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QIAN FORREST ZHANG 张 谦

- employment** Assistant to Full Professor of Sociology, Singapore Management University, 2005 – present.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Research on Inequalities and the Life Course (CIQLE), Department of Sociology, Yale University, 2004 – 2005.
- education** Ph.D., Sociology, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut (2004).
M.A., Urban Geography, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia (1998).
B.S., Management Information System, Fudan University, Shanghai (1995).
- research & teaching interest** Agrarian political economy, sociology of food and agriculture, political sociology, environmental sociology, stratification and mobility, sustainable development, contemporary Chinese society
- impact metrics** The Stanford-Elsevier “World’s Top 2% Scientists” list for 5 consecutive years since 2021, for both single-year impact and career-long impact.
Google Scholar: citation=2726, H-index=24, i10-index=34 (as of 1 July 2026)
Scopus: citation=1648, h-index=21 (as of 1 July 2026)
- editorship & editorial board membership** Editor, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 2023 –
Editor, Special Issue on “Searching for Sustainability in China’s Agrarian Change”, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, August 2024 – February 2026.
Guest Editor, Special Issue on “Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems in Southeast Asia and China”, *Sustainability*, April 2023 – December 2024.
Guest Co-editor, Special Issue on ‘Rural Land Dispossession in China and India’, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 2020, Vol. 47, No. 6.
Guest Co-editor, Special Issue on ‘Agrarian Change in Contemporary China’, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 2015, Vol. 15, No. 3.
International Advisory Board Member, *Rural China*, 2015 –
International Advisory Board Member, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 2015 – 2022.
- visiting, advisory & affiliated positions** Research Fellow, Pingnan Institute for Rural Revitalization, April 2026 –
Fellow, China Rural Visiting Scholar Program, April 2025 –
Research Fellow, Institute for Rural Revitalization Strategy, Southwest University, Chongqing, April 2025 –
Advisor, MyKunda Institute for the Future Village, Chengdu, April 2025 –
Honorary Villager, Yuchi Village, Banan District, Chongqing, April 2025 –

Visiting Associate Professor, School of Public Policy and Global Affairs,
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, January – June 2024.
Cluster Associate, Asia Research Institute, Food Politics and Society cluster,
National University of Singapore, October 2023 – September 2026
Research Affiliate, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, 2018
– 2022
Visiting Scholar, School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan
University, Shanghai, August – December 2013

awards *Lee Kong Chian Fellowship*, 2025 – 2027.
Lee Kong Chian Fellowship, 2018 – 2019.
2015 Bernstein & Byres Prize in Agrarian Change, awarded by the *Journal of Agrarian Change*.
Research Paper Award, Section on Asia & Asian America, the American Sociological Association, August 2012.
Best Paper Runner Up Prize, Public Management Research Conference, 25 – 27 May 2012.
Teaching Excellence Award, School of Social Sciences, SMU, 2007.

publications *Peer-reviewed journal articles (English). *Corresponding author*

- Zhang, Q.F. 2026. Dispossession. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2026.2685053>
- Zhang, Q.F. 2026. The smallholder's dilemma in agroecological transitions: The diseconomy of agroecology for small farmers in industrial agriculture. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2026.2663525>
- Zhang, Q.F.**, Luo, J., and Zhou, L. 2026. Sustainable development under ecological civilization: Two Mountains theory, “Green Rural Revival”, and post-productivist transition in Zhejiang. *Sustainability*, 18(13), 6751.
- Ma, H. and **Zhang, Q.F.*** 2026. Just-in-time brokerage: commodifying women's casual labor in China's capitalist agriculture. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 43(3): 115.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2026. Searching for sustainability: Industrial agriculture of small farmers in China and its structural strains. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 26(3), e70097.
- Yang, C. and **Zhang, Q.F.*** 2026. Counter-urbanization in China: A systematic review toward a comprehensive typology. *Sustainability*, 18(3), 1564.
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Wu, M. 2025. The decline and transformation of smallholders in Chinese agriculture: National trends. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 52(3): 485-512.
- Wu, M. and **Zhang, Q.F.** 2025. Producer-oriented and consumer-oriented alternative food networks and rural revitalization in China: Distinct trajectories and variegated impacts. *Habitat International*, 156: 103289.

