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This is the third annual report on the activities of the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China. This report is very different than previous years' reports because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to the cancellation of several key events. Nevertheless, we have had a very productive year with regard to research on contemporary China. In the pages ahead, we will highlight our many activities, faculty work and awards, achievements by our postdoctoral research associates and visiting scholars, and programming involving our undergraduate students.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the annual Global Seminar study abroad program as well as the Princeton-Tsinghua internship program. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we expect to bring these activities back in Summer 2021.

We continue the training of junior scholars and students, both domestic and foreign. This fall, we will welcome five postdoctoral fellows: Huancheng Du, Qian He, Jacob Thomas, Feng Yang, and Ziye Zhang. They are working on research projects concerning country-specific shocks in the international trade system; assessing the impact of societal transformations in contemporary China on individuals' life chances; and studying bureaucracy, corruption, and the state-business relations in authoritarian regimes, with an emphasis on China. We congratulate our departing postdoctoral fellows Cheng Cheng, Fengming Lu, and Donghui Wang, who will all begin new appointments Fall 2020. Cheng will start as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the School of Social Sciences at Singapore Management University. Fengming will join the Department of Political and Social Change at the Australian National University as a Lecturer with continuing appointment (equivalent to Assistant Professor in the US). Donghui will be an assistant professor of demography at Renmin University. Please see the biographies of our staff and current and past visitors in this Annual Report.

Finally, because of the great generosity of our donors, we have been able to give out grants to faculty and undergraduate and graduate students so that they can conduct important research on the many aspects of contemporary China. We are pleased to announce an inaugural award: the Jennifer Wythes Vettel ’86 Senior Thesis Honor Award was given out to Eliot Chen for his senior thesis entitled “Tell China's Story Well: Media Manipulation and Trust in Xi’s China.” This year, we had planned on announcing the new annual Debra Yu ’86 Meritorious Honor Award going to one student studying abroad, but we will postpone the award’s inauguration to a later time when our study abroad activities recommence.

I hope you enjoy learning about the activities of the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China. Please be in touch if you have any suggestions or comments.

Sincerely,

Yu Xie, Bert G. Kerstetter '66 University Professor of Sociology and PIIRS
Director, Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China
Center Mission
and Overview

Since 1978, China has been undergoing a social transformation, the scope, rapidity and impact of which are unprecedented in human history; all aspects of Chinese society are changing fundamentally and forever. Major social changes occurring at a very rapid pace have provided a historic opportunity for researchers in the social sciences to document those changes now taking place in China. Given China’s history and current place in the world, the study of contemporary China has never been more important.

The mission of the Center is to advance the study of contemporary China at Princeton University and to provide substantive analysis from social science perspectives of the dramatic sociological shifts taking place in China today. Some of the most prominent examples of these shifts include such features of Chinese society as work organizations, the education system, the urban/rural divide, migration, social inequality, marriage and family, ethnicity, and religion. Other examples include China’s fast economic growth, its nascent democratization efforts, and technological advances. The emphasis is on understanding social phenomena in China within their historical, cultural, political, and economic contexts. Such study will encourage a better understanding not only of China, but also of other societies, including both developing and developed countries.

Recognizing the importance of China’s place in the world, the Center’s main goal is to bring together and welcome those whose work focuses on issues that affect China today. The intent of the Center is to provide an institutional home for such interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty and students whose research and work converge.

The Center is directed by Yu Xie, the Bert G. Kerstetter ’66 University Professor of Sociology with a joint faculty appointment at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS). He is also a visiting chair professor at the Center for Social Research, Peking University. His main areas of interest are social stratification, demography, statistical methods, Chinese studies, and the sociology of science. His recently published works include: *Marriage and Cohabitation* (University of Chicago Press 2007) with Arland Thornton and William Axinn, *Statistical Methods for Categorical Data Analysis* (Emerald 2008, second edition) with Daniel Powers, and *Is American Science in Decline?* (Harvard University Press, 2012) with Alexandra Killewald. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Academia Sinica and the National Academy of Sciences. In 2019, he was given the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award for a career of outstanding contributions to sociological methodology, a lifetime achievement award from the American Sociological Association. Xie joined the Princeton faculty after 26 years at the University of Michigan.

The Center’s activities include a lecture series, graduate student workshops, several research initiatives, peer-reviewed journals and book series, faculty and student grants, a summer internship program, and a PIIRS Global Seminar in China. Our faculty and students are drawn from the Department of Sociology, East Asian Studies, Economics, History, Politics, Religion, and the Princeton School of International and Public Affairs. The Center also hosts visiting scholars, postdoctoral research associates and other experts on contemporary China. Please see the Center’s website for full coverage of its activities, which may be found here: ccc.princeton.edu/about
Center
Visitors

Visitors 2019-2020

Zihao Chen, Visiting Student and PhD Candidate from Peking University.

Qing Huang, Visiting Student and PhD Candidate from Peking University.

Xiaotian Li, Visiting Scholar and Associate Professor from the Capital University of Physical Education and Sports.

Xiaoteng Ma, Visiting Student and PhD Candidate from Tsinghua University.

Yichun Yang, Visiting Student and PhD Candidate from Renmin University.

Xiaohang Zhao, Visiting Student and PhD Candidate from Peking University.
Research Staff

Research Assistants

**Gavin G. Cook ’15** is a Sociology PhD Candidate from Los Angeles, California.

**Christian Venturella ’21** expected, Chemistry major from New Providence, New Jersey.

**Sandoval Wood ’22** expected, Sociology concentrator from Princeton, New Jersey.

Postdoctoral Research Associates 2019-20

**Cheng Cheng**, Peking-Princeton Postdoctoral Research Associate (PPPP). She obtained her PhD in Sociology from Princeton University in 2018.

**Huancheng Du**, CUHK Shenzhen-Princeton Postdoctoral Research Associate. He earned his PhD and MS in Financial Economics from American University.

**Qian He**, Non-Resident PPPP Postdoctoral Research Associate. She obtained her PhD in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Junming Huang**, Research Scientist. He received his PhD from the Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

**Fengming Lu**, PPPP Postdoctoral Research Associate. He received his PhD in Political Science at Duke University in 2018.

**Donghui Wang**, Postdoctoral Research Associate. She earned her degree from The Pennsylvania State University in rural sociology and demography.

**Feng Yang**, Non-Resident PPPP Postdoctoral Research Associate. He received his PhD in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

**Yang Zhou**, Fudan-Princeton Postdoctoral Research Associate. He earned his PhD in Economics from Fudan University.

Please see our website for complete biographies: ccc.princeton.edu/people
Faculty Associates

Janet Chen, Professor, History and East Asian Studies. She is a historian of modern China, specializing in the 20th century. She received her BA from Williams College and her PhD from Yale University.

Chih-p’ing Chou, Professor, East Asian Studies and Director, Princeton in Beijing. He specializes in modern Chinese intellectual history and late Ming literature. He received his BA from Soochow University, MA from Tunghai University, and PhD from Indiana University.

Gregory C. Chow, Professor Emeritus, Economics. He is a major figure in econometrics and applied economics and developed the “Chow test,” a statistical test for structural change in a regression. He has also been a major adviser on economic policy, economic reform, and economic education in both Taiwan and mainland China. He received a BS from Cornell University and his PhD from the University of Chicago.

Jianqing Fan, Frederick L. Moore ’18 Professor of Finance and Professor of Statistics, Operations Research and Financial Engineering. He chaired the department from 2012 to 2015. He received a PhD in statistics from the University of California, Berkeley.
Deborah Kaple *91, Research Scholar and Lecturer. She teaches a Freshman Seminar on the Cold War and a class entitled “Communism and Beyond: Russia and China.” She holds a BA from Ohio State University, an MFA from Vermont College, an MA from George Washington University, and a PhD from Princeton University.

Stephen Kotkin, John P. Birkelund ’52 Professor in History and International Affairs. He joined the Princeton faculty in 1989. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on modern authoritarian regimes, global history (1850-present), and Soviet-Eurasian history. He received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

Stephen F. Teiser *86, D.T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies and Religion and Director of the East Asian Studies Program. His work traces the interaction between cultures using textual, artistic, and material remains from the Silk Road, specializing in Buddhism and Chinese religions. He received an AB at Oberlin College in Ohio and received his MA and PhD degrees from Princeton University.

Please see our website for complete biographies: ccc.princeton.edu/people
Rory Truex, Assistant Professor, Politics and the Princeton School of International and Public Affairs. He studies comparative politics, focusing on Chinese politics and non-democratic regimes. He received his undergraduate degree from Princeton in 2007 and PhD in political science from Yale in 2014.

Lynn T. White III, Professor Emeritus, Politics. Lynn White’s interests include China, comparative revolutions and reforms, comparative organization, and patterns of political development. He received a BA from Williams College and an MA and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

Wei Xiong, Hugh Leander and Mary Trumbull Adams Professor in Finance and Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics and Bendheim Center for Finance. His research interests center on capital market imperfections and behavioral finance. He received a BS from the University of Science and Technology of China, MA from Columbia University, and a PhD from Duke University.

Ti Hua Dennig S81 P13 P15 is an educator and on the Board of Governors for the Chinese International School in Hong Kong. In addition to higher education, her interests include contemporary Chinese art and media. Dennig is a graduate of Peking University and the University of Michigan.
Robert Hauser is Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Executive Director of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. He has wide-ranging research and teaching interests in comparative studies in aging, social stratification, and social statistics. He received a BA from the University of Chicago, and an MA and PhD from the University of Michigan.

Jonathan T.B. Howe *89 is Partner and Founder of Sensato Investors LLC, a hedge fund based in San Francisco. Sensato manages Asia Pacific equity long short strategies, applying sensible investment insights within a systematic framework. He holds a BA from Yale, an MPA from the Princeton School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton University, and a PhD from the Anderson School of Business at University of California, Berkeley.

