DIRECTOR’S WELCOME

Dear friends and supporters,

I am delighted to present the seventh annual report on the endeavors of the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China. We are pleased to announce that we have emerged from the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than ever and with an even greater sense of mission and purpose. I am proud to say that we have continued to make significant strides in research and teaching on contemporary China.

First, we are very pleased to have been able to organize our first PIIRS Global Seminar since 2019, on “Contemporary Japan and China.” The seminar, taught at the University of Tokyo, focused on developing an understanding of contemporary Japanese and Chinese societies—their histories, cultures, politics, and economies—through lectures, readings, discussions, and tours in Japan and Hong Kong. Excursions included weekly field trips and a four-day visit to Hong Kong to experience a rapidly changing Chinese cultural setting.

Throughout the year, we have remained committed to nurturing and developing the next generation of scholars and students. To further enrich our knowledge base on issues pertaining to contemporary China, we are proud to sponsor several workshop series. These fora have proven to be invaluable in fostering connections among both junior and senior scholars working on China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Notably, Professor James Raymo and I have been actively hosting a monthly forum, “Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality” (READI), where we facilitate discussions on works in progress. We successfully held our first in-person READI conference at the University of Tokyo on July 15–16, 2023. Further, our dedication to bringing together scholars extends beyond national boundaries and our efforts have included workshops conducted in Chinese, enabling us to incorporate insights from Chinese-speaking scholars.

As we look ahead to the fall, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of two new postdoctoral research associates. We extend a warm welcome to Handi Li and Justin Canfil, who will be joining us under the esteemed Peking–Princeton Postdoctoral Program (PPPP). These exceptional individuals are sure to contribute significantly to our research endeavors. In the spirit of celebration, we congratulate our departing postdoctoral research associates: Aaron Glasserman, for a fellowship to Harvard University; Qian He, for the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Qing Huang, for Renmin University of China in Beijing; and Julia Teebken, who has secured a position with Ludwigs Maximilian University in Munich. Our Global Scholar, Xiaogang Wu, has also returned to NYU Shanghai on a full-time basis.

I invite you to dive into the pages of this report, learning about the activities that define the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China. As we share our achievements with you, we express our sincere gratitude for your continued interest and support. Your encouragement drives us to push boundaries and seek excellence in our pursuits. Please be well.

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. The rapidity at which these changes are taking place provides a historic opportunity for researchers in the social sciences to document and analyze what is 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 rapid 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 purpose 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 the PIIRS Global Seminar. 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.
**Weicheng Cai**, Visiting Student Research Collaborator. Weicheng is a PhD student in sociology at the Center for Social Research, Guanghua School of Management, Peking University. He earned his BA in economics from Peking University. His fields of study include social stratification, public health, and social attitudes.

**Yiqi Chen**, Summer Research Intern. Yiqi is currently pursuing a dual MA at the University of Southern California and Tsinghua University, specializing in communications and data science.

**Aaron N. Glasserman**, Postdoctoral Research Associate. Aaron’s research interests include the history and politics of ethnicity and religion in China; minority nationalism; law and legal history; comparative religion-state relations; and modern Islamic political and religious movements. He was previously an Academy Scholar (postdoctoral fellow) at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies at Harvard University. He received a PhD in history from Columbia University in 2021 and a BA in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University in 2013.

**Dawei Guo**, Summer Research Intern. Dawei is a senior student majoring in computer science at Peking University. His research interests include opinion dynamics, social network analysis, and text analysis.

**Qian He**, Postdoctoral Research Associate. Qian He obtained her PhD in sociology from the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

**Qing Huang**, Postdoctoral Research Associate. Qing Huang has a PhD in economics from the National School of Development of Peking University and a bachelor’s degree in economics from Nankai University. Her research is primarily in development economics, with a focus on industrialization and economic development in China. She studies the relationship between demographic transition, agricultural development, and industrialization, and the role of entrepreneurship in the process of economic development in China.
Michelle Jiang, Summer Research Intern. Michelle Jiang is an undergraduate student from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, majoring in computer science and mathematics. She worked on a project that quantifies social mobility with Markov chains.

Wen Liu, Visiting Student Research Collaborator. Wen Liu is a visiting PhD student from Peking University. Her research interests include gender, marriage and family, and social stratification. Her current research projects focus mainly on mate selection and union formation in China.

Jesse Rodenbiker, Associate Research Scholar. In addition to his work with the Center, Jesse is Assistant Teaching Professor of Geography at Rutgers University, a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, and a China Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He is a human-environment geographer and interdisciplinary social scientist focusing on environmental governance, urbanization, and social inequality in China and globally. He is the author of *Ecological States: Politics of Science and Nature in Urbanizing China* (Cornell University Press, 2023). He has written for the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Land Use Policy*, and in other venues. His work has been supported by the Social Science Research Council, Fulbright-Hays, and the Chiang-Ching Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, among others.

Julia Teebken, Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Peking–Princeton Postdoctoral Program. Julia received her PhD in political and social sciences from the Free University of Berlin in 2020 and her MA in ethics, peace, and global affairs from the American University, Washington DC, in 2015. In her new comparative project, she applies a political ecology lens to livelihood affectedness across food systems in Georgia (United States), Ningxia (China), and Brandenburg (Germany).

Eric Wu, Summer Research Intern. Eric is a student at Phillips Exeter Academy. He is interested in sociology, political science, and business and their impact on people. He conducted literature reviews and contributed to experimental design. He has worked on topics including opinion polarization, perceptions between the US and China, and trust differences.

Gloria Xia, Summer Research Intern. Gloria is a rising senior at Trinity School in New York City and is interested in history, politics, and sociology. She worked on data visualization and literature review. She has researched topics including Chinese public opinion and opinion polarization.
Jiashu Xu, Visiting Student Research Collaborator. Jiashu is a visiting PhD student from the School of Sociology and Population Studies, Renmin University of China. She received her BA in management in 2014 and an MA in demography in 2018, from Jilin University. Her current research interests include stratification, fertility, parenting, gender, and family studies.