- Hu, Z. and **Zhang, Q.F.*** 2024. Alternative agrifood systems and the economic sustainability of farmers' cooperatives: The Chinese experience. *Sustainable Development*, 32(6): 7447-7460.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2024. From sustainable agriculture to sustainable agrifood systems: A comparative review of alternative models. *Sustainability*, 16(22), 9675.
- Wu, M., **Zhang, Q.F.*** and Donaldson, J.A. 2024. Post-productivism and rural revitalization in China: Drivers and outcomes. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 110: 103382.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2024. Producers' transition to alternative food practices in rural China: Social mobilization and cultural reconstruction in the formation of alternative economies. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 41(2): 615-630.
- Hu, Z., **Zhang, Q.F.*** and Donaldson, J.A., 2023. Why do farmers' cooperatives fail in a market economy? Rediscovering Chayanov with the Chinese experience. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 50(7): 2611-2641.
- Hu, Z. and **Zhang, Q.F.** 2022. The resilience of diversified clusters: Reconfiguring commodity networks in rural China during the Covid-19 pandemic. *Land*, 11(3), 404: 1-17.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2022. Building productivism in rural China: The case of residential restructuring in Chengdu. *Geoforum*, 128: 103-114.
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Zeng, H. 2022. Producing Industrial Pigs in Southwestern China: The Rise of Contract Farming as a Coevolutionary Process. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 22(1): 97-117.
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Zeng, H. 2021. Politically Directed Accumulation in Rural China: The Making of the Agrarian Capitalist Class and the New Agrarian Question of Capital. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 21(4): 677-701.
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Hu, Z. 2021. Rural China under the Covid-19 Pandemic: Differentiated Impacts, Rural-Urban Inequality, and Agro-industrialization. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 21(3): 591-603.
- Andreas, J., Kale, S.K., Levien, M., and **Zhang, Q.F.** 2020. Rural Land Dispossession in China and India. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 47(6): 1109-1142.
- Hu, Z., **Zhang, Q.F.**, and Donaldson, J.A. 2017. Farmers' Cooperatives in China: A Typology of Fraud and Failure. *The China Journal*, 78: 1-24.
- Gong, W. and **Zhang, Q.F.*** 2017. Betting on the Big: State-brokered Land Transfers, Large-scale Agricultural Producers, and Policy Implementation. *The China Journal*, 77: 1-26.
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Wu, J. 2017. Political Dynamics in Land Commodification: Commodifying Rural Land Development Rights in Chengdu, China. *Geoforum*, 78(2017): 98-109.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2015. State Political Identity and Meta-Governance: Comparative Analysis of Governance Modes in Vegetable Retail in Urban China. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, 17(4): 378-392.

- Zhang, Q.F. 2015. Class Differentiation in Rural China: Dynamics of Accumulation, Commodification and State Intervention. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 15(3): 338-365.
- † **Winner of the 2015 Bernstein & Byres Prize in Agrarian Change.**
- † *Translated to Portuguese and reproduced in Agricultura, Alimentação e Desenvolvimento Rural na China, pp. 303-346, edited by Fabiano Escher and Sergio Schneider (Porto Alegre: Editora da UFRGS 2023).*
- Zhang, Q.F.**, Oya, C. and Ye, J. 2015. Bringing Agriculture Back In: The Central Place of Agrarian Change in Rural China Studies. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 15(3): 299-313.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2014. The Strength of Sibling Ties: Sibling Influence on Status Attainment in a Chinese Family. *Sociology*, 48(1): 75-91.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2013. Gender Disparities in Self-employment in Urban China's Market Transition: Income Inequality, Occupational Segregation, and Mobility Processes. *The China Quarterly*, 215: 744-763.
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Pan, Z., 2013. The transformation of urban vegetable retail in China: Wet markets, supermarkets, and informal markets in Shanghai. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 43(3): 497-518.
- † *Winner of the Best Paper Runner Up Prize in the Public Management Research Conference (Shanghai, China, 25- 27 May 2012).*
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Donaldson, J.A., 2013. China's agrarian reform and the privatization of land: A contrarian view. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 22(80): 255-272.
- † *Reproduced in Key Papers on Chinese Economic History since 1949, pp. 655-678, edited by Michael Dillon (Brill 2017).*
- Zhang, Q.F. 2013. Comparing Local Models of Agrarian Transition in China. *Rural China*, 10(1): 5-35.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2012. The political economy of contract farming in China's agrarian transition. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 12(4): 460-483.
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Pan, Z., 2012. Women's entry into self-employment in urban China: The role of family in creating gendered mobility patterns. *World Development*, 40(6): 1201-1212.
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Donaldson, J.A., 2010. From Peasants to Farmers: Peasant Differentiation, Labor Regimes, and Land-rights Institutions in China's Agrarian Transition. *Politics & Society*, 38(4): 458-489.
- † **Winner of the 2012 Research Paper Award, American Sociological Association's Section on Asia and Asian America.**
- Zhang, Q.F. 2008. Retreat from Equality or Advance Toward Efficiency? Land Markets and Inequality in Rural Zhejiang. *The China Quarterly*, 195: 535-557.
- Zhang, Q.F.** and Donaldson, J.A., 2008. The Rise of Agrarian Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Agricultural Modernization, Agribusiness and Collective Land Rights. *The China Journal*, 60: 25-47.

