PAUL AND MARCIA WYTHES CENTER ON CONTEMPORARY CHINA
当 代 中 国 研 究 中 心
2021 ANNUAL REPORT
This is the fifth 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 the Global Seminar for a second year, as well as our visiting scholar and student program. 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.

We continue the training of junior scholars and students. This fall, we will welcome two postdoctoral research associates: Qian He (for a second year) and Guangyu Cao. We congratulate our departing postdoctoral research associates: Feng Yang, who will begin an appointment in fall 2021 at Peking University as an assistant professor at the Center for Social Research at Peking University; Yang Zhou, who has received an assistant professorship position at the Institute of Big Data at Fudan University; and Jacob Thomas, who has accepted a research assistant professor position at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Finally, because of the great generosity of our donors, we have been able to award 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 that the Jennifer Wythes Vettel ’86 Senior Thesis Honor Award was awarded to Florence Wang for her senior thesis entitled “Nationalism with Chinese Characteristics: An Empirical Study of Nationalism and State Support in China.”

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,

Professor Yu Xie
Bert G. Kerstetter ’66 University Professor of Sociology and Princeton Institute of International and Regional Studies
Director, Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China
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 irreversibly. 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 interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty and students whose research and work converge in the field of contemporary China.
The Center is directed by Yu Xie, Bert G. Kerstetter ’66 University Professor of Sociology and 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, now in its 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 the recipient of the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award from the American Sociological Association for a career of outstanding contributions to sociological methodology. Xie joined the Princeton faculty in 2015 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 sociology, East Asian studies, economics, history, politics, religion, and the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA). The Center also hosts visiting scholars, postdoctoral research associates, and other experts on contemporary China.

Discover full coverage of the Center’s activities at ccc.princeton.edu/about
PEOPLE

RESEARCH STAFF

Research Assistants

Gavin G. Cook ’15 Sociology
PhD candidate

Rebecca Han ’22 (expected)
SPIA

Hamna Khurram ’21
(expected) Economics

Claire Liu ’23 (expected)
undeclared

Karla Perez-Gazca ’23
(expected) undeclared

Lucas Irwin ’23 (expected)
undeclared

Christian Venturella ’21
(expected), Chemistry major

Christina Wang ’22
(expected) ORFE

Sandoval Wood ’22
(expected) SPIA and Sociology concentrator

Sophia Zheng ’23 (expected)
Economics

Research Scientist

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

Postdoctoral Research Associates 2020–21

Guangyu Cao, Non-Resident Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Peking-Princeton Postdoctoral Program. He obtained his PhD in Economics from Peking University.

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

Qian He, Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Peking-Princeton Postdoctoral Program. She obtained her PhD in Sociology from the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jacob Thomas, Postdoctoral Research Associate. He obtained his PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Feng Yang, Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Peking-Princeton Postdoctoral Program. He received his PhD in Political Science and an MS in Statistics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Ziye Zhang, Postdoctoral Research Associate. He obtained his PhD in Regional Science from Cornell University.

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

Find complete biographies at ccc.princeton.edu/people
Janet Y. Chen, Professor, History and East Asian Studies. She is a historian of modern China, specializing in the twentieth 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, Professor, Operations Research and Financial Engineering and Bendheim Center for Finance. He is Frederick L. Moore ’18 Professor of Finance, Professor of Statistics, and Professor of Operations Research and Financial Engineering at Princeton University. 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. Birkeland ’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.
Denise Mauzerall, Professor of Environmental Engineering and International Affairs, holding a joint appointment between the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Her research examines linkages between air pollution origin, transport, and impacts, including impacts on human health, food security, and climate change. Current research is examining the potential air quality and climate benefits of increased penetration of renewable energy and natural gas in China, evaluating methane leakage from abandoned oil and gas wells, and examining the impact of climate change on global air quality.

Stephen F. Teiser, 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 from Oberlin College and MA and PhD degrees from Princeton University.