Chunxue Zhang, Visiting Student Research Collaborator. Chunxue Zhang is a visiting PhD student from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She received her BA in sociology from Shandong University and her MA in sociology from the Renmin University of China. Her research interests lie in migration, family demography, and inequality.

Mengke Zhao, Visiting Student Research Collaborator. Mengke is a visiting PhD student from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She received her BA in sociology in 2018 and her MA in management in 2021 from Fudan University. Her current research interests include health, family demography, and social inequality.

Aimee Zou, Summer Research Intern. Dingtong Zou (Aimee) is a rising junior at the Pennington School. She is interested in biology and economics and is also training as a pre-professional ballet student. She worked on social science research projects at the Center.

Yichun Yang, Visiting Scholar. Yichun was a visiting scholar to the Center in spring 2023 and is currently a postdoctoral research associate with Peking University. Previously, she was a visiting student research collaborator in 2019–2020. Her current research interest focuses mainly on education inequality and occupational gender segregation.

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Hunter York is a PhD student in sociology at Princeton. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University in 2017 with a degree in human evolutionary biology and a minor in music. He spent the following three years in Seattle at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation on a fellowship while simultaneously earning an MPH from the University of Washington. There, he studied social demography with a focus on global educational attainment and education quality. He’s originally from Tupelo, Mississippi, and his research interests include social stratification, economic mobility, education, demography, and families.

Gavin G. Cook is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology. His research interests include biosociology, text analysis, cultural sociology with an emphasis on discipline and organization, and the Pacific Rim with an emphasis on contemporary China. Gavin graduated from Princeton University in 2015 with a BA in East
Asian studies. Prior to matriculating to Princeton as a PhD candidate, he worked as a researcher at the University of Tokyo as an Ito Foundation Fellow.

**Ziyao Tian** is a PhD candidate in sociology at Princeton University and a graduate student affiliate of the Center. She received her BA in sociology from Peking University in 2015 and an MA in East Asian studies from Stanford University in 2017. Her research areas include stratification and inequality, economic sociology, education, immigration, and Asian American studies. In her dissertation, Ziyao examines Asian Americans’ educational investments from the Asian Exclusion in the late 19th century to the COVID-19 pandemic. Using historical census data, consumer expenditure surveys, and in-depth interviews with Asian American parents, her research shows how the American public uses Asians’ parenting behaviors to measure Asians’ foreignness despite drastic changes in the nation’s immigration policies.

**Lai Wei** is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at Princeton University. His research interests include social stratification, political sociology, and public opinion, particularly in the context of China. He is broadly interested in the causes and consequences of inequality in China. One of his research projects analyzes the roles of macro-structural changes, like educational expansion and private sector expansion, in the changing mobility pattern in China in the recent decades. Another project analyzes how the changing mobility pattern translates into public opinion using a novel methodology, with a focus on reference group and relative deprivation. He is also studying how public opinion in contemporary China is shaped by propaganda, political events, and historical memory.

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS**

- Regina Alufohai ‘25
- Michael Deschenes ‘25
- Allan Gikonyo ‘25
- Nipuna Ginige ‘26
- Shameek Hargrave ‘24
- Enzo Miguel Kho ‘26
- Josephine Kim ‘23
- Alaina Chiriyanfindath Joby ‘24
- Advika Srivastava ‘24
- Tevin Singei ‘25
- David Song ‘24
- Emmy Song ‘24
- Andrea Toth ‘23
- Anne Jing Ping Wen ‘23
- Jiaotong Yu ‘24

**NON-RESIDENT AFFILIATED SCHOLARS**

**Justin Canfil** is a non-resident postdoctoral research associate (with the Peking–Princeton Postdoctoral Program) and a postdoctoral scholar with the Belfer Center at the Harvard Kennedy School. His research examines US–China relations and the governance of emerging technologies. He has special interest in
applying experimental, computational, and mixed-methods approaches to the study of technology law in international relations. Previously he was a fellow with the Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program, a China Fulbrighter, and the recipient of a Foreign Language and Area Studies award (China). He received a PhD in political science from Columbia University.

Handi Li is a non-resident postdoctoral research associate (with the Peking-Princeton Postdoctoral Program) and graduated from Emory University with a PhD in politics. Her research focuses on information politics and state-society relationships in autocracies, with regional expertise in China. Her dissertation investigates why an authoritarian country develops transparency initiatives and how they shape citizens’ interaction with legal institutions and social contention.

Scott Moscowitz is a sociologist and ethnographer whose work focuses on the emergence of the Chinese middle class. He completed his PhD in sociology at Princeton University in 2021 and is currently working on a book manuscript based on his dissertation entitled State, Street, Store: The Development of the Chinese Middle Class. Attempting to answer the question “What does it mean to be middle class in China, and more broadly, in the age of globalization?,” this long-ranging ethnographic project draws on nearly a decade of field work in China, examining the interplay of consumption, class, and identity formation under authoritarian governance, as a rising China attempts to overcome the middle-income trap and assume a place of influence on the world stage. Scott’s work sits at the intersection of political, cultural, and economic sociology, as well as class, inequality, and development studies, and examines everything from symbolic consumption at major international retailers to the emergent Chinese adventure travel industry, as well as the discursive legacies of Marxism and their effects on developmental thinking.

RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Junming Huang received his PhD from the Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research interests lie in a range of computational social science topics including social media and networks analysis, science of science, natural language processing, and causal inference. Before joining Princeton, he was a postdoctoral research associate at the Center for Complex Network Research, Northeastern University, and an assistant researcher at University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. He received his PhD from the Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, in 2014, and a bachelor’s in physics from Tsinghua University in 2007.
FACULTY ASSOCIATES

Yu Xie, Center Director and Bert G. Kerstetter ’66 University Professor of Sociology and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Christopher Achen, Roger Williams Straus Professor of Social Sciences, Emeritus Professor of Politics

Chris’s research interest is political methodology, particularly in its application to empirical democratic theory, American politics, and international relations. He is the author of two books, Interpreting and Using Regression and The Statistical Analysis of Quasi-Experiments; co-author of a third book, Cross-Level Inference; and co-editor of a fourth book, The European Union Decides. His two most recent books are Democracy for Realists with Larry Bartels (which won international awards) and The Taiwan Voter, co-edited with T. Y. Wang. He is currently working on new tools for analyzing multiparty elections (with Won-ho Park) and on the empirical failures of institutions for deliberative democracy. He was the first president of the Political Methodology Section of the American Political Science Association, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received fellowships from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, the National Science Foundation, and Princeton’s Center for the Study of Democratic Politics. He received the first career achievement award from the Political Methodology Section of the American Political Science Association in 2007. He is also the recipient of an award from the University of Michigan for lifetime achievement in training graduate students. PhD, Yale University.

Thomas Conlan, Professor of East Asian Studies and History

Thomas explores how processes such as warfare and ritual performance determined the politics, ideals, and social matrixes of Japan from the tenth through the sixteenth centuries. Majoring in Japanese and history at the University of Michigan, he attended graduate school at Stanford University. Professor Conlan’s first published work, In Little Need of Divine Intervention: Scrolls of the Mongol Invasions of Japan, introduced new sources about the Mongol invasions. In this work, he argued that the Japanese defenders were capable of fighting the Mongol invaders to a standstill. His next monograph, State of War: The Violent Order of Fourteenth Century Japan, based on his PhD dissertation, revealed how warfare transformed the social, political, and intellectual matrix of fourteenth-century Japan. He then wrote a general history of the samurai, entitled Weapons and Fighting Techniques of the Samurai Warrior, 1200–1877. In his most recent book, From Sovereign to Symbol: An Age of Ritual Determinism in Fourteenth Century Japan, he analyzed the nature of political thought in medieval Japan. Currently he is exploring the role of religion and politics in the
fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and argues that the Ōuchi, a daimyo of western Japan, were the central figures of their age.

**Janet Y. Chen**, Professor, History and East Asian Studies

Janet is a historian of modern China, specializing in the twentieth century. She received her BA from Williams College and her PhD from Yale University.

**Naima Green-Riley**, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs

Naima specializes in US and Chinese foreign policy, with a focus on public diplomacy and the global information space. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Experimental Political Science* (JEPS) and *The China Questions 2* (Harvard University Press, 2022). It has also appeared in various public-facing outlets, including The Monkey Cage blog at the Washington Post, the Emerging Voices on the New Normal in Asia Series of the National Bureau of Asian Research, The Diplomat, and The Root. Naima is a fellow in the Public Intellectual Program at the National Committee on US-China Relations, a nonresident fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Lab, and a former US diplomat. Her doctoral work is based at the Department of Government at Harvard University. She earned an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor’s degree with honors from Stanford University.

**Jianqing Fan**, Professor, Operations Research and Financial Engineering and Bendheim Center for Finance

Jianqing is Frederick L. Moore ’18 Professor of Finance, Professor of Statistics, and Professor of Operations Research and Financial Engineering at Princeton University, which he chaired from 2012 to 2015. He received a PhD in Statistics from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Deborah Kaple ’91**, Research Scholar and Lecturer

Deborah 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.

**Denise Mauzerall**, Professor of Environmental Engineering and International Affairs, joint appointment with the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Denise’s research examines linkages between air pollution origins, transport, and
impacts, including impacts on human health, food security, and climate change. Her 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.

James Raymo, Professor of Sociology, Henry Wendt III ’55 Professor of East Asian Studies, Office of Population Research

Jim is a social demographer whose research focuses on documenting and understanding the causes and potential consequences of demographic changes associated with population aging in Japan. His published research includes analyses of marriage timing, divorce, recession and fertility, marriage and women’s health, single mothers’ well-being, living alone, family change and social inequality, employment and health at older ages, and regional differences in health at older ages. He is currently engaged in three projects: In the first, he uses newly available survey data to examine the socioeconomic and family correlates of children’s academic performance, personal relationships, and emotional health. This is a collaborative project involving scholars addressing similar questions in China and Korea. In the second project, he is examining the social, cultural, economic, and policy factors underlying striking demographic similarities among countries in East Asia and Southern Europe, with a particular focus on the roles of gender inequality, family ties, and growing unpredictability of the life course. He is chairing a scientific panel on this subject sponsored by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. In the third project, he is working with colleagues in Japan to document the well-being of single mothers and their children and to understand the ways in which intergenerational coresidence and intrafamilial exchanges of support may (or may not) offset some of the disadvantages faced by unmarried mothers. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Michigan in 2000.

Stephen F. Teiser, D. T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies Professor Religion, Director of the East Asian Studies Program

Stephen’s 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.
FACULTY ASSOCIATES

**Rory Truex**, Assistant Professor of Politics and Woodrow Wilson School
Rory 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**, Professor 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, an MA from Columbia University, and a PhD from Duke University.

**Xu Xu**, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs
Xu studies digital authoritarianism, political repression, and the political economy of development, with a regional focus on China. He is currently working on a book entitled *Authoritarian Control in the Age of Digital Surveillance*. His other ongoing projects examine public opinion on state repression in authoritarian regimes, propaganda and new media in China, and state–society relations in China. His work has appeared in the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Politics*, and the *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, among other peer-reviewed journals. He received his PhD in political science from Pennsylvania State University in 2019, and was a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University from 2020 to 2021.

**Jerry C. Zee**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Princeton Environmental Institute
Jerry 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.
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.

Deborah J. Yashar (ex-officio) is Director of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), Donald E. Stokes Professor of Public and International Affairs, and Professor of Politics & International Affairs at Princeton University. Her scholarship addresses regime politics (democracy and authoritarianism), violence, states in the developing world, citizenship rights, social movements, ethnic politics, and immigration politics.

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.

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.
ADVISORY COUNCIL

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.

