

Chung to canvass history of race, sex

PIONEERING journalist Helene Chung has broken down racial and sexual barriers throughout her stellar career.

Today she will broach such issues when she gives the 2015 International Women's Day Address at the University of Tasmania.

Her address, "A Chinese Tasmanian Heritage: Women Past, Present and Future," canvases 100 years of womanhood in Tasmania and China and covers topics such as infanticide and shotgun marriages.

Ms Chung, 70, said the preference for baby boys over girls continues in China today.

"My mother is alive and I am here because she escaped the bucket and drowning," Ms Chung said.

Born in Hobart, Ms Chung attended St Marys College and graduated with a masters degree in arts from the University of Tasmania.

She became the first non-white reporter on Australian TV when she was appointed to *This Day Tonight* on Hobart television in 1974.

In 1983 she became the first woman correspondent to be appointed to an overseas position when she was posted to Beijing. "Now you can't count the women overseas," she said.

The free public lecture at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay, tonight is part of the university's 125th anniversary celebrations.