of various martial arts activities. Additionally, wealthy merchants or government officials along the canal would sometimes sponsor martial arts studios or hire martial arts teachers to train their family members or local warriors, ensuring the continuity of martial arts education and training. The growth in economic strength also provided stable livelihoods for martial artists, enabling them to focus on skill improvement and inheritance, further propelling the development and innovation of Cangzhou martial arts.

3.2 Indirect Mechanisms

3.2.1 Influence of the Grand Canal on the Formation of Martial Arts Philosophy through Cultivating Local Values and Beliefs

The existence of the Grand Canal and its rich cultural heritage profoundly shaped the values and spiritual world of the residents in the Cangzhou region. The open and inclusive traits of the canal culture subtly integrated into the spiritual essence of Cangzhou martial arts, giving birth to a unique martial arts philosophy. Concepts such as "martial virtue" being emphasized, the principle of "cultivating both internal and external aspects," and the pursuit of the "harmonious coexistence" ideology align with the values of communication, interaction, and balance emphasized by the canal culture. Thus, the Grand Canal silently molds the profound and philosophical core of Cangzhou martial arts, transcending mere physical combat and becoming a manifestation of a way of life and a realm of thought.

3.2.2 Influence of Festivals, Ceremonies, and Celebrations Associated with the Grand Canal on Martial Arts Performances and Rituals

The rich festival culture and ceremonial customs along the Grand Canal provide a platform for the display and inheritance of Cangzhou martial arts. Activities such as temple fairs, and marketplaces become ideal occasions for martial artists to showcase their skills and impart martial arts knowledge. Additionally, martial arts often become incorporated into rituals for blessings, exorcism, and physical fitness in various religious and folk belief activities along the canal. These traditional customs and cultural events have placed Cangzhou martial arts in a significant position within the daily lives and cultural identity of the local population, effectively promoting the popularization and inheritance of martial arts skills. Furthermore, these influences urge continuous adaptation of martial arts forms and content to meet new social demands and aesthetic trends, allowing for iterative updates.

4. GRAND CANAL CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANGZHOU MARTIAL ARTS

4.1 Economic Sustainability

4.1.1 Analyzing how Grand Canal-related tourism and economic activities support the development of martial arts institutions

As an important cultural heritage site, the Grand Canal's abundant tourism resources have attracted attention from domestic and international visitors [14]. In recent years, with the implementation of policies for the protection and development of the Grand Canal, coupled with the rise of cultural tourism industry, various tourism projects set against the backdrop of the canal culture have emerged. These projects include unique activities such as martial arts performances, martial arts experience centers, and martial arts school tours, all showcasing the charm of Cangzhou martial arts. These activities have not only driven the development of the local tourism industry but have also provided a stable source of income and more collaboration opportunities for martial arts institutions. Furthermore, government investment and support for the canal culture have also promoted the construction of martial arts cultural industry parks, martial arts training bases, and related facilities, ensuring the continuous development of martial arts inheritance and education.

4.2 Social Sustainability

4.2.1 The Role of Martial Arts in Enhancing Cohesion and Preserving Local Identity along the Canal

Martial arts in Cangzhou constitute a crucial facet of local social life, strengthening interconnections among residents along the canal through practices like master-student transmission and collective training, thus bolstering community cohesion. Furthermore, as a distinctive regional cultural symbol, Cangzhou martial arts reinforce local identity and pride, serving as a significant means for residents along the canal to maintain their cultural uniqueness and resist homogenization from external cultures. By organizing martial arts festivals, initiating martial arts outreach programs in schools, among other activities, the status of martial arts within the local society is further solidified, nurturing a new generation of inheritors among the youth.

4.2.2 The Role of Canal Heritage Education in Enhancing the Traditional Value and Continuity of Martial Arts

With an increased emphasis on the conservation and utilization of the Grand Canal cultural heritage, canal heritage education has been integrated into the local educational system. Through avenues such as introducing martial arts courses in schools, establishing martial arts museums, and organizing lectures on canal culture, more individuals come to comprehend the historical roots of Cangzhou martial arts and their close ties to canal culture. These initiatives of deep exploration and dissemination of martial arts culture aid in enhancing public awareness of the traditional value of martial arts, thereby encouraging greater participation in martial arts learning and inheritance activities to ensure the sustainable enrichment of this intangible cultural heritage in the contemporary era [15].