- Zhang, Q.F. 2004. Economic Transition and New Patterns of Parent-Adult Child Coresidence in Urban China. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 66(5): 1231-1245.
- Zhang, Q.F.**, Ma, Q., and Xu, X., 2004. Development of Land Rental Markets in Rural Zhejiang: Growth of Off-farm Jobs and Institution Building. *The China Quarterly*, 180: 1040-1062.
- Zhang, Q.** 1998. Residential Segregation of Asian Americans in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area, 1990. *Southeastern Geographer*, 38(2): 125-141.

Peer-reviewed journal articles (Chinese)

- 张谦。2025. 《“在乡村发现中国”跨学科调研行知录（2024）——朝阳村里有朝阳》。《山西农业大学学报（社会科学版）》，第24卷，第5期，7-10页。[Zhang, Q.F., 2025. Discover Rural China through interdisciplinary fieldwork. *Journal of Shanxi Agricultural University (Social Sciences)*, 24(5): 7-10.]
- 张谦。2024. 《农业资本化的“横向集中”与“纵向集中”：重新理解马克思和恰亚诺夫》。《中国农业大学学报（社会科学版）》，第41卷，第3期，34-55页。[Zhang, Q.F., 2024. ‘Horizontal concentration and vertical concentration in capitalist agriculture: Re-interpreting Marx and Chayanov.’ *Journal of China Agricultural University (Social Sciences)*, 41(3): 34-55.]
- 张谦。2024. 《资本化农业下小农经济的现状与挑战》。《中国乡村研究》，第21卷，第1期，126-152页。[Zhang, Q.F., 2024. ‘Smallholders in capitalist agriculture: persistence and challenges.’ *Rural China*, 21(1): 126-152.] DOI: [10.1163/22136746-12341311](https://doi.org/10.1163/22136746-12341311)
- 呼占平，张谦，杜强。2023. 《理解中国农民合作社的发展困境：来自恰亚诺夫视角的解释》。《开放时代》，2023年第3期，178-194页。[Hu, Z.P., Zhang, Q.F., Donaldson, J.A., 2023. ‘Understanding the challenges faced by farmers’ cooperatives in China: from a Chayanovian perspective.’ *Open Times*, 2023(3): 178-194.]
- 周立，张艺英，张慧瑜，狄金华，张谦等。2020. 《“在乡村发现中国”跨学科调研行知录（2018）》。《山西农业大学学报（社会科学版）》，第19卷，第4期，1-32页。[Zhou, L. et al., 2020. Discover Rural China through interdisciplinary fieldwork. *Journal of Shanxi Agricultural University (Social Sciences)*, 19(4): 1-32.]
- 张谦。2016. 《中国农村的商品化》。《中国农业大学学报（社会科学版）》，第33卷，第6期，14-19页。[Zhang, Q.F., 2016. The commodification of rural China. *Journal of China Agricultural University (Social Sciences)*, 33(6): 14-19.]
- 龚为纲，张谦。2016. 《国家干预与农业转型》。《开放时代》，2016年第5期，57-75页。[Gong, W.G., Zhang, Q.F., 2016. State intervention and agrarian transition. *Open Times*, 2016(5): 57-75.]

- 张谦, 2013, 《中国农业转型中地方模式的比较研究》。《中国乡村研究》, 总第 10 辑: 3-27 页。[Zhang, Q.F., 2013. Comparing local models of agrarian transition in China. *Rural China*, 10: 3-27.]
- 张谦。2012. 《社会-企业型政府与城市基本物品的公平性供给: 一个概念创新》。《公共管理与政策评论》, 2012 年第 1 卷, 第 2 期, 72-81 页。[Zhang, Q.F., 2012. The social-entrepreneurial state and the equitable provision of urban essential goods: A conceptual innovation. *Public Administration and Policy Review*, 1(2): 72-81.]
- 张谦, 杜强。2010. 《终结的开始? 当代中国的农业现代化和农民阶层的分化》《中国研究》, 2008 年春秋季合卷, 总第 7-8 期, 187-214 页。[Zhang, Q.F., Donaldson, J.A., 2010. The beginning of the end? Agricultural modernization and dissolution of the peasantry in contemporary China. *China Studies*, 7-8 (Spring-Fall 2008): 187-214.]