Rory Truex, Assistant Professor, Politics and International Affairs. He studies comparative politics, focusing on Chinese politics and non-democratic regimes. He received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University in 2007 and PhD in Political Science from Yale University 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 the 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, an MA from Columbia University, and a PhD from Duke University.
Jerry C. Zee, Assistant Professor, Anthropology and the Princeton Environmental Institute. Zee is a sociocultural anthropologist whose research explores geophysical and environmental emergence as sites of political experiment. His work is situated at the intersections of feminist science and technology studies, environmental humanities, and experimental ethnography. He considers the rise of China as a matter of geophysical and geopolitical entanglement, moving across weather systems that connect inland land degradation, major dust storm formation, and the eventual scattering of Chinese land as meteorological fallout across the northern hemisphere.

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. She 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 University, an MPA from SPIA at Princeton University, and a PhD from the Anderson School of Business at University of California, Berkeley. His appointment ended June 2021 and we thank him for his service.

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 fourteen 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 twenty years in private practice in New York, Singapore, and Hong Kong with a major international law firm. He holds a BA 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: 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 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. 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 who has 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 and 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 Y. 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 F. Teiser
D.T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies; Professor, Religion, and Director of the East Asian Studies Program

Rory Truex ’07
Assistant Professor, Politics and SPIA

Wei Xiong
Hugh Leander and Mary Trumbull Adams Professor in Finance and Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics and the Bendheim Center for Finance
RESEARCH INITIATIVES

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.

PEKING-PRINCETON POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Peking University and Princeton University have established a joint postdoctoral fellowship program, the Peking-Princeton Postdoctoral Research Program (PPPPP), 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 twelve months are at Peking University with a visiting appointment at Princeton University, and the next twelve 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.

PROGRAM ON CHINESE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

With this program, 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 Program on Chinese Economy and Society (PCES), which will be jointly directed by Professor Jianqing Fan in Operations 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. Both postdoctoral programs ended in 2020.

Find program announcements at ccc.princeton.edu/pppp
The Center has established a collaborative research network on contemporary China. Members of the Princeton Research Network on Contemporary China (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. Due to the pandemic, these conferences were cancelled for this academic year.

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.

Access the working paper series at ccc.princeton.edu/princeton-working-papers-contemporary-china

With the Princeton Environmental Institute, the Center cosponsors an annual lecture on China and the environment. In Fall 2019, Professor Lu Zhi, a 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 the co-existence of human and nature is an ultimate goal of conservation. While the world’s biodiversity hotspots are mostly located in developing regions, such a co-existence becomes challenging. Based on 35 years of experience in China, a 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), led by Daniel Gardner of Smith College, 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.
RESEARCH PROJECTS, UPDATES, AND OTHER NEWS

Faculty, visiting scholars and students, graduate students, and postdoctoral research associates work on a variety of independent research projects funded by the Center through faculty and student grants and stipends. Below is a brief summary of each individual’s projects and collaborations.

AFFILIATED PRINCETON FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

Gavin G. Cook works on the sociology of science and anti-Asian sentiment on Twitter. He is currently researching potential bias against Chinese last names in academic contexts, PhD prestige and job placement, how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected sentiment regarding China on Twitter, and how The New York Times reports on China.

Jianqing Fan has been working on two projects related to China, a working paper entitled “How Much Can Machines Learn Finance from Chinese Text Data?” and “Learning Housing Activeness with Multi-source Big Data.” Yang Zhou has been assisting with these papers.

Over the past year, Lecturer Deborah Kaple has been working on a book, Let’s Be Modern and Soviet! The Sino-Soviet Effort to Build Communism in China, 1949–60, under contract at Oxford University Press. She has also worked on several articles and book reviews as well as presented at the AAS (Association for Asian Studies) annual conference on a panel entitled “The Stalinist Origins of Mao’s Great Leap Forward,” March 21, 2021.

Rory Truex has received a Princeton University President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching. Nominations were made by students, faculty, and alumni. “There’s no shortage of students who seek Rory’s advice, help and mentorship,” one colleague in the politics department said. “Oftentimes, there’s a line in front of Rory’s office. He’s always engaged, thoughtful, and deliberate in office hours, making himself patiently and attentively available.”
Lai Wei worked on three projects in the past academic year. One research project is about how COVID-19 affects public opinion in China. The article is currently under review at the *Chinese Sociological Review*. The second project is on how migration affects well-being in China. The article is under review at *Social Science Research*. The third project is a new methodological framework for studying the effect of social mobility, in collaboration with Professor Liying Luo at Penn State University.