Yan Huo *94 P22 is Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer of Capula Investment LLP, a global alternative asset manager headquartered in London, managing absolute return, enhanced fixed income and tail risk strategies. He holds a BS in physics from Fudan University and an MA and PhD in electrical engineering from Princeton University.

James Mi *91 is Founding Partner of Lightspeed China Partners, a leading China-focused early-stage venture capital firm with investments in internet, mobile, services, and enterprise IT. He holds 14 US patents in flash memory, communications, internet security, and commerce. He received a BS in physics from Fudan University and an MS in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University and also received executive management training at Stanford University.
Alec Tracy '89 is COO and General Counsel at the Admiralty Harbour Financial Group. He previously worked in private equity and prior to that spent more than 20 years in private practice in New York, Singapore and Hong Kong with a major international law firm. He holds a BA, *cum laude*, from Princeton University and a JD from the New York University School of Law.

Donald Treiman is Distinguished Professor of Sociology Emeritus, University of California, Los Angeles. His current research centers on two main topics: the cross-national comparisons of social mobility and status attainment in contemporary China and the determinants, dynamics, and consequences of internal migration in China, particularly for health outcomes and other aspects of well-being. He holds a BA from Reed College and an MA and PhD from the University of Chicago.

Yu Xie is Bert G. Kerstetter ’66 University Professor of Sociology and has a faculty appointment at the Princeton Institute of International and Regional Studies, Princeton University. He is also a Visiting Chair Professor of the Center for Social Research, Peking University. His main areas of interest are social stratification, demography, statistical methods, Chinese studies, and the sociology of science. He holds a BS from the Shanghai University of Technology and an MS, MA, and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jennifer Wythes Vettel ’86 is a veteran educator and fundraiser, having worked for schools and nonprofits and currently serves as a board member in a number of organizations (Riekes Center, Eastside College Prep Ambassadors, PIIRS, Denison University Board of Advisors and the Stanford Medicine Community Council). She is passionate about education, health, international affairs, and volunteering. She has three almost-adult children to whom she is devoted, and she believes wholeheartedly in giving back to the community from which she has gained so much. She holds a BA from Princeton and an MA from Stanford University.
Andrew Walder is Denise O’Leary & Kent Thiry Professor, School of Humanities and Sciences at Stanford University and Senior Fellow in the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. His publications on China have ranged from the political and economic organization of the Mao era to changing patterns of stratification, social mobility, and political conflict in the post-Mao era. He holds an AB from Johns Hopkins University and a PhD from the University of Michigan.

Stephen Kotkin (Ex Officio) is John P. Birkelund ’52 Professor in History and International Affairs at Princeton University. He holds a BA from the University of Rochester and an MA and PhD from the University of California Berkeley.

Yu Xie (chair) | Bert G. Kerstetter ’66 University Professor of Sociology and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Janet Chen | Professor, History and East Asian Studies

Jianqing Fan | Frederick L. Moore, ’18 Professor of Finance, Professor of Statistics, Professor, Operations Research and Financial Engineering and Bendheim Center for Finance

Stephen Kotkin | John P. Birkelund ’52 Professor in History and International Affairs

Stephen F. Teiser ’86 | D.T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies and Director of the East Asian Studies Program

Rory Truex ’07 | Assistant Professor, Politics and the Princeton School of International and Public Affairs

Wei Xiong | Hugh Leander and Mary Trumbull Adams Professor in Finance and Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics and Bendheim Center for Finance
The Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China facilitates the research of its staff as well as several postdoctoral research associate programs. The Center also has initiated the Program on Chinese Economy and Society (PCES) and the Princeton Research Network on Contemporary China (PRCC). In addition, the Center hosts a joint initiative with the Princeton Environmental Institute in holding an annual co-sponsored lecture on China and the environment.
With the generous support of the Ma Huateng Foundation, the Center has significantly widened its activities to encompass economics, financial technology and regulation, and financial engineering, in addition to demography and sociology, while maintaining its sharp focus on data-driven social science. Thus, the Center has created the PCES, which will be jointly directed by Professor Jianqing Fan in Operation Research and Financial Engineering and Professor Wei Xiong in Economics. The Center Director and PCES Co-Directors have initiated extensive research projects and two joint postdoctoral programs that expand our knowledge of contemporary economics, finance, and public opinion on and about China.

Professor Xiong’s research agenda includes: (1) developing more reliable measures of China’s national and regional economies; (2) understanding economic mechanisms and consequences of China’s real estate boom; (3) understanding risks in China’s financial system; and (4) developing an integrated framework for analyzing economic and financial risks in China. Professor Fan develops and applies cutting-edge statistical machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), and big data technologies to study various societal problems in China. These include measuring and understanding systemic risks of financial and economic systems; developing financial technologies and their associated regulations; developing credit rating and modeling in macro finance; optimizing energy distributions and usages; and studying health costs, biological processes, and measurements. Professor Xie has initiated a research project that studies public attitudes toward China and conducts national surveys among several nations to understand global opinions on China.

As core pillars of PCES, the Center established two joint postdoctoral programs with Fudan University in Shanghai (FPPP) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Shenzhen (CPPP). The two new postdoctoral programs were open to any of the data sciences-relevant disciplines. These two programs ended in 2020. Through PCES, Faculty Directors invite visiting researchers to give talks at Princeton and to do research with them. PCES also features an annual speaker to give a talk on aspects of China’s society and economy.

This year, PCES sponsored a special issue of the *Journal on Contemporary China* through the Ma Huateng Fund. Please see the section on the *Journal* for information on the issue.
Princeton Research Network on Contemporary China

The Center has established a collaborative research network on contemporary China. Members of the PRCC include other research centers or institutions with similar missions or individual scholars with complementary research interests. The network is interdisciplinary, including sociology, economics, political science, psychology, demography, and history. Two annual conferences are held, one at Princeton and one in China.

The second annual Princeton conference, entitled “China in Transition,” was held at Princeton University in August 2019. Twenty outstanding scholars and practitioners in the fields of sociology, economics, and political science shared their work on contemporary China. The presentations covered a wide range of topics on contemporary China, including migration, family, education, fertility, inequality, housing, public opinion, state capacity, and bureaucratic systems. Panels, such as “Perceived Inequality in China,” “Property Rights and the Housing Market,” “Elite Kinship Network and State Strengthening,” and “American Public Opinion Toward China,” were featured at the conference.

As part of the PRCC, a working paper series is published to advance knowledge on contemporary China. The working paper series is added to annually and can be found in print and online: https://ccc.princeton.edu/princeton-working-papers-contemporary-china.

From left, Lai Wei (3rd year PhD candidate), Cheng Cheng (Peking-Princeton Postdoctoral Research Associate), Ziyao Tian (4th year PhD candidate), and Han Zhang (5th year PhD candidate).
Peking-Princeton Postdoctoral Research Program

Peking and Princeton Universities have established a joint postdoctoral fellowship program, (PPPP), which is aimed at training highly-qualified, early-career postdoctoral researchers in studies of contemporary China so that they will be positioned to become leaders in their respective academic fields. Each fellowship is for two years: the first 12 months are at Peking University with a visiting appointment at Princeton University, and the next 12 months at Princeton University with a visiting appointment at Peking University. The position is open to early-career scholars who will be in residence and participate in the host organization's activities, including student-faculty seminars, workshops, and public lectures. The position is open to candidates from any discipline so long as they conduct research on contemporary China. The fellow's research is supervised by a faculty member at each University and thus, candidates must receive the endorsement of a faculty member at each institution in order to apply. Announcements about the program may be found here: https://ccc.princeton.edu/pppp.

Joint Initiative with the Princeton Environmental Institute

With the Princeton Environmental Institute, the Center cosponsors an annual lecture on China and the environment. In Fall 2019, Professor Lu Zhi, leading conservation biologist in China, gave a lecture entitled “Living in Harmony with Nature: Is It Possible and How – Cases from China,” in which she discussed how co-existence of humanity with nature is an ultimate goal of conservation. While the world biodiversity hotspots are mostly located in developing regions, such a co-existence becomes challenging. Based on 35 years of experiences in China, the country that covers a wide range of population and development intensities, Professor Lu Zhi shared case studies from different regions in China to analyze how cultural, economic, and political drivers influence decisions and behaviors of local communities with regard to ecological conservation. The Center also helps with PEI's China Environmental Group (CEG) which meets monthly for informal discussion of the environmental challenges facing China today. The group welcomes all interested undergraduates, graduates, staff, and faculty from the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and engineering.
Affiliated Princeton Faculty and Graduate Students

Professor Jianqing Fan led a seminar at Sao Paulo School of Economics on August 28, 2019. His talk, entitled “Learning Latent Factors from Diversified Projections and its Applications,” was well attended. He then participated in a workshop, “Time Series, Wavelets and High Dimensional Data,” at Campinas, Brazil on August 29-30, 2019 and gave a keynote speech entitled “Noisy Matrix Completion: Understanding Statistical Errors of Convex Relaxation Via Nonconvex Optimization.” After numerous exchanges with conference participants in Campinas, Fan then attended “The 18th Time Series and Econometrics Meeting” at Gramado, Brazil on September 3-5, 2019, where he gave a keynote speech, “Statistics, AI, Financial Prediction and Inference,” and an additional invited talk, “Communication Efficient Distributed Statistical Estimation.” Fan’s academic exchanges with conference participants on big data and financial econometrics were very fruitful and have led to a paper collaboration with statisticians and econometrics colleagues from other institutions. This paper is now under review.

Over the past year, Lecturer Deborah Kaple has continued to work on a book on the Sino-Soviet Friendship, analyzing relations from the 1920s through the early 1960s. The book is based on an exhaustive review of archival evidence, Chinese and Soviet government and Communist Party original documents, press accounts, and films and literature that came from both the USSR and China during their friendship period. Kaple also interviewed Chinese and Russian historians. She has a contract for her book with Oxford University Press and hopes to finish it in 2022.