Andy Tung is managing partner of QBN Management Limited, focusing on investments in technology and innovation. He serves as a non-executive director of Orient Overseas International Limited, the parent company of Orient Overseas Container Line Limited. Mr. Tung is also currently an independent non-executive director of Cathay Pacific Airways Limited and Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited. He is also a member of the Chief Executive’s Council of Advisers of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and a governor of China–United States Exchange Foundation. Mr. Tung holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering from Princeton University, and a master’s degree in business administration from Stanford University.

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.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Thomas Conlan
Professor of East Asian Studies and History

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
Associate 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

Deborah J. Yashar
Director of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), Donald E. Stokes Professor of Public and International Affairs, and Professor of Politics & International Affairs at Princeton University

Scan for complete biographies.
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 has also initiated the Program on Chinese Economy and Society (PCES) and the Princeton Research Network on Contemporary China (PRCC). In addition, the Center hosts an annual lecture on China and the environment that is co-sponsored with the High Meadows Environmental Institute at Princeton University.

RESEARCH ON EAST ASIAN DEMOGRAPHY AND INEQUALITY (READI)

Sponsored by the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China, the Office of Population Research (OPR), and the Global Japan Lab (GJL), Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality (READI) is an invite-only monthly forum that aims to share work in progress while building connections across junior and senior scholars working on China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. The forum meets virtually once a month and the first in-person READI conference was held at the University of Tokyo on July 15–16, 2023. Most recently, Airan Liu of Peking University presented on “The Power of Culture: Imperial Civil Exam, Family SES, and Children’s Education Achievement in Contemporary China.”

CHINA IMPACT PROJECT

The China Impact Project (CHIP) was launched by Professor Yu Xie. This project is dedicated to measuring, documenting, understanding, and disseminating information about ordinary people’s attitudes towards China. The research has three main goals: capturing trends in people’s opinions on China over time, investigating the determinants of people’s opinions (why they hold these opinions), and exploring the opinion patterns by countries’ economic development, political regime, religion, economic relationship with China, and so on. The ultimate goal of the project is to examine how American news outlets’ coverage of China has
influenced American public sentiment over time. The Center has initiated an internship program that includes student interns from Princeton and Tsinghua universities, who are interested in media studies and computer science.

**PEKING-PRINCETON POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH PROGRAM**

Peking University and Princeton University have established a joint postdoctoral fellowship program, the Peking-Princeton Postdoctoral Research 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 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**

The Program on Chinese Economy and Society (PCES) is 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. While both postdoctoral programs ended in 2020, the program continues to conduct research on economy and society in China.

**PRINCETON RESEARCH NETWORK ON CONTEMPORARY CHINA**

In collaboration with the Center for Applied Social and Economic Research (CASER) at NYU Shanghai and the Center for Social Research (CSR) at Peking University, the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China 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. After a brief hiatus, the PRCC is preparing to relaunch in 2023. As part of the PRCC, a working paper series is published to advance knowledge on contemporary China.

**JOINT INITIATIVE WITH THE PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE**

In collaboration with the High Meadows Environmental Institute (environment.princeton.edu), the Center cosponsors an annual lecture on China and the environment. In Spring 2023, Professor Scott Moore, Director of China Programs and Strategic Initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania, gave a lecture entitled “Has China Peaked? Probing the Implications of China’s Economic, Technological and Ecological Challenges to Midcentury,” in which he discussed what China’s economic peak might mean for the rest of the world and for China’s role in addressing shared challenges like climate change. The talk drew on Moore’s recently published book, *China’s Next Act: How Sustainability and Technology are Reshaping China’s Rise and the World’s Future*, to argue that China does face profound economic and political challenges—but even more severe technological and ecological ones. This talk probes the implications of this reality, and how China and the rest of the world can make progress in providing global public goods against the backdrop of rising geopolitical tensions.

**UNDERSTANDING CHINA**

The purpose of this project is to understand social reality for public policy and public discourse. After achieving rapid economic growth since the economic reform that began in 1978, China now impacts the rest of the world in significant ways, in almost all domains and walks of life. Yet, little is known about people’s attitudes towards China. Most policy discussions about China’s international relationships have focused mainly on the attitudes of political and business elites in other countries. It is time to correct the imbalance. The end result of the project is to provide data publicly available on the internet. Thus, the researchers are dedicated to measuring, documenting, understanding, and disseminating information about ordinary people’s attitudes towards China.
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.

Jianqing Fan was invited by the editor of the Journal of the American Statistical Association to publish a paper on “Measuring Housing Vitality from Multi-source Big Data and Machine Learning,” followed by several discussions. The paper uses night light, land planning, and household electricity data to measure the housing vitality (number of occupied houses) in the Pudong district of Shanghai and extrapolate it to the rest of Shanghai and Shenzhen. Fan was invited to give the Annual Granger Lecture at the School of Economics of the University of Nottingham, on “Structural Deep Learning in Conditional Asset Pricing.” Removing the factor innovation part, the method gives a much better prediction of asset returns than traditional statistical machine learning methods. Fan and his collaborators built a system for detecting financial statement fraudulence using machine learning and news media coverage propensity, which allows machine to infer the risk of fraudulence. Based on 39 basic factors augmented by peer risk factors and time trends, with peer learned from text similarity of the business description, an ensemble of 18 commonly used machine learning methods were integrated to increase the capacity of detection model. The empirical applications, using the China Economics News Database, yield interesting and improved results.

Aaron Glasserman has been engaged in several projects on ethnic politics and the history of Muslims in late imperial and modern China. His article “Hui Corporate Strategies and Islamic Cultural Capital in Qing Guangzhou” was published in the Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient. He submitted a new article on the Chinese Communist Party’s “nationalities work” in the 1930s-1940s for peer review and revised two translation projects and another article on Islamic legal debates in Qing and Republican China for forthcoming publication. In January, with the support of the Center, Aaron traveled to Taipei.
to conduct archival research on Hui society and politics in the Republican period. He co-organized the workshop “Islam in China: Sects and Sectarianism” at Waseda University and the panel “Eurasian Trajectories of Soviet Federalism” at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. He also presented or is scheduled to present new research at workshops and conferences in Taipei, Tokyo, Boston, Chicago, Princeton, and Paris. His essay on Pan Yue, the head of China’s Ethnic Affairs Commission, was published online in *ChinaFile* and *Foreign Policy*.