Book chapters and other journal articles

- Zhang, Q.F. and Hu, Z. 2025. Can industrial agriculture be resilient to external shocks? Industrial agriculture in diversified clusters in rural China. Pp. 78-98 in *Commodity Chains under Pressure: Resilience through Coping, Adaptation, and Transformation*, edited by Lara M. Espeter and Linda Hering. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2022. Looking beyond the “Middle Class” for other Chinas. *Asian Management Insights*, 9(2): 46-51.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2021. Agrarian change in China: Historical origins and competing perspectives. Pp. 296-304 in *Handbook of Critical Agrarian Studies*, edited by A.H. Akram-Lodhi, K. Dietz, B. Engels, and B.M. McKay. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Zhang, Q.F. and Wu, J. 2017. Providing rural public services through land commodification: Policy innovations and rural-urban integration in Chengdu. Pp. 67-91 in *Public Service Innovations in China*, edited by Yijia Jing and Stephen P. Osborne. London: Palgrave.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2015. Rural households’ social reproduction in China’s agrarian transition: Wage employment and family farming. Pp. 230-253 in *Rural Wage Employment in Developing Countries: Theory, Evidence and Policy*, edited by Carlos Oya and Nichola Pontara. London: Routledge.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2011. Status and hierarchy. Pp. 96-110 in *Understanding Chinese Society*, edited by Xiaowei Zang. London: Routledge.
- Second edition*: 2015. Status and hierarchy. Pp. 98-115 in *Understanding Chinese Society*, 2nd edition, edited by Xiaowei Zang. London: Routledge.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2011. Re-thinking the Rural-Urban Divide in China’s New Stratification Order. *International Journal of China Studies*, 2(2): 327-344.

- Luo, P., Donaldson, J.A., and Zhang, Q.F. 2011. The Transformation of China's Agricultural System and its Impact on Southeast Asia. *International Journal of China Studies*, 2(2): 289-310.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2010. Reforming China's state-owned farms: State farms in agrarian transition. Pp. 365-378 in *Asian Rural Sociology IV: The Multidimensionality of Economy, Energy and Environmental Crises and Their Implications for Rural Likelihoods*, edited by L.L. Tolentino et al. Laguna, Philippines: University of the Philippines Los Banos College.
- Donaldson, J.A. and Zhang, Q.F. 2009. Whither China's agriculture and rural sector? Some thoughts on changes in rural China and possible effects on ASEAN. Pp. 95-115 in *Towards Pax Sinica? China's Rise and Transformation: Impacts and Implications*, edited by E.K.K. Yeoh. Kuala Lumpur: Institute of China Studies.
- † Reprinted as: Donaldson, J.A. and Zhang, Q.F. 2015. Rural China in Transition: Changes and Transformations in China's Agriculture and Rural Sector. *Contemporary Chinese Political Economy and Strategic Relations: An International Journal*, 1(1): 51-74.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2009. The impacts of China's agricultural modernization on cities: From the perspective of rural-urban linkage. Pp. 171-194 in *Environmental Policies in East Asian Big Cities*, edited by Norimichi Goishi. Tokyo: Kokusai Shoin. [In Japanese.]
- 张谦. 2009. 《问题食品：中国特色，还是工业化的必然？》。《中国奶粉事件与治理危机》（郑永年、潘国驹主编），93—104 页（新加坡：八方出版社，2009 年）[Zhang, Q.F., 2009. Unsafe food: A Chinese characteristic, or a product of industrialization? Pp. 93-104 in *China's Milk Powder Incident and Governance Crisis*, edited by Zheng Yongnian and Pan Guojun. Singapore: Global Publishing.]

Book reviews

- Zhang, Q.F. 2026. Review of *The Governance of Economic Development: Investment, Innovation, and Competition in China*, by Anson Au. *The China Journal*, 95: 142-144.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2023. Review of *Invisible China: How the Urban-Rural Divide Threatens China's Rise*, by Scott Rozelle and Natalie Hell. *Journal of Development Studies*, 59(4): 613-614.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2019. Review of *China's Peasant Agriculture and Rural Society*, by Jan Douwe van de Ploeg and Jingzhong Ye. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 19(2): 380-384.
- Zhang, Q.F. 2017. Review of *China's Agrarian Transition: Peasants, Property, and Politics*, by Rene Trappel. *The China Journal*, 78: 189-191.