Yu Xie has been extremely busy with teaching, advising, and publishing this year. He taught both graduate- and undergraduate-level courses and is in the process of advising five graduate students as well as a number of undergraduate students for their junior papers and senior theses. He recently published nine articles and is currently working on a book proposal. He is working on a number of surveys that evaluate global attitudes toward China and COVID-19.

**RESEARCH STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Guangyu Cao has been focusing on two research projects. The first relates to environmental regulation in China. He has hand-collected targets assigned by provincial governments to subordinate prefectures and investigates how agents strategically respond to minimum targets in the context of government. The second is centered around judicial independence. He utilized publicly disclosed judicial documents to examine the effect of a reform in administrative litigation, which requires that lawsuits against government should be adjudicated by courts out of the government’s jurisdiction.

Qian He completed a paper with Professor Yu Xie regarding economic inequalities in rural China last fall. She has designed and implemented other original surveys and recently finished another paper with Yu Xie and Ziye Zhang on Americans’ attitudes toward China during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Junming Huang’s research focuses on quantitative analysis and methodology for social science. During the academic year 2020–21, Huang has published one paper and is working on six working papers on text analysis, causal inference, and the science of science. Huang published the paper “The Dominance of Big Teams in China’s Scientific Output on Quantitative Science Studies” in *Quantitative Science Studies*, discussing the team size effect in scientific activities. His working papers include:

- “Do Mass Media Shape Public Opinion toward China? Quantitative Evidence on the New York Times with Deep Learning,” in which Huang incorporates machine learning techniques to automatically mine news report sentiment toward China in mainstream media in the US. This paper is under review.

- In the working paper “COVID-19 Changes American Attitudes toward China,” Huang analyzes changes in social media sentiment toward China during COVID-19.

- In a working paper on causal inference, Huang explores the heterogeneous causal effects on experimental data using mainstream causal inference methods.

- In the working paper “Latent Attitude Method for Trend Analysis with Pooled Survey Data,” lead by Donghui Wang, Huang helped to design a new probabilistic algorithm to harmonize multiple opinion surveys to obtain a consistent trend.

- In a working paper on the science of science lead by Gavin Cook, Huang helped quantitatively analyze bibliometrics data.

- In a working paper on attitude analysis lead by Bozhidar Stankovikj, Huang helped collect social media data and design calculations on social network peer effect on individual attitudes.

Jacob Thomas finished revising and presenting a co-authored book chapter with Min Zhou in September and October. He also helped prepare a survey instrument for Qian He and her colleagues, particularly related to dehumanization. From November until the present, he has collaborated with several colleagues in Professor Yu Xie’s lab in analyzing Pew Research data to estimate how COVID-19 has impacted favorability in attitudes toward China and the US among twelve nationalities. Most recently, he has written a proposal for a book based on his dissertation and sent two
articles for review. Finally, he has been revising and resubmitting an article analyzing what migrant art and artists’ narratives can tell us about the migrant experience for the journal *Anthropology and Humanism*.

**Feng Yang** has been mainly working on three papers that study corruption and anti-corruption policies in China with individual-level data from survey experiments. The three papers examine the effects on corruption of social norms, citizens’ implicit corruption-competence trade-off in evaluating officials, and the widespread interpretation that petty bribery is social reciprocity rather than illicitness. With a co-author, he has received referee reports for two of the papers from academic journals. They have worked on addressing the comments and suggestions raised in the reports. For the third project, they are analyzing the data.

**Ziye Zhang** has been working on two projects. The first project studies the impact of COVID-19 on Americans’ attitudes toward China. This project, completed with Qian He and Professor Yu Xie, has been submitted for publication in *Public Opinion Quarterly*. The second project focuses on modeling different trajectories of COVID-19 cases across states in the US and exploring contextual and policy factors accounting for state-level variations in COVID-19 dynamics. The second project is in collaboration with Professor Yu Xie and Junming Huang.

**Yang Zhou** has continued his research in energy economics and finished two papers in this area. He studied the conservation effect from social comparison in terms of mechanism, heterogeneity, and timing, using the random experiment and machine learning method. He also simulated the electricity market in Shanghai by agent-based model with reinforcement learning algorithm. Besides these projects, he also focuses on high-dimensional data including text and image. He collaborated with Professor Jianqing Fan and proposed a novel factor model to solve the collinearity problem in such datasets. In detail, they extracted information from Chinese text data and used it to predict stock returns with a significantly outperformed result. They also combined multiple datasets, including nightlight image, land use and energy data to predict the high-resolution housing indices in China.
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. Please see below for descriptions of each.