Kaple also continued to teach the class on China and the Soviet Union/Russia called “Communism and Beyond.” The class covers the rise of Communism in both countries, their relationship over the years, their economic and political structures, and developments up through the contemporary period. The class is very much oriented to teaching the students to use primary documents to come to their own conclusions about historical events. This year Kaple successfully adapted the class to an online format.
Professor Wei Xiong’s activities included organizing a lunch reading group for PhD students on campus interested in research about the Chinese economy; editing a handbook with Marlene Amstad and Guofeng Sun called “The Handbook of China’s Financial System,” which will be published by Princeton University Press by the end of 2020; and teaching a course on “China’s Financial and Monetary Systems.”

Gavin Cook is a third-year graduate student in the Department of Sociology and works on the sociology of science and the public opinion regarding China. In addition to a long-term project on the utility of various metrics for comparing the sciences, he is researching discrimination against scholars with Chinese surnames in economics and other social sciences and is also working on a newspaper analysis for the China Impact Project.

Graduate student Lai Wei’s primary interests are politics and inequality in China. During the academic year 2019-2020, he focused on three research projects: (1) Examining the long-term influence of migration on the well-being of rural-to-urban migrants in China. There are around two hundred million rural-to-urban migrants in China, making it the largest migrant group in human history. Research has been done to assess migration and well-being, but no research has investigated the long-term impacts of migration, and this research fills the gap. (2) Investigating the political legacy of the Cultural Revolution for contemporary public opinion in China, with a particular focus on the mass killings by the state and the insurgents in the Cultural Revolution. (3) Exploring the impact of coronavirus disease on public opinion in China, using social media data. This project is still ongoing.

Cheng Cheng’s research examines how extended families shape couples’ marital experiences. She worked on several manuscripts showing how parents and parents-in-law may affect women’s welfare and autonomy in marriage. In the first paper, she found that the balance of marital power depends not only on the relative resources of the couple but also on the relative resources of the couple’s natal families. Women whose natal families have higher socioeconomic status than their husbands’ have more decision-making power at home. In the second paper, she found that intergenerational co-residence moderates the effect of motherhood on women’s employment. Co-residence with maternal grandmothers facilitates mothers’ employment after a child’s birth, regardless of the child’s gender. Co-residence with paternal grandmothers, however, only facilitates mothers’ employment in the presence of grandsons. In the third paper, Cheng examined patterns of involvement of the extended family in divorce settlements by studying judicial records of contested divorces in China. Women’s natal families can be an important source of support at the time of divorce. Fall 2020, Cheng will start as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the School of Social Sciences at Singapore Management University.

Huancheng Du’s research has been focused on stock pricing behavior and trading activities in the Chinese stock market. Du worked on two projects in the 2019-2020 academic year. In collaboration with Professors Jinfan Zhang and Dan Dan Li, he examined how the IPO primary market price cap affects secondary market pricing. Along with his collaborators, Du has built a theoretical model based on heterogeneous and irrational investors to explain the excessive Extreme Price Earning (EPE) ratio in the window guidance stage. In this model, the price cap in the primary market leads to the same stock price undervaluation expectation in the secondary market among investors, which drives investors to blindly buy new shares and finally led to a price bubble in the secondary market. Du contributed three major findings in this project: (1) IPO firms in the window guidance stage have a higher EPE ratio due not to better firm quality, but to mispricing; (2) IPOs in the window guidance stage have a lower market-adjusted long-term return; the price cap has driven the secondary market price to a higher than reasonable level, and therefore the new share’s long-run performance is poor. (3) The mispricing effect in the secondary market is stronger for the Growth Enterprises Market (GEM) Board IPO stocks than for the Main Board IPO stocks. Because the GEM firms are subject to more uncertain growth and information asymmetry, they are more likely
Du’s second project studies stock pricing behavior and trading volume around the ex-dividend day. Du found that stock returns and excess trading volume are significantly positive and gradually rise on three trading days prior to the ex-dividend day. This “heating up” pattern is followed by an immediate “cooling down” on the ex-dividend day, then reverts to normal after the ex-dividend day. The average ex-dividend day returns are significantly below zero, and the average ex-dividend day trading volume declines significantly from its normal level. Du defined the negative deviations from zero of the ex-dividend day stock return as “dividend price,” capturing the price investors’ pay for their dividend preferences. Additionally, he found this “dividend price” to be positively associated with dividend yields and the idiosyncratic risks of the underlying stocks, which confirmed the behavioral dividend clientele hypothesis. Through studying the investor group-level buy-sell imbalance, he showed that median investors with pending orders from 40,000 yuan to 200,000 yuan exhibit strong dividend preference and small investors with pending orders from zero yuan to 40,000 yuan exhibit dividend avoidance preference. Du will revise this paper for publication in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Junming Huang’s research focuses on quantitative analysis and methodology for social science. Huang has one published paper and 6 working papers on text analysis, opinion mining, causal inference, and sociology of science. He published a paper, “Historical Comparison of Gender Inequality in Scientific Careers across Countries and Disciplines” in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science with collaborators at Northeastern University and IT University of Copenhagen. This paper examines gender inequality in academia by quantitatively analyzing the scientific careers of 1.5 million scientists over 60 years, 12 disciplines and 13 million academic papers. It decouples the relationship between scientific performance and gender and points out that inappropriately excessive dropout rates of female scientists explain much of the gender inequality in academia.

In a working paper of text analysis, Huang, with Professor Xie and PhD student Gavin Cook, incorporates machine learning techniques to mine news report sentiment toward China from American mainstream media. This project quantitatively inspects how media sentiments play a mediator role that propagates the impact of US-China relation events on the public audience.

In a more recent study that mines social media data to collect opinions about China, Huang and Xie examine how the coronavirus outbreak is quickly reshaping Americans’ attitudes toward China. Huang works with Xie to bridge the causal inference methodology with recent progress of machine learning techniques. Their theoretical exploration aims at the dimension issue of traditional causal inference algorithms that trade between dimensional complexity and matching accuracy.

Finally, Huang, in collaboration with Dr. Wang, is designing a new probabilistic algorithm to harmonize multiple opinion surveys to obtain a consistent trend. With Cook, Huang is quantitatively analyzing the difference in publishing and evaluation patterns across various scientific domains. Huang and Xie are exploring the emerging mechanism of power-law distributed quantities, trying to provide a theoretical explanation that bridges the power-law distribution and marginal increase.

Fengming Lu’s research focuses on the role of information in Chinese politics and incentives of social services provision of Chinese local governments with both quantitative and qualitative data. During the 2019-2020 academic year, Dr. Lu has made progress with the following projects: In his collaborative work about Chinese local governments’ responses to the 2006 Education Finance Reform with Dr. Xiaoyang Ye at the Princeton School of International and Public Affairs and Professor Yanqing Ding at Peking University, Lu has further revised a paper with the collaborators that has been accepted for publication in the Economics of Education Review in March 2020. Lu has conducted further analyses for his collaborative project with Professor Milan Svolik of Yale University to examine Chinese citizens’ beliefs about official propaganda messages with nationally representative survey data. He has also collaborated with Erik Wang at Princeton to develop a new project about the role of political
culture and the advancement of female officials in China. He has collected data on promotion notices of local government officials in the past decade and the implementation of alcohol bans in official dining banquets across Chinese prefectures, which will mitigate female officials’ disadvantages in social activities. In Fall 2020, Lu will join the Department of Political and Social Change at the Australian National University as a Lecturer with continuing appointment (equivalent to Assistant Professor in the US).

Donghui Wang's current research program examines how culture-related concepts, including norms, attitudes, and aspirations, are related to demographic behaviors and individual well-being. During the 2019 – 2020 academic year, Dr. Wang worked on several projects that examine the American general public’s attitudes toward China. In collaboration with Junming Huang and Yu Xie, she is working on a methodological paper that addresses the issues of cross – survey incomparability in attitudinal research. In another collaborative project with Ming Yan, Shawn Dorius, and Yu Xie, she compares Chinese citizens' attitudes toward the U.S. with American citizens' attitudes toward China. She is also heavily engaged in the primary data cleaning process of the China Impact Project, a large online data archive that harmonizes and disseminates the existing survey data on attitude toward China across the globe. Dr. Wang also collaborated with Cheng Cheng on a project that examines how the wealth of one’s natal family affects entry into first marriage and post-marital living arrangements. She will join the School of Sociology and Population Studies as an assistant professor at the Renmin University of China.

Yang Zhou's research estimates the housing vacancy rate at the individual level in Shanghai by applying a data-mining clustering algorithm and examining big data on energy usage. Zhou has worked on expanding the dataset on housing vacancy rates via luminous data and urban planning data from the Chinese government. In collaboration with Professors Jianqing Fan and Lirong Xue, Zhou has used multiple algorithms to estimate the vacancy rate in other cities based on the correlation between human activity (housing occupation conditions) and luminous data. In addition to the project on vacancy rate, Zhou conducted several other studies on energy consumption behavior among both households and industrial firms during 2019. In collaboration with Qingran Li of Duke University, he combined mobile data, energy data, and air quality data to estimate the impact of air pollution on individual outdoor activities and indoor energy consumption. Zhou also collaborated with Professor Libo Wu at Fudan University to estimate the information effect on energy conservation by conducting an indoor survey and experiment with the support of smart meters equipped in China. Zhou will stay on for a third year in FPPP for 2020-2021 with the generous support of the Ma Huateng Foundation.
Visiting Scholars and Graduate Students

**Xiaotian Li's** research analyzes the factors influencing participation in physical exercise in rural and urban China, using both quantitative and qualitative methods. During the 2019-2020 academic year, he worked on two projects. One explores what factors affect participation in sports among Chinese rural and urban persons. Under the instruction of Professor Yu Xie, he applies advanced methods to studying how the socioeconomic status of people affects sports participation. In addition to analyzing survey panel data, Li conducted in-depth interviews in Spring 2019 in Beijing city to research the role of socioeconomic status in exercise. He collaborated with visiting graduate student Yichun Yang in discussing how to use the finite mixture model to examine the relationship between physical activity and health in Chinese urban and rural residents. He will work on revising the paper from this study for publication in the 2020-2021 academic year. In Li’s collaboration with visiting graduate student Xiaohang Zhao, Zhao highly recommended using the method called the Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition for linear regression models, which can help us to better understand the differences in physical exercise among residents relating to socioeconomic status.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, visiting student *Qing Huang* worked on three projects attempting to link topics in development economics and sociology: (1) In collaboration with Professor Yu Xie, she developed a theoretical dual-pathway intergenerational model over multiple generations and estimated the model by utilizing recent high-quality three-generation data from China. The model consisted of two associated pathways: a socioeconomic pathway measured with educational attainment and a psychological pathway measured with mindset. (2) In collaboration with Xie and Xiaobo Zhang, Huang studied the demographic pressures of rural industrialization in the early period of China. (3) Huang also collaborated with Xie and Zhang to study gender differences in entrepreneurship and firm survival rate.