Newspaper op-eds

- Zhang, Q.F., 2010. 'Who has upset China's vegetable basket?' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 10 December 2010, p.13.

- Zhang, Q.F., 2010. 'Debate on China's third-wave brain drain.' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 2 September 2010, p.25.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2010. 'The useless "Middle Class" concept.' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 18 February 2010, p.12.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2009. 'Too many college graduates in China?' *The Straits Times*, 11 June 2009, p.A29.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2009. 'China will maintain its stability and development in 2009.' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 5 February 2009, p.13.
- Zhang, Q.F., Donaldson, J.A., 2009. 'Update mental pictures of rural China.' *The Straits Times*, 2 January 2009, p.15.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2008. 'The year of 2008 brought Chinese people together.' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 31 December 2008, p.9.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2008. 'How melamine entered the food chain.' *The Straits Times*, 13 December 2008, p.A22.
- † Reprinted in the January 2019 issue of Asia Pacific Biotech News, Vol. 13, No.1.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2008. 'Graduate unemployment and imbalance in China's education system.' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 12 December 2008, p.14.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2008. 'Modern agriculture in China: for better or for worse?' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 28 November 2008, p.25.
- Donaldson, J.A., Zhang, Q.F., 2008. 'China's agrarian revolution: Beware of racial change.' *The Straits Times*, 24 November 2008, p.A20.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2008. 'Unsafe foods not unique to China.' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 20 November 2008, p.21.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2008. 'How industrial waste entered food chain?' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 13 November 2008, p.15.
- Zhang, Q.F., 2008. 'The new rural policies are not about land.' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 30 October 2008, p.20.
- Zhang, Q.F., Donaldson, J.A., 2008. 'The changes and non-changes of China's rural land.' *Lianhe Zaobao*, 16 October 2008, p.15.

grants *External grants*

- PI, Ministry of Education of Singapore, Academic Research Fund Tier 2 Grant for "Understanding China's agricultural modernization and rural development" (S\$626,899), 2022 – 2026.
- PI, Ministry of Education of Singapore, Academic Research Fund Tier 2 Grant for "The Transformation of Rural China: Central Policies and Local Innovations" (S\$400,000), 2013 – 2016.

Internal grants

- Longevity Societies & Economics Institute (LSEI) Grant for "Ageing farmers, reconfigured farming systems, and Sustainable Transition in China's agriculture" (S\$20,810), 2026 – 2027.

SMU Research Grant for “The resurgence of collective agriculture: A viable model for protecting smallholder farmers?” (S\$11,460), 2017 – 2018.

SMU Research Grant for “The spatiality of land-financed rural urbanization: The Chengdu model” (S\$21,099), 2014 – 2015.

SMU Research Grant for “Dissecting China’s new middle class” (S\$18,305), 2013 – 2014.

SMU Research Grant for “The Social-entrepreneurial State: Comparing urban food supply in Chongqing and Shanghai” (S\$24,844), 2012 – 2013.

SMU Research Grant for “The Restructuring of the Vegetable Commodity Chain in China’s Agrarian and Urban Transition” (S\$25,319), 2011 – 2012.

SMU Research Grant for “The Political Economy of Contract Farming in China’s Agrarian Transition” (S\$21,747), 2010 – 2011.

SMU Research Grant for “Transition to Agrarian Capitalism in Rural China” (S\$26,902), 2009 – 2010.

SMU Research Grant for “Social Mobility during Dramatic Social Changes” (S\$26,068), 2008 – 2009.

SMU Research Grant for “Transforming China’s agriculture” (S\$29,391), 2007 – 2008.

SMU Research Grant for “Modernizing Chinese Universities” (S\$24,500), 2005 – 2006.

**institutional
services**

Member, University Research Evaluation Committee, 2025 – 2028.

Interim Dean, School of Social Sciences, SMU, July 2024.

Associate Dean (Research), School of Social Sciences, SMU, 2017 – 2023.

Dean Search Committee, School of Social Sciences, SMU, 2018.

Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB), SMU, 2018 – 2019.

Deputy Chair, SMU IRB, 2016 – 2017.

**professional
& community
services**

Steering Committee, Agricultural Sociology Section, Chinese Sociological Association, 2025 – present.

Steering Committee, The International Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in China (ICARDC), 2017 – present.