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. PRCC is interdisciplinary, including sociology, economics, political science, psychology, demography, and history. From PRCC, an annual working paper series has been established. Professor Yu Xie serves as the lead 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, including editing and publication.

Discover published editions at ccc.princeton.edu/princeton-working-papers-contemporary-china

CHINESE JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY

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.

We will have a special issue of CJS later this year on space and migration.

See all issues of CJS at journals.sagepub.com/home/chs
The Center has launched a new book series entitled *Princeton Studies in Contemporary China*, 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 US and Europe usually has minimal impact on scholarship in China, except in the case of bestseller 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 Yu Xie and Mary Gallagher.

**THIS YEAR’S BOOK**

*A Decade of Upheaval: The Cultural Revolution in Rural China* by Dong Guoqiang and Andrew G. Walder, a revealing exploration of political disruption and violence in a rural Chinese county during the Cultural Revolution.

*A Decade of Upheaval* chronicles the surprising and dramatic political conflicts of a rural Chinese county over the course of the Cultural Revolution. Drawing on an unprecedented range of sources—including work diaries, interviews, internal party documents, and military directives—Dong Guoqiang and Andrew Walder uncover a previously unimagined level of strife in the countryside that began with the Red Guard Movement in 1966 and continued unabated until the death of Mao Zedong in 1976.

Showing how the upheavals of the Cultural Revolution were not limited to urban areas, but reached far into isolated rural regions, Dong and Walder reveal that the intervention of military forces in 1967 encouraged factional divisions in Feng County because different branches of China’s armed forces took various sides in local disputes. The authors also lay bare how the fortunes of local political groups were closely tethered to unpredictable shifts in the decisions of government authorities in Beijing. Eventually, a backlash against suppression and victimization grew in the early 1970s and resulted in active protests, which presaged the settling of scores against radical Maoism.

A meticulous look at how one overlooked region experienced the Cultural Revolution, *A Decade of Upheaval* illuminates the all-encompassing nature of one of the most unstable periods in modern Chinese history.

**Browse the full series at**

press.princeton.edu/catalogs/series/title/princeton-studies-in-contemporary-china
FACULTY AND STUDENT GRANTS

The Center encourages faculty and students to submit funding proposals to support research and scholarship on the study of contemporary China. 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 Deputy Director.

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.

Brief summaries of research funded by the Center.
Funded Faculty Research

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 Y. 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 special economic zone in 1988.

Jianqing Fan Operations Research and Financial Engineering/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 Non-convex 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.
**Deborah Kaple** Sociology

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

**Stephen F. Teiser** East Asian Studies
Program Director/Religion
Professor Teiser’s project, “How Buddhism and Chinese Religion are Studied in the Contemporary Chinese University,” 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 Yu Xie is in the process of publishing 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 their 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.”

**GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH**

**David Logan** SPIA
Logan has been working on a research project entitled “Domestic Kindling, International Sparks,” in which he studies how future changes in China’s economy will affect its foreign and security policies. He is designing a project to determine how changes in Chinese economic performance might affect Chinese foreign policy through public opinion. This builds on recent survey work conducted in China by Kai Quek and Iain Johnston.

He has also published an article in the *Journal of Strategic Studies* entitled “Are They Reading Schelling in Beijing? The Dimensions, Drivers, and Risks of Nuclear-Conventional Entanglement in China.”
Hannah Waight Sociology

Waight’s project entitled “Information under Authoritarianism: Media Manipulation and its Effects in Contemporary China” 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.

Erik Wang Politics with Fengming Lu, CCC PDRA

Wang’s research aims to take a major step toward resolving why women are severely underrepresented in China’s political system 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.