In the past year, **Qian He** completed two projects investigating public attitudes toward China (in the US and other countries) and social stratification in contemporary China. These projects yielded several published articles. “Caught in the Crossfire: Fears of Chinese-American scientists” and “The Moral Filter of Patriotic Prejudice: How Americans View Chinese in the COVID-19 Era,” both published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, investigate attitudes toward Chinese in general and the more specific subset of Chinese-American scientists. “Economic Inequalities in Contemporary Rural China: How Does Political Capital Matter?,” published in *Social Science Research*, assesses how the transition from state socialism to a market economy has impacted the social stratification order in China.

**Junming Huang** conducted research on online opinions, attitudes toward China, and the science of science, with one published paper, two working papers, and four invited talks. Junming and his co-authors published “Exploring the Effect of Social Media and Spatial Characteristics during the COVID-19 Pandemic in China” in *IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering*. Junming’s ongoing work covers a wide range of topics. In a large-scale study on online opinion polarization mechanisms, he worked with interns to manually annotate online messages and trained a deep learning model to quantitatively measure online opinions, and linked the polarization procedure with topological heterogeneity. He joined a science of science study on tracking Chinese scientist trajectories in the US, which revealed the negative impact of the China Initiative in the US in recent years. He also joined an online-survey-based study on the cultural differences in attributing success between Chinese and Americans. He supported his colleagues’ research project on analyzing the relationship between COVID-19 spread and the demographic differences among
US states. Besides research duties, he served as a guest editor of the *Chinese Journal of Sociology* and was invited to present research talks at the University of Pennsylvania, the Princeton Psychology Forum, and Nankai University.

**Qing Huang** attended several workshops and conferences, including the China Center Speaker Series at Princeton University, the Third Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) Annual Conference, the Development Finance Research Workshop at Princeton University, a macro seminar at Peking University, the 2023 Chinese Economist Society North America Conference, the 21st Annual GEP/CEPR Postgraduate Conference, and 12th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association. She had one paper accepted for publication, in *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, entitled “Demographic Transition and Rural Industrialization in China,” and also completed several working papers.

In the summer and fall of 2022, **Jim Raymo** spent seven months on sabbatical at Tokyo College, a newly established research unit within the University of Tokyo. While on sabbatical, he gave nine invited talks in Japan, Korea, and Singapore. He published five papers over the past year and has four more currently in press. Ongoing collaborative projects with Princeton graduate students and visiting graduate students examine mate selection in Japan, class differences in parenting in South Korea, and the impact of COVID-19 mitigation policies on well-being in China. As faculty director of the Princeton–University of Tokyo Strategic Partnership, Raymo hosted two Princeton colleagues for a series of lectures at the University of Tokyo in November and hosted four young scholars from the University of Tokyo here at Princeton in the spring. He is particularly excited to serve as the founding director of the Global Japan Lab (gjl.princeton.edu), which is now
actively supporting research and training on contemporary Japan at Princeton. He also serves as the vice president of the Population Association of America and on the international advisory boards of the Center on Contemporary Japanese Studies at the University of Tokyo and the Centre for Family and Population Research at the National University of Singapore. Along with Professor Yu Xie, Raymo also leads an international community of scholars that are part of the Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality (READI) forum.

**Jesse Rodenbiker** continues to research environmental governance, urbanization, and social inequality in China and globally. This academic year he published four single-author peer-reviewed journal articles, one single-author policy commentary, and one co-authored chapter in an edited volume. Among these, “Urban Oceans: Social Differentiation in the City and the Sea,” published in *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, details how the ocean is urbanized, how the urban is constituted through the ocean, as well as some of the differentiated social formations and socio-natural effects of urban oceanic relationships and “Geoengineering the Sublime: China and the Aesthetic State,” published in Made in China, examines geoengineering for aesthetic and utilitarian ends in contemporary China. Rodenbiker completed his book manuscript, *Ecological States: Politics of Science and Nature in Urbanizing China* (Cornell University Press), which was published in summer 2023. He continued research on his second project examining relationships between urban consumption and ocean biodiversity loss through original fieldwork in Hong Kong fish markets. And he began a third project on China’s conservation initiatives in Global South contexts, conducting fieldwork in Southeast Asia. He presented on this research at numerous conferences, universities, non-profit institutions, and on the Belt and Road Podcast.

**Ziyao Tian** conducted extensive research into the practices of Asian American parenting and the Chinese diaspora, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of contemporary China.

In the past year, **Rory Truex** was promoted to associate professor with tenure. He also taught two courses on Chinese politics, testified on China’s zero-COVID policies for the Congressional Executive Committee on China (CECC), and began a new teaching podcast through the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning. He is also finishing up a book, *The Party is Me: The Psychology of Authoritarian Rule in China*. Finally, he planned and moderated talk featuring Kevin Rudd, the former prime minister of Australia.
Lai Wei has been involved in two projects on contemporary China in the past year. The first, an invited contribution to a special issue of the *Chinese Sociological Review* in collaboration with Boyan Zheng, studies the within-group differentiation of subjective social status across socioeconomic status groups in China. The second studies the trend in educational returns in contemporary China.

In addition to his work as the Director of the Center, Yu Xie maintains a full schedule of teaching, advising, and publishing. His research on Chinese academics departing the United States and the impact of the China Initiative on scientists of Chinese descent in the US has been particularly impactful. “Caught in the Crossfire: Fears of Chinese-American Scientists,” co-authored with Junming Huang among others, has been featured in news reports in the *Wall Street Journal*, *South China Morning Post*, *Asian American Scholar Forum*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Asahi Shimbun*, *Physics World*, *Phys.org*, *Counter Punch*, and *Swarma*.