Academic Consultation Panel Member, for the Faculty of Social Sciences, Hong Kong Baptist University, 2014.

Consultant, Singapore Ministry of Education, China Studies in English curriculum, 2017.

**keynote &
plenary
speeches**

Keynote speech: “Inclusive rural development in China: Industrial agriculture of small farmers.” The 2nd Harare Forum for Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe (19 August 2025)

Keynote speech: “Inclusive rural development: The Chinese experience and its implications for the global South.” IAMCR 2025 Post-Conference on “Rural Development, Media, and African Modernization: Perspectives for

Inclusive Growth”. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (18 July 2025)

Closing speech: “Rural revitalization from a global perspective.” The 10th Heyang Forum on Rural Revitalization, Jinyun, Zhejiang, China (11-13 October 2024)

Keynote speech: “Sustainable alternatives in rural development.” The 17th International Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in China (ICARDC XVII), Singapore (25-26 July 2024)

Keynote speech: “Capitalist agriculture and smallholders: competition and inter-dependence.” The 4th Conference of the Sociology of Agriculture Committee, Chinese Sociological Association, Laoting, Hebei, China (14-15 October 2023)

Plenary panel: “Agribusiness and petty commodity production”, Critical Agrarian Studies in the 21st Century Conference, Journal of Peasant Studies and China Agricultural University, Beijing (10-12 October 2023)

Plenary panel: “The end of the cooperative road for Chinese agriculture?” The 4th International Conference of BICAS. China Agricultural University, Beijing (28-30 November 2016).

Keynote speech: “Commodification without proletarianization: Rural households’ social reproduction in China’s transition to capitalism.” Workshop on ‘Agrarian Development in China’, The Arrighi Center for Global Studies and The East Asian Studies Program, Johns Hopkins University (1 November 2013).

Keynote speech: “Village Communities in China’s Agrarian Transition: Dissolution and Resilience.” Global COE Symposium: Reconstruction of Public Spheres, Kyoto University, Japan (13 December 2010).

- invited talks** “The smallholder’s dilemma: The diseconomy of agroecology and the utility of industrial agriculture”. Rural Economy Workshop, India Institute of Technology Guwahati, Assam, India (9-10 May 2025)
- “Social policy and social management in Singapore.” Mingde Academic Salon, Beijing Academy of Social Sciences (19 August 2024)
- “Cooperative governance for sustainable food practices in China.” Panel on Social Policy and Cooperative Governance, Shanghai Forum 2023 (27-29 October 2023).
- “Dancing together: Social capital and economic cooperation in rural China.” East Asian Studies, Johns Hopkins University (21 November 2019).
- “Contesting the future of Chinese agriculture: Market dynamics and state policies.” Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies Conference 2017. University of Melbourne (9 June 2017).
- “Contesting the future of Chinese agriculture: Market dynamics and state policies.” 2016 Wellington Conference on Contemporary China: The Rise of Chinese Agriculture. Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (27-28 October 2016).

- “Policy implementation through preferred agents: Rural governments and the creation of large-scale agricultural producers.” The East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore (4 March 2016).
- “Constructing new rural communities in Chengdu, China: Commodifying land and contesting rural spatiality.” Workshop on ‘Re-casting the rural: China’s transformation in the global context’, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University (12-13 February 2015).
- “The commodification of rural China.” COHD Seminar Series – Critical Issues in Agrarian and Development Studies, No. 54. College of Humanities and Development, China Agricultural University (7 November 2014).
- “Local states as brokers: Township governments in the post-taxation era.” Workshop on ‘Changing Role of the State in Asia II: Comparative Perspectives’, Asia Research Institute and Harvard Yenching Institute, National University of Singapore (30-31 May 2014).
- “From market liberalization to return of the state: Governance of vegetable retail market in Shanghai.” Workshop on ‘Bringing governments back in: Governance and governing in contemporary policy-making’, LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (13-15 February 2013).
- “The social-entrepreneurial state and the provision of essential goods in cities.” Workshop on ‘Changing Role of the State in Asia’, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (13-14 December 2012).
- “The Emerging Class Structure in Rural China.” International Conference on “Class, Power and China”, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong (10-11 December 2012).
- “Chinese Agriculture in Transition: New Directions and New Problems.” Special Research Seminar Series, No. 60, Lake Biwa Museum, Shiga County, Japan (14 December 2010).
- “Agricultural Development and Social Change in Rural China.” China Studies Training Program. Ministry of Education, Singapore (25 August 2010).
- “Gender Differences in Self-employment in Urban China.” Quantitative Social Research Seminar, Division of Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (6 November 2008).
- “Transforming China’s Agriculture: A Comparative Case Study of New Paths to Agrarian Capitalism and Socioeconomic Consequences.” EAI Seminar. East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore (14 March 2008).