**Xiaohang Zhao's** research investigates health disparities in contemporary China using longitudinal survey data. Zhao worked on three projects that examine the social determinants of health inequalities: (1) In collaboration with Professor Lei Jin and Biyang Sun at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, he used cross-lagged panel models to assess the bidirectional association between physical and cognitive functions in later life and explore whether physical activity and social participation can be mediators. (2) In collaboration with Professor Xie, he used longitudinal survey data to examine the health consequences of land expropriation in rural China and the effect heterogeneity. (3) In addition, drawing on longitudinal survey data regarding aging and health in China, Zhao examined how childhood SES and adulthood SES shaped the cognitive trajectory in late adulthood. He will work on revising these papers for publication in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Visiting student *Yichun Yang's* research examines occupational gender segregation in Chinese society, using a quantitative approach. The data used are mainly from China’s sixth census and the China Family Panel Studies (CFPS). Yang worked on four projects that address how occupational sex segregation affects people’s living conditions, incomes, and health: (1) In collaboration with Professor Yu Xie, she examined how occupational gender segregation affect the pay gap between men and women and used the method of decomposition to explain the mechanism of this effect. (2) In collaboration with Professor Jia Yu at Peking University, she investigated the gender asymmetry effect of family background on Chinese college students’ major selection. (3) She also studied how occupational gender segregation is transmitted across generations. (4) A study of gender segregation in blue-collar occupations, primarily examining the health, working conditions, and living conditions of men and women working in extremely segregated blue-collar occupations. (5) In collaboration with Professor Tod Hamilton at Princeton University, she used US census data from 1880, 1920, and 1940 to estimate the slavery effect on the education and occupations of the descendants of black slaves.
Publications

In addition to individual publications by our researchers, the Center sponsors three major publications: the Princeton Research Network on Contemporary China Working Paper Series, the Chinese Journal of Sociology, and Princeton Studies in Contemporary China. On these pages is a description of each publication.

Princeton Research Network on Contemporary China (PRCC) Working Papers Series

This is a collaborative research network on contemporary China with members from other research centers or institutions with similar missions or individual scholars with complementary research interests. The Network is interdisciplinary, including sociology, economics, political science, psychology, demography, and history. From PRCC, an annual working paper series has been established. Professor Xie serves as the first editor of the working paper series and is responsible for approving papers. Publication priority is given to members of PRCC. The Center is responsible for the working paper series, editing, and publication. Editions are published here: https://ccc.princeton.edu/princeton-working-papers-contemporary-china.
With support from the Center, the *Chinese Journal of Sociology* (CJS) is a peer-reviewed, international journal issued jointly with Shanghai University and administrated by SAGE Publications, with the aim of building an academic platform for in-depth discussion of the issues facing contemporary Chinese society from sociological perspectives. CJS strives to promote international, academic communication, international research collaboration, and resource-sharing inside and outside of China.

In an upcoming special issue, CJS will address global attitudes toward China focusing on specific countries. Please see below for summaries of the articles.

**Global Attitudes Toward China: Trends and Determinants**  
*Yu Xie and Yongai Jin*

While China has been striving to increase its impact on the world, global attitudes about China and its efforts to elevate its world standing are not well known. In this project, we investigate the trends, patterns and determinants of public attitudes toward China in other countries by utilizing country-level data and individual surveys from 2005-2018. Two motivating hypotheses are proposed to interpret how the public around the world views China: (1) Public attitudes in developing or less developed countries are more interest-based on the economy; specifically, China’s involvement in the local economy, such as investment in infrastructure, facilitates a more positive attitude toward China. (2) Public attitudes in developed countries are more value-based on ideology; developed countries emphasize values and ideology over other factors. Main findings from global data are summarized as following: Overall, the percentage of favorable opinions on China at the country level has been decreasing over time; economic factors affect people’s opinions significantly. China’s foreign direct investment is positively associated with favorable opinions on China in other countries, while China’s exporting to other countries is negatively associated with their people’s favorable opinions on China; more developed countries and more democratic countries have less favorable opinions on China. A preliminary draft has been completed, and a final version will be submitted to an upcoming late-August workshop for discussion, review, and revision.

**Americans’ Attitudes About the China-US Trade War**  
*Yongai Jin, Shawn Dorius and Yu Xie*

China and the United States have been engaged in a trade war since 2018. Based on a nationwide online survey on Americans’ attitudes toward China, we investigate how public attitudes toward the trade war are shaped in the U.S. Findings include: (1) 50.08% of Americans somewhat or strongly support the trade war with China, while the other half somewhat or strongly do not support the trade war; more than 75% of Americans believe trade and business with China is a somewhat good or very good activity. (2) Americans’ attitudes can be categorized into four groups according to their attitudes toward the trade war and trade with China: cooperative (not supportive of the trade war and support trade with China, 41.27%); militant (support both trade war and trade with China, 34.31%); isolationist (support trade war but not supportive of trade with China, 15.77%); and indifferent (unsupportive of both trade war and trade with China, 8.66%). (3) Political orientation (i.e. political ideology and partisanship) is significantly associated with attitudes on the trade war. Political conservatives are more likely to support the trade war than political liberals, and Republicans are more likely to support the trade war than Democrats. However, political orientation is less important in shaping opinions about trade with China. (4) Perceptions about China (such as people’s ratings of China’s economic development and democracy, favorability about overall China, Chinese people and Chinese culture) are significantly associated with how people view trade with China, but not the trade war. In sum, Americans’ attitudes toward the trade war with China are largely shaped by their political orientation. This paper will be submitted to the workshop for discussion, review, and revision.

**In the Eyes of the Beholder: How China and the U.S. See Each Other**  
*Donghui Wang, Yan Ming, Shawn Dorius and Yu Xie*

Despite the global importance of the China-U.S. bilateral relationship, relatively little is known about how ordinary citizens from these two countries view each other (people-to-people) and the relationship between the two governments (state-to-state). As the China-U.S. relationship becomes simultaneously more integrated and more complex (e.g. trade war and COVID-19), it is more important than ever to understand the nature and determinants of public perceptions in China and the United
States. How ordinary citizens perceive other countries—including the governments, people, and culture—informs macro-social and economic action. Using data obtained from nationally representative, cross-nationally comparable public opinion surveys conducted in the U.S. and China in 2015, we compare the attitudes of Chinese citizens toward the U.S. with those of American citizens toward China. We give primary attention to (a) generalized public opinions toward the other country, and (b) domain-specific attitudes toward the other country. Our results suggest that Chinese citizens hold more favorable attitudes toward the U.S. than American attitudes toward China. Respondents in China and the U.S. differ on what issues they believe to be the most important, with Chinese respondents placing greater importance on issues of sovereignty and territorial disputes, while U.S. respondents tend to give greater attention to universal cultural values such as human rights and environmental degradation. This is an on-going work that will be under review soon.

Sino-Phobia in Russia and Three Other Former Soviet Countries: Trends and Correlates
Theodore P. Gerber and Qian He
The analysis of the levels and correlates of sinophobia in Russia and Kyrgyzstan is informed by noting the potential importance that ethnic prejudices may hold for China’s ability to pursue closer ties with Russia and to continue expanding its role in Central Asia, as well as the theoretical issue of whether anti-Chinese views in these countries exhibit similar patterns to other forms of ethnic prejudice. Publicly reported time series data from Russia suggest hostility toward Chinese immigrants has been consistently higher in Russia than hostility toward other groups of immigrants. Our survey-based estimate for Russia, however, paints a somewhat different picture, suggesting that much of the publicly expressed sinophobic sentiment in Russia reflects fears of Chinese immigration rather than pure ethnic prejudice. The survey data also show that Russian sinophobes are also more likely to live in Moscow and St. Petersburg or Primorskii Krai and to harbor negative views of immigrants, Westerners, and foreign influence in general, but also less likely to consume news via the web and to agree that Russia should pursue a distinctive civilizational path. On balance, the evidence does not suggest that anti-Chinese sentiment is especially pronounced in Russia, relative to ethnic prejudice in general: in fact, it is at about the same level as anti-American views. Our data from Kyrgyzstan similarly indicate that sinophobia is not particularly strong, relative to other ethnic prejudices.

Do Mass Media Shape Public Opinion Toward China?
Deep-learning Results of New York Times Articles
Junming Huang, Yu Xie, Yongai Jin, and Gavin Cook
There are many conflicting theories about the relationship between media sentiment and public opinion, but few of them are supported by empirical work using large data sets. We use large-scale longitudinal textual analysis on approximately 300,000 China-related New York Times articles since 1970 to show that international relations events affect media sentiment which, in turn, affects public opinion. We find that sudden shifts in U.S.-China relations are accompanied by changes in how The New York Times covers China and that reporting by The New York Times on China precedes public opinion on China by one year. Our work illustrates how The New York Times, a prestigious mass media institution, shapes American views of the Chinese state and the Chinese people. Empirical analysis has been finished and will be under review soon.