Yichun Yang’s research work focuses on changes in Chinese attitudes and values. She was involved in three main projects in the past year. The first project encompassed an independent study titled “Attitudes toward Gender Roles in Child-Rearing and Their Socioeconomic Differentials in Contemporary China.” The resulting paper has been completed and accepted for publication. For the second project, she collaborated with Professor Yu Xie to delve into the intricacies of Confucian culture. This study involved a cross-cultural comparison between China and the United States, with the aims of investigating whether Confucian cultural paradigms persist in the modernization process and identifying any disparities in Confucian values between the two countries. A draft of this paper was presented at the “Workshop on Quantitative Studies of Chinese Culture,” held at Princeton University on June 14-15, 2023. In tandem with Professor Xie, the third project revolved around interpersonal trust. Utilizing data from the World Values Survey, it explored the trust gradient between in-groups and out-groups among various countries. The findings revealed significant differential of trust among Chinese individuals as well as countries influenced by Confucian culture.
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 at Princeton University Press.

**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.

**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.

In the past year, CJS has published a special issue on “Sex Life in China” and several special sections on topics including “Space and Urban Governance,” “New Patterns of State-Society Relationship in China,” and “Gender Inequality in Contemporary China.”
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 BOOKS**

**The Rise and Fall of Imperial China: The Social Origins of State Development**
by Yuhua Wang

Winner of the Luebbert Best Book Award of the American Political Science Association, *The Rise and Fall of Imperial China* brings a social networks analysis approach to changing state formations and state–society relations for the Song dynasty to the fall of the Qing in 1911. Wang argues that Chinese rulers faced a fundamental trade-off that he calls the sovereign’s dilemma: a coherent elite that could collectively strengthen the state could also overthrow the ruler. This dilemma emerged because strengthening state capacity and keeping rulers in power for longer required different social networks in which central elites were embedded. Wang examines how these social networks shaped the Chinese state, and vice versa, and he looks at how the ruler’s pursuit of power by fragmenting the elites became the final culprit for China’s fall.

**Study Gods: How the New Chinese Elite Prepare for Global Competition**
by Yi-Lin Chiang

*Study Gods* offers a rare look at the ways privileged youth in China prepare themselves to join the ranks of the global elite. Yi-Lin Chiang shows how these competitive Chinese high schoolers first become “study gods” (xueshen), a term describing academically high-performing students. Constant studying, however, is not what explains their success, for these young people appear god-like in their effortless abilities to excel. Instead, Chiang explores how elite adolescents achieve by absorbing and implementing the rules surrounding status. Drawing from eight years of fieldwork and extensive interviews, Chiang reveals the important lessons that Chinese youth learn in their pursuit of elite status.


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.

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

**FUNDED FACULTY RESEARCH**

Professor Jerry Zee’s project, “How Anti-desertification and Sand-Control Campaigns in China Have Engendered Experiments in Local Government in China,” which benefited from funding support from the Center, examines the relationship between politics and ecology in contemporary China. The Center also supported travel to multiple locations to share his work, including the Harvard Fairbanks Center’s China Environmental History Series, and preliminary and ongoing field research in Taiwan and Vancouver, British Columbia.

This year, Professor Jianqing Fan travelled to China, Hong Kong, and Europe to present his work related to the Chinese economy and financial markets. Fan was invited to give the Annual Granger Lecture at the School of Economics of the University of Nottingham, on “Structural Deep Learning in Conditional Asset Pricing.” Fan is also collaborating on a project with colleagues at Fudan University on “Financial Statement Fraud Detection Based on Peer Effects and Meta Learning,” using Chinese news and reports as well as financial statements.
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.

**Statistical Foundations of Data Science and their Applications**

The Center was pleased to be able to provide partial funding for the international conference “Statistical Foundations of Data Science and their Applications: A Conference in Celebration of Jianqing Fan’s 60th Birthday,” held at Princeton University, May 8–10, 2023. The conference brought together more than one hundred collaborators and leading researchers in statistics and data science. The conference will provide an excellent forum for scientific communications and promote collaborations among researchers in statistics and data science. The program covers a wide range of topics presenting recent developments and the state of the art in a variety of modern research topics on statistics and data science as well as their applications.

**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 US and China, creating a broad, worldwide coalition of student leaders to foster meaningful dialogue between the two countries. Through educational programming such as lectures, panel discussions, and conferences, PUCC aims to both deepen student understanding of US–China policy and empower the next generation of US–China policy leaders to reshape the state of US–China relations.

**PUCC’s central mission is guided by three organizational objectives:**

1. **Providing undergraduate students** with a platform to develop a nuanced understanding of the growth of US–China relations.

2. **Training students** to analyze Chinese domestic and international policy from a Chinese perspective.

3. **Creating a transnational coalition of student leaders** poised to face the issues at the forefront of US–China relations. It is through this three-pronged approach that PUCC aims to prepare the next generation of leaders in US–China relations to balance a complex and critically important relationship.
**Senior Thesis Funding**

**Destiny Allen** ’24, UANT(AB)
“How Does the Representation of Street Dance Culture in Chinese Media Contribute to the Commodification of African-American Culture on a Global Scale and the Impact of This Phenomenon?”

**Genrietta Churbanova** ’24, UANT(AB)
“Taiwan–Russia Relations: An Anthropological Approach.”

**Natalia Lalin** ’24, USPI(AB)
“The Impact of China’s Belt and Road Initiative on Human Rights in South Asia.”

**Julia Zhou** ’24, UEAS(AB)
“Great Leap Forward Campaigns in Nanjing University’s Chemistry & Physics Department.”

**Graduate Student Research**

**Yutian An**, G4, Politics PhD

**Nancy Yun Tang**, G4, Politics PhD

**Chansik Yoon**, G5, Economics PhD
“Is Chinese Development Finance a Boon or a Bane? Activity Type: Graduate Conferences.”