4.3 Environmental Sustainability

The Grand Canal exerts profound effects on the natural environment and geographical layout of the Cangzhou region, which are equally reflected in martial arts training and practice. For instance, the expansive open spaces along the canal serve as ideal locations for martial arts practice, while the moist climate brought by the river benefits the physical and mental well-being of martial arts practitioners. Additionally, the material exchange and population movement facilitated by the canal's water transport network allow for the convergence and integration of diverse martial arts styles, giving rise to a rich and varied system of Cangzhou martial arts. Moreover, the unique topographical features such as docks and embankments along the canal inspire innovations in martial arts techniques, exemplified by forms like watercraft boxing and shore-side footwork, showcasing the specific ways in which the canal environment shapes the uniqueness of Cangzhou martial arts. Furthermore, in an era where environmental conservation ideals are increasingly prevalent, leveraging the ecological environment of the canal for green, healthy martial arts teaching and promotion has become a crucial direction for the sustainable development of martial arts culture.

5. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION OF CASE STUDY

5.1 Evidence from Primary Sources and Field Investigations Illustrating Identified Mechanisms

Based on in-depth field investigations in the Cangzhou region and research on primary sources such as historical archives related to martial arts development within the context of the Grand Canal cultural background, local literature, and interview records, this study unveils the specific mechanisms through which the Grand Canal cultural heritage impacts the evolution and sustainability of martial arts in Cangzhou.

Firstly, at the economic level, primary sources indicate that with the prosperity of the Grand Canal shipping industry, there was significant population mobility in the Cangzhou region, leading to the fusion and mutual exchange of various martial arts styles. For instance, since the Qing Dynasty, many martial arts masters from other regions migrated to Cangzhou due to commercial exchanges or military garrisons, bringing with them martial arts skills from different areas, which took root and flourished locally. Simultaneously, the flourishing commercial activities along the canal provided stable economic support for martial arts institutions. Local martial arts schools and clubs sustained their operations by teaching martial arts, charging tuition fees, and accepting sponsorship from merchants, thereby fostering the continuous development of martial arts education and heritage transmission.

Secondly, the societal impact is equally significant. The Grand Canal culture plays a crucial role in fostering community cohesion and strengthening local identity. For example, martial arts performances have become an indispensable part of local temple fairs and festive events in Cangzhou, enhancing residents' pride in their indigenous culture and encouraging active participation in martial arts learning and heritage preservation. Furthermore, heritage education initiatives related to the Grand Canal, such as martial arts programs in schools and courses on intangible cultural heritage protection, further enhance public awareness of the traditional value of Cangzhou martial arts, ensuring their inheritance and promotion among the younger generation.

Furthermore, environmental factors have significantly influenced the development of martial arts in Cangzhou. Research indicates that the geographical environment surrounding the canal provides excellent natural conditions for martial arts training, with expansive riverbanks and docks serving as ideal training grounds. The humid climate brought by the canal water system is conducive to the physical conditioning and mental well-being of martial arts practitioners, thereby greatly facilitating the honing and transmission of martial arts skills. These unique environmental elements have not only exerted a profound shaping effect on the technical style of Cangzhou martial arts, but also indirectly propelled the development and innovation of martial arts forms adapted to the local environmental characteristics.

5.2 Comparisons with Martial Arts Traditions in Other Regions to Highlight the Uniqueness of the Canal-Culture-Heritage-Martial Arts Dynamics

By comparing martial arts traditions in other regions, such as Shaolin martial arts with the cultural background of Songshan and Tai Chi with the rural cultural connections of Chenjiagou, the importance and uniqueness of the Grand Canal culture in the development of martial arts in Cangzhou can be more prominently emphasized. In contrast to Shaolin martial arts, which relies on the specific cultural space of Buddhist temples, and Tai Chi, which originated from a specific familial village heritage, martial arts in Cangzhou have evolved and developed within the open, diverse, and fluid cultural environment of the Grand Canal, making it more inclusive and innovative.

Specifically, as the major artery connecting the north and south, the Grand Canal enables Cangzhou martial arts to absorb martial arts elements from different regions and integrate them to form a rich and diverse martial arts system. Simultaneously, the socio-economic environment nurtured by the canal culture allows for the continuity of martial arts traditions while also facilitating adaptability to changing times and social demands, thereby achieving the sustainable development of martial arts culture.