SENIOR THESIS FUNDING

Florence Wang 2021 SPIA

“The Rise and Drivers of Nationalistic Sentiment in Contemporary China”

In her senior thesis, Wang explores the conventional wisdom of “rising nationalism” in contemporary China. Since the early 1990s, “rising nationalism” has become a major meme in commentary on China’s development, and is often perceived in the West as a destabilizing force for international security that needs to be contained. However, reports and analysis on this topic frequently do not provide systematic evidence that Chinese nationalism is in fact rising. To the extent that there is evidence, it is ethnographic (and based on small numbers of non-random interviews) or non-generalizable (analysis conducted on geographically specific samples, such as the Beijing Area Survey) in nature. Her research aims to contribute to existing literature through asking whether Chinese nationalism is in fact rising and, if so, what the drivers are.
UNDERGRADUATE GROUP PROJECTS

The Center is proud to support the efforts of our undergraduates in the free expression of ideas and discourse on issues involving contemporary China.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
US–CHINA COALITION (PUCC)

Founded in Spring 2015, the 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 US 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 meeting, 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*.

INTERNSHIPS

While we were unable to support any summer study abroad courses this academic year, we were able to provide funding to students already in their home or host countries to participate in what would be otherwise unpaid internships through the International Internship Program (IIP). Below are the internships and the students who participated in them.

China Market Research Group (CMR) in Shanghai, China

*Abby Aleshire ’24*, Operations Research and Financial Engineering
*William Gu ’23*, Economics
*Genele Hua ’23*, SPIA
*Jerry Jiao ’24*, Operations Research and Financial Engineering

Cloud Mountain, AGG in Shanghai, China

*Julia Chang ’24*, Operations Research and Financial Engineering
*Zi Liu ’24*, Undeclared

QBS System Limited in Hong Kong SAR

*Xin Lin ’23*, Operations Research and Financial Engineering
PUBLICATIONS

Publications by affiliated faculty, postdoctoral research associates, and graduate students.


COURSES

Our faculty teach courses that include history, finance, philosophy, politics, art, and sociology. The following list includes courses from the past four years with descriptions offered for this academic year.

FALL 2020–21

ART 385 | EAS 385 **Art and Power in China**
Cheng-hua Wang

With a highly developed system of aesthetics, Chinese art is not what meets the eye. In China, artworks have represented and also shaped sociocultural values, religious practices, and political authority throughout the ages. With an emphasis on the persuasive, and even subversive, power of art related to imperial and modern Chinese politics, this course reflects upon how art has worked in changing historical contexts and for serving political, religious, and social agents in Chinese history. It covers a wide range of artifacts and artworks.

EAS 236 | COM 228 **Chinese Cinemas**
Erin Huang

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 arthouse productions.

EAS 307 | HUM 308 **China’s Others: Minority Peoples in the Chinese Past and Present**
Joshua L. Freeman

This course will challenge common preconceptions of China by placing ethnic and religious minority groups at the center of the narrative, and demonstrating the key roles these groups have played in the Chinese past and present. Through guided readings, class discussions, and a series of written assignments, the course will acquaint students with the ethnic, religious, and cultural groups that have historically occupied half of modern China’s territory. A focus throughout the course will be on encountering these groups through their own voices, particularly through translations of minority-language memoirs and literature.
Chinese Financial and Monetary Systems
Wei Xiong

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.

China, 1850 to the Present
Janet Y. Chen

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, it explores 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 of China and the Cultural Revolution. Major themes include: the impact of imperialism and war, tensions between governance and dissent, the emergence of nationalism, and the significance of China’s history for its present and future.

Modern China
Janet Y. Chen

This seminar introduces students to major historiographical and methodological issues in twentieth-century Chinese history, with emphasis on the Republican period. Topics reflect theoretical debates and empirical questions, including: nationalism and citizenship, urban life, gender and sexuality, the Communist revolution, early PRC history.
SPI 316 | POL 399 **China’s Foreign Relations**  
Martin S. Flaherty

This course will review and analyze the foreign policy of the People’s Republic of China from 1949 to the present. It will examine Beijing’s relations with the Soviet Union, the US, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and the developing world during the Cold War. It will explore the impact on China’s foreign relations of changes in the Chinese economy since the reform era began in 1978, the domestic legitimacy challenges in Beijing since the Tiananmen protests of 1989, the continuing rise of Chinese power and influence in Asia and beyond since the end of the Cold War, and recent developments since the accession of Xi Jinping.