COVID-19 Changes American Attitudes Toward China
Junming Huang, Yu Xie, and Gavin Cook
American people’s attitudes toward China are shaped by many long- and short-term aspects, of which the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 is the most recent. It is essential to understand whether and how the pandemic has affected American’s attitudes toward China. We are collecting 60 million US-based social media messages about China from over a three-year period to track the trend of attitudes toward China. The overall attitudes suddenly declined in Feb 2020 in response to the initial outbreak, accompanied by increasing interest in China-related topics on social media. Regression discontinuity design confirms the causal relationship between the COVID-19 outbreak and declining attitudes; an initial result of COVID-19 has been the negative impact expanding from public health to multiple aspects of China. This work is in the early stages of data collection and analysis, which will be submitted for peer review later this year.

https://journals.sagepub.com/home/chs
Princeton Studies in Contemporary China

The Center has launched a new book series entitled *Princeton Studies in Contemporary China* and published by Princeton University Press. With this new series, we bring together new books on contemporary China authored by top-level scholars in diverse disciplines, such as sociology, economics, political science, history, psychology, demography, and anthropology. The new series focuses on contemporary China from a social science, interdisciplinary perspective. Most importantly, such scholarly works will have an impact on the Chinese academy. Scholarship on China in the United States and Europe usually has minimal impact on scholarship in China, except in the case of blockbuster books, which are then translated into Chinese. One goal of this series will be to change this by publishing simultaneously in English and in Chinese with a partner press in China.

The book series is edited by Professor Xie and Mary Gallagher. This year’s book in the series is *Governing the Urban in China and India: Land Grabs, Slum Clearance, and the War on Air Pollution* by Xuefei Ren which provides an in-depth look at the distinctly different ways that China and India govern their cities and how this impacts their residents.

Xuefei Ren explores how China and India govern their cities and how their different styles of governance produce inequality and exclusion. Drawing upon historical-comparative analyses and extensive fieldwork (in Beijing, Guangzhou, Wukan, Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata), Ren investigates the ways that Chinese and Indian cities manage land acquisition, slum clearance, and air pollution. She discovers that the two countries address these issues through radically different approaches. In China, urban governance centers on territorial institutions, such as hukou and the cadre evaluation system. In India, urban governance centers on associational politics, encompassing contingent alliances formed among state actors, the private sector, and civil society groups. Ren traces the origins of territorial and associational forms of governance to late imperial China and precolonial India. She then shows how these forms have evolved to shape urban growth and residents’ struggles today.

As the number of urban residents in China and India reaches beyond a billion, *Governing the Urban in China and India* makes clear that the development of cities in these two nations will have profound consequences well beyond their borders.

2019-2020
Individual Publications

These are the individual efforts of our research staff substantively produced during their time at the Center. The publications are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Center.

Cheng Cheng:

Jianqing Fan:

Fengming Lu:

Ding, Yanqing, Fengming Lu, and Xiaoyang Ye. “Intergovernmental Transfer under Heterogeneous Accountability: The Effects of the 2006 Chinese Education Finance Reform.” Accepted at *Economics of Education Review*.

Rory Truex:


Yu Xie:

Yang Zhou:

Proposals must specify a contemporary China-related component of the event and/or project, include a full project budget, indicate other sources of funding received or pending, and be directly connected to Princeton University through employment or study.

We also require final reports so that we can understand how funding assists with their research endeavors. If you wish to see detailed final reports, please get in touch with the Director.

The following are brief summaries of research funded by the Center:

**Faculty Research Grants:**
The Center provides funding to Princeton faculty in support of research, teaching, and scholarly dialogue on contemporary China.

**Undergraduate Funding Requests:**
The Center provides funding to individual undergraduate students and undergraduate groups to support research for senior theses and conferences. It also supports the International Internship Program.

**Graduate Student Funding Requests:**
The Center provides funding to individual graduate students for dissertation research, presentations at academic conferences, and special projects. Students may also request funding for scholarly symposia, seminar series, and workshops. In addition, graduate student groups may gain support for lectures, conferences, and other projects.
Rory Truex, SPIA/Politics
Professor Truex is engaged in several surveys: “Public and University Student’s Personality and Attitudes Towards Social Justice”; “The Psychology of Authoritarian Rule”; “How Propaganda Works”; “The Dictator is Me: Nation, Regime, and Self-Concept”; and “Personality, Dissent, and Indoctrination.”

Janet Chen, History
Professor Chen is completing a book manuscript and launching a new research project. The book project, The Sounds of Mandarin, is a social history of how people in China and Taiwan learned to speak a new national language in the twentieth century. She has also started a new project on the history of Hainan Island. Since its occupation by the Japanese during World War II, the island has emerged from obscurity to become a major tourist destination as well as an industrial and financial hub. The de-collectivization process will be a major focus, starting in the late 1970s, and moving into the island’s designation as a province and SEZ in 1988.

Jianqing Fan, ORFE/Statistics
Professor Fan led a seminar at the Sao Paulo School of Economics on August 28, 2019. His talk was on “Learning Latent Factors from Diversified Projections and its Applications” and was well attended. He then participated in a workshop, “Time Series, Wavelets and High Dimensional Data,” at Campinas, Brazil, on August 29-30, 2019, where he gave a keynote speech on “Noisy matrix completion: Understanding statistical errors of convex relaxation via Nonconvex optimization.” After numerous exchanges with conference participants there, he went on to attend “The 18th Time Series and Econometrics Meeting” at Gramado, Brazil on September 3-5, 2019, where he gave a keynote speech on “Statistics, AI, Financial Prediction and Inference” and an additional invited talk, “Communication Efficient Distributed Statistical Estimation.” His academic exchanges with conference participants on big data and financial econometrics were very fruitful. This led to continued collaborations between statisticians and econometrician colleagues: one paper is under preparation.

Steve Kotkin, History and PIIRS
Professor Kotkin’s final volume of his Stalin and the World series covers the period of WWII, Chinese Revolution, Cold War, and de-Stalinization.

Stephen F. Teiser, EAS Program Director/Religion
Professor Teiser’s project, “How Buddhism and Chinese Religion are Studied in the Contemporary Chinese University,” centers on how Buddhism and Chinese religion are studied in the contemporary Chinese university. His study focuses on three specific universities and works with their faculty. The topic is important and interesting because it will highlight how and why the academic divisions in the US do and (mostly) do not match up with academic and intellectual divisions in China. Whereas Teiser is based in a Department of Religion, his colleagues in China are based in other kinds of departments, including Philosophy, South Asian Studies, and History.

Yu Xie, Sociology
Professor Xie is in the process of releasing a number of research papers on such topics as trends in intergenerational mobility; educational inequality; demographic behaviors and outcomes; socioeconomic differentials in health, child development, and wealth inequality and its consequences in China, most of which are related to the China Family Panel Studies—a large, nationally representative, longitudinal survey project in China conducted by Peking University. He has also initiated several research projects, including “Attitudes toward China,” and “Chinese Attitudes to the United States.”
Meir Alkon, Politics and SPIA
The goal of Alkon’s research project is to examine how foreign policy preferences – and specifically public demands for militaristic policy responses to China’s territorial disputes -- can be influenced by changes in local economic conditions. Current scholarship in political science and international relations makes contradictory and unclear predictions about the links between the domestic economy and foreign policy behavior, and there has been no research looking at the micro-foundations of such proposed theories. This is of crucial importance for contemporary China and International Relations, at a time when domestic issues continue to bedevil the ruling CCP and territorial conflicts, especially maritime conflicts, remain unresolved. This project builds on Alkon’s previous research using online survey experiments to test the behavioral foundations of government policy in China (including an article published in The Journal of Politics; and another article under review at the American Political Science Review). This line of research has important implications for understanding the role of public opinion in authoritarian regimes, as well as for analyzing China’s behavior on the international stage in the context of domestic politics rather than purely structural factors. Funds were allocated in support of recruiting experimental participants via Qualtrics LLC. Findings from analyses of these subjects’ responses will be used to support a journal article for publication in an International Relations / Political Science outlet.

Joyce Chen, Music
Chen visited several cities in Taiwan, and following her last fieldwork project in Summer 2019, she set out to investigate sonic and spatial elements relevant to the reaction to the Hong Kong protests in conjunction with the political state of Taiwan, leading up to the presidential election on January 11, 2020. Through observations and interviews, she considers that there are innovative uses of venues, publicity, and cyberspaces that may offer a refreshing perspective on the intersection of affective response, space, and sound. Inspired by theoretical conceptions of space by Marié Abe (and Lefebvre), Chen proposes that there are three levels of spatial representations, produced differently by sonic labor: (1) international presence/space in terms of financial and political interactions with other countries; (2) cyberspace in terms of social media presence and transmission; and (3) geographical/physical location—and all of these have interlocking relationships that cannot be overlooked. Contrary to a teleological approach to analyzing these relationships, Chen argues that there is a multi-directional, circular relationship between various levels of spatial representation, sonic labor, and performer/audience/protest crowd. Despite her subjective political orientation, she argues that such a relationship is only lively and unique in the context of democratic Taiwan—the only Chinese-speaking country that still celebrates democracy.

Fin Bauer, Politics
This proposal solicits funds for a survey experiment on Chinese citizens’ concerns about China’s status in the world. The experiment forms part of Bauer’s dissertation in political science investigating the role of status and, more generally, other-regarding and belief-dependent preferences in international conflict. He plans to conduct the survey experiment in the context of the Diaoyu (Senkaku) Islands conflict between China and Japan. In the experiment, he manipulates Chinese participants’ beliefs about the esteem citizens in other nations afford China and then measures to what extent this affects participants’ expressed support for a military take-over of the Diaoyu Islands. In particular, he exposes participants to the alleged views of Japanese and American citizens about China in terms of valued attributes, such as China’s military strength, economic achievements, or cultural achievements. In some treatment conditions, Japanese and Americans show high esteem for China. In other treatment conditions, Japanese and Americans show low esteem for China. The experimental variation allows him to directly assess to what extent status concerns affect participants’ support for escalation in the Diaoyu Islands conflict.
Gavin G. Cook, Sociology
Cook accompanied Professor Xie on his winter travels to Vietnam and the Philippines in January 2020 in order to offer assistance with survey data collection efforts in Vietnam and to lay a foundation for his dissertation. Cook and Xie met with survey center staff and academics in Hanoi, and Cook followed up on meetings to create timetables for data acquisition and to hopefully embed China-related survey questions in existing survey projects. His dissertation will analyze how citizens around the world view the Chinese state and the Chinese people, and it will use a mixture of social media data and survey data. He hopes to use data from this trip in his thesis papers because he will devote a portion of his thesis to discussing how the Vietnamese people view China. He will do the same with data from the Philippines.