In conclusion, through an in-depth analysis of the development process of martial arts in Cangzhou and comparisons with other martial arts traditions, we gain a clear understanding of the direct and indirect effects of the canal-cultural heritage on the evolution and sustainability of martial arts in Cangzhou, as well as the uniqueness that emerges from it. This case study not only contributes to a deeper understanding of the regional characteristics of martial arts culture but also provides valuable experiential and theoretical insights for future utilization of canal-cultural heritage resources to promote the inheritance and development of martial arts and other intangible cultural heritages.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Summary of Key Findings and Their Significant Contributions to Understanding the Influence of Cultural Heritage on Traditional Martial Arts

This study, through an in-depth analysis of the Grand Canal and martial arts in Cangzhou, has revealed the multifaceted impact of canal cultural heritage on the evolution and sustainability of regional martial arts traditions. Firstly, from a direct perspective, the Grand Canal, serving as a vital transportation artery and cultural exchange platform, has significantly facilitated population migration and the dissemination of techniques, thereby propelling the amalgamation and development of martial arts styles and skills in the Cangzhou region. Secondly, from an indirect standpoint, the canal's cultural environment profoundly shaped local values and belief systems, integrating martial arts into daily life through rich festive activities, thereby reinforcing martial arts' identity and social cohesion within the local community.

Furthermore, the economic activities along the canal have provided support for martial arts institutions, while canal heritage education has played a role in enhancing the value of martial arts tradition, ensuring its continuity and innovation. Simultaneously, the unique geographic environment of the canal has influenced the methods of martial arts training and practice, leading to the formation of region-specific martial arts forms. These key findings not only enrich our understanding of the dynamic influence of cultural heritage on martial arts traditions but also provide robust theoretical support and empirical evidence for comprehending how intangible cultural heritage develops and evolves within specific material cultural heritage backgrounds.

6.2 Implications for the Preservation, Management, and Promotion of Material (Grand Canal) and Intangible (Martial Arts) Cultural Heritage

The results of this study offer valuable insights for future preservation, management, and promotion efforts concerning both material and intangible cultural heritage. On one hand, there is a need to strengthen the protection, restoration, and sustainable utilization of the Grand Canal as a significant material cultural heritage site, such as by developing canal cultural tourism routes and organizing specialized martial arts experiences along the route. This approach not only fosters regional economic development but also perpetuates and promotes martial arts culture. On the other hand, for the inheritance of intangible cultural heritage like martial arts, emphasis should be placed on its deep integration with regional culture, advocating for a concept of "living" inheritance. This can be achieved through educational outreach, hosting competitions, and exploring the integration of canal cultural elements into martial arts teaching and performances, establishing a mutually supportive and symbiotic relationship between the two.

6.3 Suggestions for Future Research Directions

Building upon the achievements of this study, further research could expand understanding of the interactive relationship between Grand Canal cultural heritage and martial arts tradition in the following areas: Delve into in-depth exploration and quantitative analysis of the specific impact of Grand Canal cultural heritage on the technical movements, tactical strategies, and philosophical ideologies of martial arts tradition. Investigate the comparative study of martial arts traditions in different regions along the Grand Canal, exploring the similarities and differences in the development of martial arts influenced by canal cultural factors. Explore how to optimize the integration, preservation, and dissemination of Grand Canal cultural heritage and martial arts tradition utilizing technological means within the context of modern societal development, enhancing public engagement and awareness. Focus on the role and significance of martial arts in the international dissemination of Grand Canal cultural heritage, studying its potential and challenges for cross-cultural exchange in a globalized context.

In summary, this study has elucidated the significant impact of Grand Canal cultural heritage on the evolution and sustained development of martial arts traditions in Cangzhou, offering a series of beneficial insights for cultural heritage preservation and martial arts inheritance, while also proposing forward-looking topics for subsequent research.

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Author Profile

Feng Miao Associate professor, doctoral candidate, in the Department of Physical Education at Cangzhou Normal University. Research direction: physical education teaching.

Minghua Sun Master's Degree, Department of Physical Education Teaching, Tianjin University of Science and Technology. Research direction: physical education teaching.