SPI 591D **Policy Workshop: China’s Belt and Road Initiative**  
Mary Beth Goodman

This workshop looks at Chinese efforts in third countries to assess the impact of global development efforts. The course encompasses aspects of economics, international relations, diplomacy as well as development and human rights. A potential project is not yet finalized with the client but could include assessing the geostrategic nature of Chinese finance in the BRI; analyzing the Chinese institutional lay of the land for BRI investment as well as the institution’s equities, incentives, and relative influence; and also assessing the impact of BRI investment on recipient countries’ behavior in international institutions.
FALL 2019–20

EAS 236 | COM 228
**Chinese Cinemas**
Erin Huang

FIN 594
**Chinese Financial and Monetary Systems**
Wei Xiong

HIS 501
**Global History, 1850s-Present**
Stephen Kotkin

EAS 373 | HUM 373
**Modern China**
Joshua L. Freeman

SPIA 556A
**Topics in IR:**
**China’s Foreign Relations**
Yali Chen

SPRING 2018–19

REL 226 | EAS 226
**Religions of China**
Stephen F. Teiser

EAS 237 | MUS 237 | COM 229
**Imagining Sounds of China:**
**Encounters and Fantasies**
Guangchen Chen and Paize Keulemans

SOC 308 | RES 308 | EAS 308
**Communism and Beyond:**
**China and Russia**
Deborah A. Kaple

FALL 2018–19

POL 362 | SPIA 323 | EAS 362
**Chinese Politics**
Rory Truex

SPIA 593D
**Topics in Policy Analysis**
(Half-Term) – The China Model
Rory Truex

HIS 472 | EAS 472
**Medicine and Society in China:**
**Past and Present**
He Bian

SPRING 2018–19

HIS 325 | EAS 355
**China, 1850 to the Present**
Janet Y. Chen
EVENTS

The Center holds a public lecture series, research workshops, conferences, briefings, office hours, and colloquia. The public lecture series is open to the public and covers a range of topics. We ask our speakers to hold office hours to meet with students, as well as schedule lunch and dinner meetings to hold discussions with our faculty, postdoctoral research associates, and other researchers.

CONTEMPORARY CHINA GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

The Center 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, postdoctoral research associates, 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 CCGC is for graduate students, postdoctoral research associates, and faculty to present and receive feedback. In addition, guests from other universities and institutions are invited to give public lectures on contemporary China.

Explore previous colloquia at ccc.princeton.edu/CCGC

WORKSHOPS

The Center sponsors Chinese-language 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 US 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.
2020–21 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 14
“Mosaic Familism: Daughters Providing for Parents and Reinstitutionalization of Chinese Family,” Yingchun Ji, Shanghai University

SEPTEMBER 21

OCTOBER 19
“China’s Low Fertility Trap and Demographic Future – A Preliminary Assessment of China’s Universal Two-child Policy,” Yong Cai, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

NOVEMBER 16
“The Political Beliefs of Chinese Officials,” Gregory Distelhorst, University of Toronto

DECEMBER 7

FEBRUARY 15
“Why Some Societies Thrive Despite Corruption: A Relation-Based Explanation,” Shaomin Li, Old Dominion University

MARCH 3
“Order and Law in China,” Donald Clarke, Princeton University (LAPA)

APRIL 12
“Pandemic and Politics: Diverse Response to COVID-19 Crisis in Wuhan, Hong Kong and the United States,” Xiaogang Wu, NYU Shanghai

APRIL 26
“The China Model,” Hongbin Li, Stanford University

MAY 10
2020–21 CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

OCTOBER 14
“Greening Chinese Overseas Investments: Push and Pull Factors,” Kelly Sims Gallagher, The Fletcher School-Tufts University, High Meadows Environmental Institute Co-sponsor

NOVEMBER 2
Book Talk: “China Tomorrow,” Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Hong Kong Baptist University, East Asian Studies Program Co-sponsor

FEBRUARY 22

MARCH 15
“Has the EAST Risen, Again? Lessons and Experiences from History,” Yasheng Huang, MIT Sloan School of Management, M.S. Chadha Center for Global India Co-sponsor

MARCH 16
“UTokyo x Princeton Demography & Inequality in East Asia Series,” East Asian Studies Program Co-sponsor

APRIL 21
“Writing a New History of China: How Chinese Intellectuals are Trying to Fill in Blank Spaces in Contemporary Chinese History,” Ian Johnson, East Asian Studies Program Co-sponsor
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