David Logan, SPIA
“Domestic Kindling, International Sparks”
In 2018, China saw the slowest annual economic GDP growth rate in nearly three decades, and experts predict that the country’s economic slowdown is likely to continue. How will future changes in China’s economy affect its foreign and security policies? International relations theory motivates several competing predictions connecting Chinese economic performance with its foreign policy. A downturn in economic performance may promote a more aggressive foreign policy. If an economic slowdown increases domestic dissatisfaction, China’s leaders may resort to a more aggressive foreign policy in order to divert this dissatisfaction from domestic targets to foreign ones. A reduction in economic ties with other states may decrease the opportunity costs of international conflict, making Chinese aggression less risky. At the same time, however, an economic downturn may induce greater caution in Chinese foreign policy by reducing the resources available to the state or increasing the perceived risks of suffering a foreign policy failure. In addition to general international relations theory connecting economic factors with patterns of interstate conflict and cooperation, there are important factors specific to China. Scholars have observed that, with the jettisoning of the state-based economic system and Communist ideology, the legitimacy of the Party’s rule increasingly rests on two pillars: the delivery of economic growth and the fostering of anti-foreign nationalism. If the Party can no longer claim legitimacy from economic growth, it may lean more heavily on anti-foreign nationalism, leading to a more aggressive foreign policy. All these mechanisms depend, to varying degrees, on how the foreign policy preferences of the Chinese public respond to changes in economic performance. However, to date, there has been no work investigating these connections in the Chinese context. Further, international relations theories on the connections between a state’s domestic economic performance and its foreign policy are indeterminate and the corresponding empirical work is contested. He is designing a project to determine how changes in Chinese economic performance might affect Chinese foreign policy through public opinion. Public opinion can act as a driver or constraint on foreign policy, even in authoritarian states like China. The project will consist of a factorial survey experiment, presenting Chinese respondents with one mock news article describing varying states of Chinese economic performance and a second mock news article describing a crisis between China and another state. Respondents will be asked questions designed to elicit their level of support for more assertive U.S. behavior. This builds on recent survey work conducted in China by Kai Quek and Iain Johnston.

Hannah Waight, Sociology
“Information under Authoritarianism: Media Manipulation and its Effects in Contemporary China”
Recent work in the study of propaganda has developed an “information” model as a complimentary alternative to the earlier “persuasion” model. Researchers working from the information perspective seek to document the existence and effects of political entities’ manipulation of information. However, the effects of information manipulation are unlikely to be uniform across the myriad societies whose governments engage in the practice in the digital age. Rather, these effects are likely to vary by institutions as well as different populations that are subject to said manipulations. Waight’s research advances work in this field by examining the effects of information manipulation in China. With the notable exception of King, research into information manipulation in China has mostly focused on negative manipulation, i.e. censorship, rather than positive manipulation (propaganda), and has altogether neglected the study of social differences in the effects of information manipulation. Studies of positive manipulation in China have been hampered by technical difficulties in identifying instances where
the government introduces manipulated information. Researchers have mostly examined relative differences in information between newspapers—a strategy that, while illuminating our understanding of the media field in China, cannot distinguish direct government manipulation of information from newspaper editor or reporter-driven “displays of loyalty.”

Waight draws on ongoing collaborative work which identifies media manipulation in China with an alternative computational measure. She draws on seven years of print newspaper data and uses measures of text similarity to identify and validate instances in which state and province-level government bodies coordinate the information contained in print newspapers. With her algorithm, Waight can distinguish manipulated from non-manipulated information about the same event in the Chinese media. She uses this novel measure of manipulation to answer four sets of questions concerning the effects of media manipulation on the overall information ecology in China: (1) What is the effect of media manipulation on the print media ecology? In instances where information manipulation occurs, what percent of information about an event in the print media ecosystem is manipulated versus nonmanipulated? How does the content of information vary between manipulated and non-manipulated sources? How do these distributions vary by event type? (2) Do social media and online news sources amplify or suppress manipulated and non-manipulated information, relative to their distribution in the traditional news media? (3) Are there differences in engagement with manipulated versus nonmanipulated information on social media by expressed political views? Finally, Waight draws on a novel internet experiment to investigate whether (4) awareness of manipulation mediates individual-level engagement. She also tests for whether said awareness varies by social characteristics. This research thus both contributes to our understanding of how manipulation shapes social cleavages in authoritarian contexts and introduces the empirical study of manipulation awareness as a key mediator of the effects of propaganda.

Erik Wang, Politics (with Fengming Lu, PPPP PDRA)

Women are severely underrepresented in China’s political system. For example, only 4.9% of Central Committee (CC) members of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are women. The number shrinks to 4% at the level of the Politburo, and further diminishes to 0% at the level of the Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC), China’s top decision-making body. At the province level, 9.7% of the governors in Chinese provinces are female, while the percentage decreases to 0 for provincial CCP secretaries. This pattern of under-representation remains similar at the prefecture level, where women only comprise 8.6% of the mayors, and 5.9% of the CCP secretaries. Given the commitment to gender equality in communist ideology, the under-representation of women in Chinese politics is puzzling. This question, though empirically obvious, has been relatively under-explored in the literature in comparative politics and Chinese studies. Wang’s research aims to take a major step toward resolving this puzzle with rigorous, systematic causal evidence. He hypothesizes that the interaction between culture and political institutions contributes to women’s under-representation in Chinese politics. It is tempting to attribute this phenomenon solely to culture. After all, traditional Chinese culture emphasizes patriarchal values and the need for gender-specific roles in family and workforce, often creating obstacles to women’s career advancement in a modernizing society.


Eliot Chen, Politics ’20

“Information Manipulation and Public Opinion in China”

In my senior thesis, I intend to examine positive information manipulation in China and its effect on public opinion. Recent scholarship on information manipulation in China has primarily looked at the effect of negative information manipulation (e.g. censorship), but apart from King et al.’s paper, little work has been done on the effect of positive information manipulation (e.g. propaganda). Researchers in Princeton’s Department of Sociology have recently begun looking at this kind of information manipulation through 7 years of Chinese print newspaper data. Drawing on ongoing research by Professors Brandon Stewart (Department of Sociology) and Margaret Roberts (UCSD), as well as Hannah Waight (GS, Sociology), my thesis aims to examine two questions: (1) To what extent do consumers of the news recognize evidence of media manipulation? and (2) How effective is positive information manipulation at regulating public confidence in the Chinese government? My thesis consists of two main sections, only the second of which requires funding, to support the disbursement of small financial awards to reward participation in an online survey experiment. The funding that I received from the Center on Contemporary China was to pay participants to take a 10-minute original online survey. I wrote and designed the survey for the purpose of collecting public opinion data from Chinese citizens. Originally, I planned to deploy the survey exclusively on witmart.com, a survey platform operating as a subsidiary of zbj.com, a popular mainland Chinese task outsourcing program designed for North American employers. Prior research conducted by Li et al. (2018) found that witmart.com respondents are not nationally representative but that they are broadly representative of the demographics of Chinese internet users. I decided to use witmart.com after receiving advice from a graduate student who had successfully used the platform to obtain survey responses. With the collected data, I plan to conduct OLS regressions with the purpose of examining the relationship between newspaper source attribution and public trust in reported statistics in China. The treatment in this experiment is ‘source attribution,’ for which there are 4 treatments and 1 control condition.

Naomi Cohen-Shields, SPIA ’20

“Socioeconomic Status and Air Pollution Disparities Across Chinese”

I am proposing to explore the relationship between air pollution exposure and socioeconomic levels in China, using data, policy, and ethical analyses. My research trip to China over Winter Break proved very productive and beneficial towards my research. In Beijing, I spoke to the Dean of the School of the Environment at Peking University about the multitude of factors that impact the creation/spread of air pollution. He helped me to gain a much more concrete understanding of the problem, and it was important ethically and culturally to learn from an academic studying the problem in-country and with personal experiences that inform his research/knowledge. I also spoke to several residents of Beijing, some of whom had lived there a long time and others who were there only temporarily, and discussed their perceptions of air quality improvements in Beijing, comparisons with other regions, and what they know about the roots of the air pollution problem and what the Chinese governments are doing to address it. Being in Beijing (and the rest of the cities) and walking around also opened my eyes to the fluctuations in air quality: there were blue skies on the day I arrived, but the haze had descended by the time I left five days later. That perspective helped me understand why it can be hard to fully draw people’s attention to an issue. In Xi’an, I actually witnessed the most smog of my whole trip. During the train ride there, I could see the gradual buildup of pollution amidst the dry agricultural landscape. And driving around the Xi’an region, there were times when nearby skyscrapers were completely obscured. While in Xi’an, I also travelled to a village outside of the city and learned about efforts to remove coal-based stoves/heating appliances and replace them with electric ones. I heard a lot about government policies for rural China, and about the village-district governance structure. Learning about these issues from citizens’ perspectives was really enlightening, especially as I could gain insight into the elements they emphasized more or less. In Chongqing, I gained an appreciation for the difficulty of distinguishing between fog and smog: the city (surrounded by mountains and straddling two intersecting rivers) is known as the ‘city of fog’ and well deserves that name. However, studies show that a certain amount of that is smog as well. I met with professors in Atmospheric Chemistry at Southwest University,
located outside of the more highly populated downtown city area. They explained their work to me in analyzing pollutants at the regional level in order to evaluate the primary pollution sources in that area. I got to see the equipment they use to do this and to hear how their results differ from those in other regions of China. This was especially important because the Chongqing/Chengdu region could be considered the fourth major metropolis region in China, yet public and governmental attention primarily only goes to the top three regions. I also learned a lot about the important relevance of geological factors to air pollution concentrations, factors that are quite hard to control. Lastly, my time in Guangzhou revealed just how stark the differences are across the country. Located on the Southern coast, Guangzhou has had historically lower emissions than northern cities because of less of a need to burn coal for heating. Even so, I learned from people there that the government in Guangzhou has also been taking important strides towards improving air quality. And my time in Guangzhou also showed me how widespread the popular attention to air pollution is: people I talked to there were still unhappy with their air quality, even if it is primarily better than in other major cities in China. All of this information that I gathered informs the context and background for my research. It has helped me design my data analysis by distinguishing key factors to heed in analyses of regional differences.

