

# HARVARD CHINA FUND **SPRING EVENTS 2009**

Throughout spring 2009, the Harvard China Fund organized a series of public seminars to feature the work of its second cadre of faculty grant recipients.

**Monday, February 23, 12:00 – 1:30 PM**  
**Harvard China Fund Public Seminar Series**

**“Chinese Attitudes toward Inequality and Distributive Injustice: Changes at the Societal and Individual Level”**

**Martin Whyte**, FAS (Sociology)

LOCATION: CGIS South, Room S153, 1730 Cambridge St.

China's remarkable record of rapid economic growth over the last three decades has remade the face of China, with glittery sky-scrapers, modern highways and bullet trains, and the impressive 2008 Olympics, not to mention major improvements in the average standard of living of Chinese citizens. However, that growth has been accompanied by sharp increases in inequality, as manifested in the guarded and gated mansions of China's new millionaires, the return to Chinese society of foreign ownership and “exploitation” of Chinese workers, and mass layoffs and unemployment. To what extent do ordinary Chinese citizens accept and even prefer the richer but more unequal society in which they live today? Or are they nostalgic for the remembered egalitarianism of China under Mao Zedong and angry about the unfairness of the current social order?

This project will carry out a follow-up to a national survey the same research team conducted on these issues in 2004. At the time the conventional wisdom was that Chinese society was becoming a “social volcano” about to erupt due to mass discontent fueled by rising inequalities fostered by market reforms. However, the data from the 2004 survey indicate in general that Chinese at that time were mostly quite satisfied and optimistic about current inequalities, rather than very angry about the unfairness of the social order. A new national survey will be carried out in China later this year to determine whether or how Chinese views on distributive justice versus injustice may have changed. Will the repercussions within China of the global financial meltdown and slumping overseas demand for Chinese products lead to increases in the proportion of Chinese citizens who think the current social order is unfair? By re-interviewing as many as possible of the survey respondents originally interviewed in 2004, and by interviewing as well a new, representative sample of adults, the project will examine whether popular anger about inequality issues is on the rise in China today or not.

**Tuesday, April 14, 4:00 - 5:30 PM**  
**Harvard China Fund Public Seminar Series**

**“Villages in Development: Progress Report”**

**Margaret Crawford**, GSD; **Marco Cenzatti**, GSD

LOCATION: CGIS South, Room S153, 1730 Cambridge St.

Two GSD planning professors will discuss their ongoing research project, studying the diverse effects of industrialization and urbanization on villages in the Pearl River Delta. Collaborating with local anthropologists and faculty and students from the South China University of Technology, they are interested in the ways that villages can achieve more control over their economic, political and social futures.

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**Monday, April 27, 4:15 – 5:45 PM**  
**Harvard China Fund Public Seminar Series**

**“Access to, affordability, and use of medicines in China: Building capacity in light of national health care reform”**

**Anita Wagner, HMS**

LOCATION: CGIS South, Room S153, 1730 Cambridge St.

A collaboration of the WHO Collaborating Center in Pharmaceutical Policy at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Boston; Harvard School of Public Health, Boston; Capital University of Medical Sciences, Beijing; Xuanwu Hospital, Beijing; the Beijing Public Health Insurance Committee; the Ministry of Health, China; and the World Health Organization, China.

This month, the Chinese Government publicly announced a long-awaited plan to thoroughly reform its health care system. Through a focus on essential medicines and expanding health insurance coverage for its 1.3 billion people, the government intends to address major challenges the system currently faces and which lead to preventable deaths, impoverishing illness, and large-scale financial losses. To operationalize the plan, policy makers, managers, and analysts within the urban and rural health care systems will require appropriate conceptual frameworks and specific technical skills to address complex medicines policy questions with applied research.

With support from the Harvard China Fund, a team of colleagues from Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, and Xuan-wu Hospital in China began to expand the Harvard-based Medicines and Insurance Coverage (MedIC) Initiative (<http://www.whoccpp.org/research/medic.asp>) to China. MedIC is an interdisciplinary global partnership between universities and insurance systems focused on strengthening capacity for medicines policy decision making in health care organizations and insurance schemes, and engaging in focused research on policies to improve medicines access and use.

In March 2009, the team hosted the MedIC International Forum on Pharmaceutical Policy Issues in Health Insurance Systems in Beijing for about 150 senior health policy makers, followed by a 9-day MedIC Course in Pharmaceutical Policy Analysis for about 50 decision makers in Beijing urban health systems. We will report on discussions and plans for system change generated during these events. The long-term goal of this work is to strengthen evidence-based medicines policy decision making in China through training and research.

**Tuesday, May 5, 4:00 – 5:30 PM**  
**Harvard China Fund Public Seminar Series**

**“Childrearing and Childbearing in two Chinese Cities”**

**Vanessa Fong, HGSE; Hirokazu Yoshikawa, HGSE**

LOCATION: CGIS North (Knafel Bldg), Room K354, 1737 Cambridge St.

Our project draws on surveys, interviews, videotaping, and participant observation to examine predictors and consequences of childrearing and childbearing among the first generation of young adults born under China's one-child policy. Our study links two larger longitudinal studies: Vanessa Fong's study of education, childrearing, and childbearing among 2,273 residents of Dalian, China born between 1979 and 1986, and a collaborative study by Vanessa Fong, Hiro Yoshikawa, and a team of American and Chinese psychologists, sociologists, and medical researchers about the relationship between work, childrearing, and child development among 416 couples in Nanjing, China with children born between 2006 and 2007. At this seminar, we will discuss the background and methods of our project, as well as our preliminary findings about the relationships between education, natal family socialization, work experiences, physical and psychological health, childrearing, and childbearing among Chinese young adults.