**2023 PIIRS Global Seminar Funding Recipients**

**Destiny Allen** ’24, UANT(AB)—Anthropology with a certificate in East Asian studies

**Gustavo Blanco-Quiroga** ’25, UNA(AB)—Undeclared

**Callum Boyagoda** ’26, UPHY(AB)—Physics

**Tharuka Hikkaduwa Gamage** ’26, UMAT(AB)—Mathematics

**Zhangir Murat** ’26, UNA(AB)—Economics

**Daniel Song** ’26, UNA(AB)—History

**Shinrea Su** ’26, UECO(AB)—Economics

**Daniel Viorica** ’25, UNA(AB)—Literature/English

**Thomas Larson** ’25, UORF(BSE)—Operations research financial engineering

**Aysu Turkay** ’26, UPSY(AB)—Psychology

**Julia Zhou** ’24, UEAS(AB)—East Asian studies
Two images stand out to me from the beginning of our trip to Hong Kong. It was a hot and humid evening on our way to the airport, and my first glimpse of the city was of lights from great buildings through fogged-up glass. But the next morning, light was streaming through the window. Our room was on the eighteenth floor, all around us were apartment blocks. And far below, the water, with boats throwing up trails of white foam.

This summer, I participated in the Princeton Global Seminar in Japan and China, from June 5 to July 15. The course was hosted in Tokyo, Japan, but retained a dual focus on two East Asian countries. For the first three weeks, we studied with Professor James Raymo, a demographer who serves as the director of Princeton’s Global Japan Lab. During the latter three weeks, the course transitioned to the guidance of Professor Yu Xie, who directs the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China at Princeton.

Our Hong Kong visit had a packed itinerary. During the first two days of our visit, we heard two lectures on the campus of the University of Hong Kong. The first was from Professor Eric Fong, who gave an introduction and history of Hong Kong through its demography, the second was from Professor Enze Han, who used Hong Kong as an entry point to discuss international relations within the Southeast Asia region.

But our engagement was far from limited to academia. We met with business leaders, financial professionals, notable alumni, and the American Consul General to Hong Kong. The experience was notably polyphonic; we were confronted with numerous worldviews and viewpoints, giving us opportunities to synthesize them ourselves—but always with the aid and input of peers. Our bus ride discussions between events were animated, and often proved just as productive as the events themselves.

Hong Kong is hot in July; the surface streets were bright and crowded. The heat and the light were more evident than ever on our second day in the city, when our class met with Sir Gordon Wu ‘58. Wu, an engineering graduate of Princeton and the namesake of Wu Hall on campus, received his knighthood for contributions to infrastructure in Hong Kong.

We were invited to the sixty-sixth floor of Hopewell Holdings, the base of Wu’s business, passing the Croatian embassy to find a circular room with big leather chairs. In the background were pictures of old Hong Kong and model ships made from gold and ivory. Before meeting with Sir Gordon, we were shown to the roof for a panoramic view of the city. All of Hong Kong’s geography was visible, from the harbor line to the mountains.
To our right was another skyscraper, this one in progress. At our meeting, I learned that it was being built by Hopewell Holdings. Wu’s lecture was about the history of Hong Kong, policies that shaped the city, and his own role in its development. He also gave a few off-the-record opinions about the city’s future. It was only because we were in the city physically that its present could be so tangible, its past and future just in reach.

Some of the most valuable Hong Kong moments for me were the ones I couldn’t predict. On the third day, several of us found the Avenue of Stars, where the greats of Hong Kong cinema are memorialized. I got a picture with a plaque dedicated to one of my favorite film directors, Wong Kar-wai. One night, a friend of mine and I stumbled upon a bilingual, underground rap battle. One of our hosts recognized the book I was reading before our event started, Kazuo Ishiguro’s When We Were Orphans, and warned me it was “good, but very sad.” These are the moments that remind me why travel is important. When you’re on the ground, in the place you’ve been learning about, you’re greeted by serendipitous moments you would never expect. These also tend to be the moments that are hard to forget.

On our last night in Hong Kong, we attended another manifestation of that favorite Princeton pastime: the networking dinner. Our bus pulled up to the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, right on the water. For most of the dinner, I spoke to a genial alumnus about dating apps and college culture. During the bus ride home, our chatter was that he serves as portfolio manager for a fifty-billion-dollar hedge fund. Then several notable Princetonians told us why Hong Kong is important to them.

Halfway through one of the speeches, fireworks started going off in the harbor, right by the window. All the students in the group turned to look at the smoke and pyrotechnics, but the Hong Kongers were nonplussed. Evan Thorpe ’05, Vice President of the Princeton Club of Hong Kong, remarked that fireworks were normal for residents of the city. Everything that makes Hong Kong special to its residents—its safety, global character, centrality within the world of finance—doesn’t need to be a one-time experience for the people in our group. The Global Seminar offers a foot in the door; it’s up to us to decide what to do with the experience later.

As we returned to Tokyo, everyone in the group was feeling, above all, grateful that we were able to spend time in Hong Kong, especially coming out of the COVID pandemic. We learned from Gregory May, the United States Consul General of Hong Kong and Macau, that ours was the very first student group to meet with his office since 2019.

Personally, I was thinking about something Professor Xie said the first day he taught us. In order to engage meaningfully with a place—especially a place like East Asia, which can seem remote for those of us without prior experience—you need to stop applying your own set of expectations, and start taking the place and people on its own terms. If any of us will undertake work or further study in East Asia, it will be with the lessons we learned on the Global Seminar. And many, if not most, of those lessons were only possible because we were in the place itself, breathing a different kind of air.
PRINCETON INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Center was proud to provide funding for four participants in the Princeton International Internship Program in 2022–2023.

Michelle Chen ’26 | Cloud Mountain | Shanghai

“I went from knowing almost nothing about the Chinese e-commerce market to having a much clearer understanding. Whether it be from the list I created to find competitors or customers, I was able to learn more about the various connected industries and how they contribute to the greater marketplace.”