The interviewees all emphasized the massive opportunity that this initiative creates for developing countries. Chinese loans through the initiative are on an unparalleled scale and come with very few aspects of conditionality compared to comparable loans and financing offered through the IMF and World Bank. The interviews gave me a wonderful chance to see that the Belt and Road Initiative is a lifeline that many developing countries see as a vital mechanism for their development. Not only was this an interesting experience, it has also massively impacted the argument direction in my thesis. Before conducting these interviews, I was mainly viewing the initiative through a US-centric lens and therefore focusing on the threats that it poses. However, the interviews that I conducted have allowed me to also argue from the perspective of developing countries who view the initiative much more positively. Incorporating these interviews into my thesis, I now plan to use the interviews to separate my argument into three sections based on three different perspectives: a US perspective, a Chinese perspective, and a recipient country’s perspective. The recipient country’s perspective has been largely informed by the interviews that I conducted in South Africa. Every person that I spoke to emphasized the importance of the Belt and Road Initiative as a massive opportunity for developing countries to gain access to crucial financial assistance to build much needed infrastructure projects. This is not something that usually gets discussed in the US, and conducting the interviews has changed my planned overall argument for my thesis by showing me this new perspective. I was also able to visit the sites of some Chinese investments in Cape Town, which gave me a wonderful first-hand experience of the opportunities offered by Chinese financial assistance.

Thank you again to everyone involved in making this funding available for my thesis research. It has truly changed the way that I will go about writing my thesis and it would not have been possible without the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center and SPIA’s generosity.

Jack Tait, Politics ’20

“China’s Belt and Road Initiative”

For my senior thesis research, I travelled to Cape Town, South Africa, to conduct interviews regarding the motivations, outcomes, and opportunities or threats of China’s Belt and Road Initiative. The interviews that I conducted were extremely helpful in providing me with a new perspective on the Belt and Road Initiative. I spoke to professors and businesspeople to establish perspectives on the Belt and Road that differ from those in the US and the West more generally. The main significance of this research was in providing new ideas on the potential opportunities created by the Belt and Road Initiative. Much of the news coverage and political discussions of the Belt and Road Initiative in the US has focused on the potential threats posed by the initiative. This mainly concerns fears over China trapping recipient countries in debt and potentially creating a form of neo-colonialism when countries are unable to repay debt. However, going to South Africa and conducting interviews provided an extremely useful new perspective. The interviewees all emphasized the massive opportunity that this initiative creates for developing countries. Chinese loans through the initiative are on an unparalleled scale and come with very few aspects of conditionality compared to comparable loans and financing offered through the IMF and World Bank. The interviews gave me a wonderful chance to see that the Belt and Road Initiative is a lifeline that many developing countries see as a vital mechanism for their development. Not only was this an interesting experience, it has also massively impacted the argument direction in my thesis. Before conducting these interviews, I was mainly viewing the initiative through a US-centric lens and therefore focusing on the threats that it poses. However, the interviews that I conducted have allowed me to also argue from the perspective of developing countries who view the initiative much more positively. Incorporating these interviews into my thesis, I now plan to use the interviews to separate my argument into three sections based on three different perspectives: a US perspective, a Chinese perspective, and a recipient country’s perspective. The recipient country’s perspective has been largely informed by the interviews that I conducted in South Africa. Every person that I spoke to emphasized the importance of the Belt and Road Initiative as a massive opportunity for developing countries to gain access to crucial financial assistance to build much needed infrastructure projects. This is not something that usually gets discussed in the US, and conducting the interviews has changed my planned overall argument for my thesis by showing me this new perspective. I was also able to visit the sites of some Chinese investments in Cape Town, which gave me a wonderful first-hand experience of the opportunities offered by Chinese financial assistance. Thank you again to everyone involved in making this funding available for my thesis research. It has truly changed the way that I will go about writing my thesis and it would not have been possible without the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center and SPIA’s generosity.
Undergraduate Group Projects

Princeton University US-China Coalition (PUCC)

Founded in Spring 2015, the Princeton US-China Coalition (PUCC) seeks to create a transnational coalition of student leaders poised to face the issues at the forefront of US-China policy. Our vision is to serve as one of many intellectual and cultural links between the United States and China, creating a broad, worldwide coalition of student leaders to foster meaningful dialogue between the two countries.

PUCC Book Club

PUCC held a number of Book Clubs this year, studying a range of texts that allowed members to better understand the history, economics and sociology of modern China. For the Coalition’s April edition, they were joined by Frank Langfitt ’86, former NPR Shanghai Correspondent and writer of “The Shanghai Free Taxi: Journeys with the Hustlers and Rebels of the New China.”

PUCC Speaker Series


On June 30th, the Chinese government signed into effect a National Security Law for Hong Kong, a sweeping piece of legislation aimed at ending pro-democracy protests attended by up to a third of the city’s population. How did Hong Kong get here? What does the National Security Law mean for Hong Kong and the world? Panelists included:

– Sharon Hom, Executive Director of Human Rights in China (HRIC), where she leads international advocacy and strategic policy engagement for an organization that has continuously covered human rights and democracy developments in Hong Kong

– Brian Leung, a Hong Kong democracy activist known for reading a statement on behalf of protesters at the Legislative Council that crystallised the “five demands” of the movement, and a Ph.D. student in political science at the University of Washington in Seattle

– Shibani Mahtani, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia bureau chief for the Washington Post, who led the Post’s coverage of the Hong Kong protests last year and conducted an award-winning investigation into police’s use of force against protesters.

PUCC Global Governance Forum

Uniting the most promising student leaders across the world on Princeton’s campus, the Princeton US-China Coalition held its annual Global Governance Forum August 2020 in an online forum due to the pandemic. Discussions were led by prominent US-China academics and students, engaged in fast-paced crisis simulations. The conference culminated in a capstone policy proposal project, where students were presented with a theoretical case in US-China relations and challenged to present substantive recommendations in response to the issue.

Can the Revival of US Diplomacy Save US-China Relations? A Discussion with Kaiser Kuo and Susan Thornton

Amidst forced embassy closures, hurled accusations about the causes of the Covid-19 pandemic, and mounting tension over Hong Kong’s autonomous status and the treatment of the Uyghurs, Sino-American relations are showing signs of rupture. News headlines flash that relations are at their worst since the 1980s, that officials are pushing tensions to the point of no return, that we are drifting towards a Cold War. Do these claims ring true? During a live recording of the Sinica Podcast, Kaiser Kuo and Susan Thornton discussed whether reviving U.S. engagement with China can bring the two nations back from the brink. The discussion will be recorded for an episode of Kuo’s podcast, Sinica, the most popular English-language podcast on current affairs in China. Outside of hosting the Sinica Podcast, Kuo is also an editor-at-large of SupChina.com, and has previously served
as the director of international communications for Baidu and founding member of one of China’s first heavy metal bands, Tang Dynasty.

Susan Thornton is a retired senior U.S. diplomat with almost 30 years of experience with the U.S. State Department in Eurasia and East Asia. Until July 2018, she served as Acting Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of State and led East Asia policy making amid crises with North Korea, escalating trade tensions with China, and a fast-changing international environment. Today, she is a senior fellow and research scholar at the Yale University Paul Tsai China Center, the Director of the Forum on Asia-Pacific Security at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, and a non-Resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

An Open-Source Approach to Reporting on China

Muyi Xiao, video producer on the New York Times' Visual Investigations team, which combines traditional reporting with advanced digital forensics, invited students to discuss open-source reporting on China. Previously, she worked for ChinaFile, Tencent and Reuters, covering China from both inside and outside its borders.

In 2019, Xiao co-founded Chinese Storytellers, a community of multilingual non-fiction content creators that publishes a newsletter every two weeks. She grew up in China and worked there from 2012, first as a photo editor for Reuters then as a multimedia reporter for Tencent. She has covered feature stories including China’s railway project in Africa, fake girlfriend renting, child marriages and a banned religious group called "Almighty God."

In 2015, Xiao was awarded the Magnum Foundation/NYU Photography and Human Rights Fellowship. After the fellowship, she attended the International Center of Photography for one year of study. She is an active member of the visual storytelling community and served as a jury member for Open Society Foundation’s Moving Walls 25 and the 2019 World Press Photo Digital Storytelling Contest.

China and Africa Relations

PUCC discussed the direction of China and Africa relations with Professor Lina Benabdallah and journalist David Herbling.

Lina Benabdallah is an assistant professor of Politics and International Affairs at Wake Forest University and research associate at Johns Hopkins SAIS China Africa Research Initiative (CARI). She is the author of Shaping the Future of Power: Knowledge Production and Network Building in China-Africa Relations (University of Michigan Press 2020). The book probes the type of power mechanisms that build, diffuse, and project China’s power in Africa. Her analyses and publications appeared in Foreign Policy, Journal of International Relations and Development, the Third World Quarterly, and the Washington Post among others.