**conference
participation**

- “When tourists stopped coming: Boom and bust in rural tourism under ‘Ecological Civilization’ in China.” *The First Biennial Conference of the Asian Association for Environmental History* (Kagawa, Japan, 26-30 September 2025)
- “Sources of leadership in village mobilization for agroecological transition.” *The 5th International Sociological Association (ISA) Forum of Sociology* (Rabat, Morocco, 7-11 July 2025)

- “The diseconomy of agroecology for small farmers and how to overcome it: Chinese experiences.” *The 13th International Convention of Asia Scholars* (Surabaya, Indonesia, 28 July-1 August 2024)
- “The path of agrarian transition in China and the new agrarian questions.” *3rd Congress of East Asian Sociological Association* (Changchun, Jilin, China, 11-13 August 2023)
- “Anti-productivism: A rural-initiated alternative to productivist agriculture.” RC40 panel on Alternative Food Futures, *XX ISA World Congress of Sociology* (Melbourne, Australia, 25 June-1 July 2023)
- “The transition to post-productivism in rural China: comparing rural-driven and urban-driven pathways.” *ICARDC 16th Conference* (Oxford University, 30-31 August 2022)
- “The rise of ‘pig colonies’: Industrial pig farming and super-productivism in rural China.” *XV World Congress of Rural Sociology* (Cairns, Australia, 19-22 July 2022).
- “Why farmers’ cooperatives failed in China?” *The 5th International Conference of BICAS* (RAPENA, Moscow, Russia, 13-16 October 2017).
- Panel organizer and chair, “Contesting the future of Chinese agriculture and rural society: Is there hope on the horizon for family farming?” *AAS-in-Asia 2016* (Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan, 24-27 June 2016).
- “Constructing ‘New Rural Communities’ in Chengdu, China: Commodifying Land and Contesting Rural Spatiality.” *The 12th Meeting of the European Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in China* (Nankai University, Tianjin, China, 11-13 December 2015).
- “Bringing agriculture back in: The central place of agrarian change in rural China studies.” *The Chinese Sociological Association 2015 Annual Meeting*, Contemporary China forum (Central South University, Changsha, China, 10-12 July 2015).
- “Cashing in on land: The spatiality of land-financed rural public-service provision in Chengdu, China.” *2015 Social Innovation Research Conference* (Fudan University, Shanghai, China, 21-22 May 2015).
- “Local states as brokers: Township governments in the post-taxation era.” *The Chinese Sociological Association 2014 Annual Meeting*, Political Sociology forum (Wuhan University, Wuhan, China, 10-12 July 2014).
- “The Strength of Sibling Ties: Sibling Influence on Status Attainment in a Chinese Family.” *International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA) 2013 Conference* (Xi’an Jiaotong University, Xi’an, China, 12-15 July 2013).
- “The transformation of urban vegetable retail in China: Wet markets, supermarkets, and informal markets in Shanghai.” *International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China* (Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, 13-14 December 2012).

- “Family Farming in China’s Agrarian Transition: Competing Paths in Diverse Local Political Economy.” *XIII World Congress of Rural Sociology* (Lisbon, Portugal, July 29 – August 4, 2012).
- “Social-entrepreneurial state and the equitable provision of urban basic goods: A comparative study of vegetable retail markets in Shanghai and Singapore.” *The Chinese Sociological Association 2012 Annual Meeting* (Yinchuan, 13-15 July 2012).
- “State and Market in Managing Urban Food Supply: The Restructuring of Vegetable Retail in Shanghai.” *Public Management Research Conference* (Shanghai, China, 25- 27 May 2012).
- “Comparing Local Models of Agrarian Transition in China.” *Joint Conference of the Association for Asian Studies and International Convention of Asia Scholars* (Honolulu, USA, March 31-April 3, 2011).
- “Reforming China’s State-owned Farms.” *The 4th International Conference, Asian Rural Sociological Association* (Legazpi City, Philippines, 7-11 September 2010).
- “From Sibling-facilitated Mobility to Parent-facilitated Mobility: Changing Family Relations and Social Mobility in Contemporary China.” *XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology* (Gothenburg, Sweden, July 11-17, 2010).
- “Agricultural Modernization in China and its Impact on Cities: From the Perspective of Rural-Urban Linkage.” *The 3rd International Symposium on Urban Environment and Finance in East Asia* (Seoul, Korea, 6-7 November 2008).
- “Agrarian Transition in Contemporary China: Multiple Forces and Diverging Pathways.” *The 25th Annual Meeting of the Association for Third World Studies* (Lima, Peru, 19 November 2007).
- “Political Embeddedness and Academic Corruption in Chinese Universities.” *The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management* (Philadelphia, 7 August 2007).
- “The Last State-run Enterprises: Reforms and Regresses in Chinese Universities.” *The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies* (San Francisco, 7 April 2006).
- “From Involution to Development: Household Risk Taking and Market Reconstruction in Rural China.” *The 99th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association* (San Francisco, 17 August 2004).
- “Jumping into the Sea: Entry into Self-employment during China’s Reform Era.” (with Anthony J. Spires and Zi Pan). *The 99th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association* (San Francisco, 16 August 2004).