Cloud Mountain operates as a cross-border retail consulting firm, facilitating the entry of international brands into the dynamic China e-commerce market while aiding Chinese brands in expanding their global reach.

Anel Askar ’25 | China Market Research Group | Shanghai (conducted IIP virtually)

“When starting this internship, I wanted to understand if consulting was the right industry for me. In the past year, I was very confused in terms of what I would like to do in the future, and career navigating was very hard for me. However, thanks to this internship, I think I started seeing consulting as one of the options. I’m even planning on applying for consulting internships for the next summer.”

China Market Research Group (CMR) is a consulting firm based in Shanghai, China.

Kerrie Liang ’25 | American Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan | Taiwan

“I have been writing the monthly news brief, and by engaging with the news every day, I have become much more informed about Taiwan. In the first couple of weeks, I had to proofread the entire White Paper, so I had a very strong grasp on various industries and their needs. My job requires me to seek out the news every day, so I am becoming much more informed—not just in the sense that I am learning more about Taiwan, but also in the act of taking initiative to tune into the news. It has been nice to become so knowledgeable about the Taiwanese market.”

The American Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan is a non-profit and non-partisan foreign chamber of commerce that represents both American and international business interests within Taiwan.

Daeun Kim ’26 | Wolver Hill | Hong Kong

“I research the stock market to assist in data collection, cleaning, and analysis using statistical tools and programming languages like Python. I conduct literature reviews and then recreate it using my own skills then present it to the team. I have gained hands-on experience in back-testing and optimizing trading algorithms, as well as identifying potential market inefficiencies and developing innovative solutions. Moreover, I have actively participated in team meetings, discussions, and brainstorming sessions, contributing my insights and ideas to improve existing models and develop new ones.”

The Wolver Hill group comprises of Hong Kong-based Wolver Hill Asset Management Asia Limited (WHAMAL) and Tokyo-based Rogers Investment Advisors (RIA).
COURSES

Our faculty teach courses that cover a wide range of topics including history, finance, philosophy, politics, art, and sociology. The following list includes courses from the past four years with descriptions offered for this academic year.

**SPRING 2022–23**

**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.

**FALL 2022–23**

**Diplomatic Encounters—or, So You Want to be a Diplomat | Robert L. Hutchings**

This seminar offers an introduction to the history, theory, and practice of international diplomacy, drawing on the instructor’s experience as a former ambassador and current scholar. We will survey the classics and explore some of the more recent diplomatic memoirs, focusing on case studies such as the end of the Cold War, the Iraq fiasco, the US opening to Cuba, the Iran nuclear deal, and the challenges of dealing with Russia and China today. We will then descend from high politics down to ground level, focusing on practical aspects of diplomacy on which students can draw if and as they aspire to careers in international relations.

**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, and early PRC history.

**International Trade | Gene M. Grossman**

This course examines the causes and consequences of international trade. We investigate why nations trade, what goods they export and import, and who gains and loses from trade. We then focus on economic and political motives for
countries to regulate international trade and examine the economic effects of trade policies. Topics will include the connection between globalization and wage inequality, the effects of the “China Shock” on the US economy and politics, the implications of global value chains, the motivation for trade agreements, and the consequences of recent events such as the US–China Trade War, Brexit, and COVID-19.

**China’s Foreign Relations | Martin S. Flaherty**

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 US, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and the developing world during the Cold War. It also explores 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.
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.

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.

We also sponsor 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.

**AUGUST 9**
“Retirement Trajectories and Health in Japan”
**Masaaki Mizuochi**, Nanzan University

**SEPTEMBER 13**
“Digital Enclaves: Mate Preferences and Platform Choices Among Chinese Immigrant Online Daters”
**Yue Qian**, University of British Columbia (Vancouver)
SEPTEMBER 19
“Ruling Before the Law: The Politics of Legal Regimes in China and Indonesia”
William Hurst, University of Cambridge

OCTOBER 11
“The Costs and Benefits of Social Ties”
Raymond Fisman, Boston University
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“Homeownership and Civic Engagement in Hong Kong”
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“The Power of Culture: Imperial Civil Exam, Family SES, and Children’s Education Achievement in Contemporary China”
Airan Liu, Peking University

FEBRUARY 27
“Has China Peaked? Probing the Implications of China’s Economic, Technological and Ecological Challenges to Midcentury”
Scott Moore, University of Pennsylvania
MARCH 8
“Beyond Disinformation: Competing Chinese Voices in the Global Media Sphere”
Kristin Shi-Kupfer, University of Trier, Mercator Institute for China Studies

APRIL 3
“U.S.–China Competition: Are We Headed for a Cold War?”
Yan Xuetong, Tsinghua University

APRIL 5
“Does Who You Know Protect or Hurt? Social Capital, Social Cost, Tie Strength and Inequalities in Three Societies”
Lijun Song, Vanderbilt University

APRIL 6
“Shaping Africa-Asia Partnerships: The Role of Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation”
Veda Vaidyanathan, 2022-2023 Fung Global Fellow, Harvard University Asia Center, Institute of Chinese Studies; Abdoulkadre Ado, Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa; Tarun Khanna, Harvard University; Tang Xiaoyang, Tsinghua University

APRIL 10
“Continent in Dust: Experiments in a Chinese Weather System”
Jerry Zee, Princeton University

APRIL 17
“Book Talk: ‘Lost in the Cold War’”
Thomas Christensen, Columbia University

APRIL 27
“China, US, Technology and Globalization: Learnings from Alibaba”
Mike Evans, Alibaba
Meeting at the China-United States Exchange Foundation with President James Chau

On the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry pier after Crossing Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong

Touring Chinatown in Tokyo with Professor Xie

ZA Bank Executive Director Hugo Ou '14 meets with Global Seminar students

Dinner in Tokyo

Meeting at the China-United States Exchange Foundation with President James Chau

At the Kabuki-za theatre in Ginza
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