David Herbling is a Bloomberg News correspondent based in Nairobi, Kenya. His major areas of coverage are infrastructure, economy and government. He keeps an eye on China in Kenya through projects being undertaken, borrowing concerns, and bilateral relations. Previously, he worked as a reporter at Business Daily in Nairobi, was a 2015 Alfred Friendly Fellow at the Chicago Tribune, and received the 2019 Journalist in Residence Fellowship organized by the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. The Princeton US-China Coalition’s annual conference offers him an opportunity to share, and acquire new knowledge and skills on Sino-African relations. It is a chance to interrogate emerging issues and trends in China relations, reporting, and views.
Our faculty teach courses that include history, finance, philosophy, politics, art, and sociology. The following list includes courses from the past four years.

**Chinese Cinemas (EAS 236 / COM 228) | Erin Huang | Fall 2019-20**
This course is an introduction to contemporary Chinese cinemas in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. From postwar musicals and pan-Asian blockbusters, to new wave avant-garde films and experimental documentaries, the diversity of Chinese cinemas reflects cinema’s relations to global capitalism, Asia’s democratization movements, financial crises, and the arrival of (post)socialism. Creating urban nomads, songstresses, daydreamers, travelers, and terrorists, Chinese cinemas put on full display the forces of globalization in shaping the aesthetics and politics of film. Selections broadly include popular commercial films to rare art house productions.

**Chinese Financial and Monetary Systems (FIN 594) | Wei Xiong | Fall 2019-20**
With its rapid economic growth in the past three decades, China already has the world’s second largest economy. Meanwhile, its financial markets are also being quickly liberalized and integrated with the rest of the world. As the current trend continues, there are growing interests to learn and understand the workings of China’s financial and monetary systems. This course aims to serve this objective with a particular emphasis on understanding the role provided by the financial system in facilitating China’s economic development, in addition to the investment opportunities and risk presented by the system to the outside world.

**Global History (1850s - Present) (HIS 501) | Stephen Kotkin | Fall 2019-20**
This seminar offers a history of global interactions roughly since the 1850s, combining an analytical framework with an overarching narrative. It singles out geopolitics, political economy, empire, networks and exchange, warfare and welfare, and oil. Key themes include the Anglo-German antagonism, the U.S.-Japan clash, the rise and fall of global communism, the German story and the European Union, the fall and rise of China, and America’s global predominance and partnerships.
Modern China (EAS 373 / HUM 373) | Joshua L. Freeman
Fall 2019-20
Students will acquire a broad understanding of China’s history over the past three centuries, with an emphasis on the last 120 years. Following a brief overview of the broad sweep of Chinese history, we will learn about China’s last dynasty, the Qing; about the rapid political, social, cultural, and economic changes that began in the mid-nineteenth century; and about the complexities and contradictions of China’s twentieth century. We will consider how modern China has been shaped both by long-range trends and by key events and individuals. In doing so, we will also question some frequent assumptions about China, its past, and its present.

Topics in IR: China's Foreign Relations (SPIA 556A) | Yali Chen
Fall 2019-20
This course reviews and analyzes the foreign policy of the People’s Republic of China from 1949 to the present. It examines Beijing’s relations with the Soviet Union, the United States, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Third World during the Cold War, and discusses the future of Chinese foreign policy in light of the end of the Cold War, changes in the Chinese economy, the post-Tiananmen legitimacy crisis in Beijing, and the continuing rise of Chinese power and influence in Asia and beyond. SPIA Graduate Students Only

Religions of China (REL 226 / EAS 226) | Stephen F. Teiser
Spring 2018-19
A thematic introduction to Chinese religion, ranging from ancient to contemporary. The first half focuses on classics of Chinese thought (Book of Changes, Analects of Confucius, Laozi’s Dao de Jing, etc.); the second half utilizes ethnography and history to consider topics in modern Chinese society such as cosmology, ancestors, gods and saints, mythology, ethics, divination, gender, and ritual.

Chinese culture and history contain an abundance of sounds with distinctive timbres. They have been experienced, imagined and theorized locally and in cross-cultural dialogues. People from different times and cultures often experience them in mediated forms such as literary and graphic descriptions. This course offers an introduction to these sonic phenomena. Comparative and transmedia approaches are used to tackle their multicultural repercussions while giving equal attention to their socio-historic contexts. Students will gain an overview of the Chinese soundscape, aided by methods of sound studies and literary/cultural criticism.

Communism and Beyond: China and Russia (SOC 308 / RES 308 / EAS 308) | Deborah A. Kaple | 2018-2019 Spring
This course focuses on the communist experiment in the Soviet Union and China. The first half of the course presents the political, social and economic histories that characterize the USSR’s and China’s particular path to communism. The second half of the course focuses on the consequences of communism by examining each country’s demographics, environment, social structures and so on, to the current day.

Chinese Politics (POL 362 / SPIA 323 / EAS 362) | Rory Truex
Fall 2018-19
This course provides an overview of China’s political system. We will begin with a brief historical overview of China’s political development from 1949 to the present. The remainder of the course will examine the key challenges facing the current generation of CCP leadership, focusing on prospects for democratization and political reform.
Topics in Policy Analysis (Half-Term) - The China Model (SPIA 593D) | Rory Truex | Fall 2018-19
China has lifted 600 million people out of poverty in the past 30 years. This achievement has led observers within and outside China to trumpet the virtues of the so-called 'China Model' as an alternative path of development. The course provides an overview of China’s political and economic development in the post-Mao era. Core topics include state-intervention in the economy, corruption and political accountability, and authoritarian political institutions.

Medicine and Society in China: Past and Present (HIS 472 / EAS 472) | He Bian | Fall 2018-2019
This seminar offers focused reading and discussion over several key issues in the history of China as seen through the lens of medicine and healing. Using China as a complex case study, we also aim to cultivate a pluralistic understanding of medicine as evolving science, cultural systems, and socioeconomic enterprise. Research papers will explore the historical nature of tradition and modernity. Students from all disciplinary backgrounds are welcome to attend.

China's Frontiers (HIS 439 / EAS 439) | Janet Y. Chen Fall 2017-18
This seminar will examine how the territorial footprint of the People's Republic of China was created, by exploring the history of its frontier regions. Through units on Tibet, Xinjiang, Taiwan, Manchuria, and the Southwest, we will interrogate concepts of ethnic identity, nationalism, culture, and religion, as well as contested historical claims over territory and sovereignty.

Chinese Financial and Monetary Systems (ECO 494 / FIN 494) Wei Xiong | Fall 2017-18
There is growing interest in learning the workings of China’s financial and monetary systems as its financial markets are being quickly liberalized and integrated with the rest of the world. This course aims to serve this objective with particular emphasis on understanding the role provided by the financial system in facilitating China’s economic development, in addition to investment opportunities and risk presented by the system to the outside world.

Chinese Intellectual History (EAS 507) | Willard J. Peterson Fall 2017-18
This course focuses on methods, sources, and problems of research in history of Chinese thought.

China, 1850 to the Present (HIS 325 / EAS 355) | Janet Y. Chen Spring 2018-19
This course is an introduction to the history of modern China, from imperial dynasty to Republic, from the Red Guards to red capitalists. Through primary sources in translation, we will explore political and social revolutions, transformations in intellectual life and culture, as well as competing explanations for events such as the rise of the Communist Party and the Cultural Revolution. Major themes include the impact of imperialism and war, tensions between governance and dissent, emergence of nationalism, and the significance of China’s history for its present and future.
Unfortunately, we were unable to host any internships, study abroad, or the annual Global Seminar due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We look forward to sponsoring these programs in the future.

Photos from top left clockwise: Global Seminar 2016, 2018, 2019, 2017
The Center also sponsors the Contemporary China Graduate Colloquium (CCGC), a graduate student-led research group dedicated to fostering and promoting research on all aspects of contemporary China. Founded in 2011, the goal of the CCGC is to bring together graduate students, postdocs, and faculty in the social sciences and related disciplines whose work or research interests are relevant to contemporary (post-1949) China. The primary purpose of the colloquium is for graduate students, postdocs, and faculty to present and receive feedback. In addition, guests from other universities and institutions are invited to give public lectures on contemporary China. For previous colloquia, please see: https://ccc.princeton.edu/CCGC.

The Center also sponsors Chinese-language-only workshops to discuss the research of our visiting students and scholars. Occasionally, we bring government officials, journalists, and public figures to campus to meet with students. Such individuals have included Admiral Harry Harris, Commander to the U.S. Pacific Command; Evan Osnos, American journalist and author of *The Age of Ambition*; C.H. Tung, the first Chief Executive of Hong Kong upon the transfer of sovereignty and currently the vice-chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC); and Jet Li, actor and philanthropist; among others.


10.7.2019  “Making Careers in Asian Studies,” Lynn White, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University


10.16.2019  “State Capacity and Bureaucratic Structure: A Comparative Study of Railway Development in China and India,” Kyle Chan, PhD Candidate Department of Sociology, Princeton University


12.2.2019  “Social Positions, Community Context, and Stratification Beliefs Among Youth in China,” Lei Lei, Rutgers University

12.9.2019  “How China and India Govern Their Cities,” Xuefei Ren, Michigan State University
12.16.2019  “Social Movement and Dynamics of Identity in Hong Kong,” Xiaogang Wu, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

2.3.2020  “Societal Images of Diversity: The Shape of What’s to Come,” Susan Fiske, Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs, Princeton University

2.7.2020  Workshop: “Journal of Contemporary China Special Issue”


3.2.2020  “Hyper-Quantification in China,” Kyle Chan, PhD Candidate Department of Sociology, Princeton University
Administrative Staff
Yu Xie, Faculty Director
yuxie@princeton.edu, (609) 258-7080

Yan Bennett, Assistant Director
ybennett@princeton.edu, (609) 258-7149

Phillip Rush, Events and Business Coordinator
philliprush@princeton.edu, (609) 258-8712

Contact Us:
Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China
188 Wallace Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544
chinacenter@princeton.edu

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