**courses
taught** **Undergraduate**

SOCG312: Overseas Project Experience: Applied Sociology in Asia (SMU-XO)
 SOCG215: Introduction to Sociological Theory
 COR-SOCG2251: Food, Environment and Sustainability

COR-SOCG2608: Understanding China's Economic Miracle

SOCG306: Sociology Study Mission

SOCG211: Sociology of Food

SOCG001: Understanding Societies

SOCG002: Theory and Analysis

Post-graduate

SOCG601: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

student mentoring ***Postdoctoral research fellows***

Yang Chengxue (PhD, Public Management, China Agricultural University), 2024-2026.

Wu Meiling (PhD, Planning, University College London), 2022-2024.

Xu Yunan (PhD, Development Studies, Erasmus University), 2017-2018.

Hu Zhanping (PhD, Geography, Plymouth University), 2015-2017.

Gong Weigang (PhD, Sociology, Huazhong University of Science & Technology), 2014-2015.

Zhou Na (PhD, Public Administration, City University of Hong Kong), 2013-2014.

PhD students

Zhang Tingting (PhD, Department of Anthropology, Human Services and Sociology, University of Canterbury): Thesis examiner, 2022-23.

He Gang (DBA, SMU & Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business): Thesis committee member, 2021-23.

Huang Zuyu (PhD, Department of Geography, University of Melbourne): Thesis external examiner, 2019.

Xu Siyuan (PhD, Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University): Thesis external examiner, 2019.

Liu Li (PhD, Graduate School, University of Queensland): Thesis external examiner, October 2017.

Chen Yiyuan (PhD, Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University): Thesis external examiner, 2014-15.

Katherine Valentine (PhD in Psychology, SMU): Thesis committee co-examiner, 2014-2015.

Undergraduate students

Hiah Wei Tin (B.S. in Sociology, SMU): Senior thesis supervisor, 2022-23.

Tan Yan Zhi (B.S. in Sociology, SMU): Senior thesis supervisor, 2021-22.

Subadevan (B.S. in Sociology, SMU): Senior thesis co-examiner, 2014-15.

Tay Ek Kiat (B.S. in Sociology, SMU): Senior thesis co-examiner, 2012-23.

Benita Aweyong (B.S. in Sociology, SMU): Senior thesis co-examiner, 2011-12.

review <i>The China Quarterly</i> <i>Modern China</i> <i>China: An International Journal</i> <i>Chinese Sociological Review</i> <i>Journal of Contemporary China</i> <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> <i>Journal of Asian and African Studies</i> <i>Critical Asian Studies</i> <i>China Perspective</i> 《中国乡村研究》 《中国大陆研究》 <i>Annals of the Am. Assoc. of Geographers</i> <i>Journal of Integrative Agriculture</i> <i>Canadian J. of Development Studies</i> <i>PLOS One</i> <i>World Development</i> <i>Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions</i> <i>Review of International Political Economy</i>	<i>Development and Change</i> <i>Development Policy Review</i> <i>Ethnography</i> <i>Eurasian Geography & Economics</i> <i>Journal of Agrarian Change</i> <i>Journal of Comparative Economics</i> <i>Journal of Development Studies</i> <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i> <i>Journal of Rural Studies</i> <i>Geoforum</i> <i>Habitat International</i> <i>Land Use Policy</i> <i>Population Studies</i> <i>Sustainability</i> <i>Sustainable Development</i> <i>Theory and Society</i> <i>Urban Geography</i> <i>Urban Studies</i>
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