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EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Education:

- Ph.D. in Government, Harvard University (2003). Dissertation: "State, Social Networks, and Citizens in China's Urban Neighborhoods." Committee: Roderick MacFarquhar, Elizabeth J. Perry (chair), Robert D. Putnam
- M.A. in Political Science, University of California, Berkeley (1997)
- B.A. in Asian Studies; Concentration in International Relations, Cornell University (1993, magna cum laude)

Academic Positions:

- Assistant Professor, Politics Department, University of California, Santa Cruz (2008-)
- Visiting Faculty Fellow, Center for Democracy and the Third Sector, Georgetown University (2005-6)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2003-2008)

Memberships:

- American Political Science Association (1996-)
- Association for Asian Studies (2000-)

SCHOLARSHIP

Books:

- Field Research in Political Science* (with Diana Kapiszewski and Lauren Mathews Morris MacLean), under advance contract, Cambridge University Press
- Roots of the State: Neighborhood Organization and Social Networks in Beijing and Taipei*, under contract, Stanford University Press
- Local Organizations and Urban Governance in East and Southeast Asia: Straddling State and Society* (edited by Benjamin L. Read with Robert Pekkanen), Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2009

Articles and Chapters, Refereed:

- "More than an Interview, Less than Sedaka: Studying Subtle and Hidden Politics with Site-Intensive Methods," in *Contemporary Chinese Politics: New Sources, Methods, and Field Strategies*, edited by Allen Carlson, Mary E. Gallagher, Kenneth Lieberthal and Melanie Manion (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 145-161
- "State-Linked Associational Life: Illuminating Blind Spots of Existing Paradigms," pp. 1-26, and

- “The Multiple Uses of Local Networks: State Cultivation of Neighborhood Social Capital in China and Taiwan,” pp. 121-157, both in *Local Organizations and Urban Governance* (2009; see above)
- “Mediating the Mediation Debate: Conflict Resolution and the Local State in China” (Benjamin L. Read and Ethan Michelson), *Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 52, No. 5 (October 2008), pp. 737-764
- “Assessing Variation in Civil Society Organizations: China’s Homeowner Associations in Comparative Perspective,” *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 41, Issue 9 (September 2008), pp. 1240-1265
- “Property Rights and Homeowner Activism in New Neighborhoods,” in Li Zhang and Aihwa Ong, eds., *Privatizing China: Socialism from Afar* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2008), pp. 41-56
- “The State’s Evolving Relationship with Urban Society: China’s Neighborhood Organizations in Comparative Perspective” (Benjamin L. Read and Chun-Ming Chen) in John R. Logan, ed., *Urban China in Transition* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008), pp. 315-335
- “Inadvertent Political Reform via Private Associations: Assessing Homeowners’ Groups in New Neighborhoods,” in Elizabeth J. Perry and Merle Goldman, eds., *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007), pp. 149-173
- “Democratizing the Neighborhood? New Private Housing and Homeowner Self-Organization in Urban China,” *The China Journal*, Issue 49 (January 2003), pp. 31-59
- Reprinted in Jonathan Unger, ed., *Associations and the Chinese State: Contested Spaces* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2008), pp. 216-252
- “Revitalizing the State’s Urban ‘Nerve Tips’,” *The China Quarterly* No. 163 (September 2000), pp. 806-820
- Reprinted in Andrew Kipnis, Luigi Tomba, and Jonathan Unger (eds.), *Contemporary Chinese Society and Politics*, Vol. 3 (London and New York: Routledge, 2009), pp. 33-48

Articles, Other:

- “Political and Social Reform in China: Alive and Walking” (George J. Gilboy and Benjamin L. Read), *The Washington Quarterly* Vol. 31, No. 3 (Summer 2008), pp. 143-164
- “Rethinking the Civic Properties of State-Linked Associations,” *Democracy & Society* [Center for Democracy and Civil Society, Georgetown University] Vol. 4, Issue 1 (Fall 2006), pp. 12-14
- “Introduction” and “Site-Intensive Methods: Fenno and Scott in Search of a Coalition” in a symposium titled “Field Research: How Rich? How Thick? How Participatory?” *Qualitative Methods* [newsletter of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Qualitative Methods] Vol. 4, No. 2 (Fall 2006), pp. 9-13
- “Fieldwork: Learning How to Get the Information You Need,” *Contemporary China Newsletter* [Dangdai Zhongguo Yanjiu, Center for Contemporary China, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan] No. 7 (October 31, 2006), pp. 22-26
- “State Fostering of Civil Society: Cases from the United States and Japan,” *Predstavitel'naya Vlast* [Representative Power, a Moscow-based journal] Vol. 58, No. 4 (2004), pp. 25-28

Work in Progress:

- “Public Attitudes toward Official Justice in Beijing and Rural China” (Ethan Michelson and Benjamin L. Read), in Margaret Woo, Mary E. Gallagher and Merle Goldman, eds., *Chinese Justice: Civil Dispute Resolution in Contemporary China*
- Paper: “Beyond Clientelism and Synergy: Grassroots Engagement in the Neighborhoods of Beijing and Taipei”

Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations (abridged):

- “Problems and theories of neighborhood governance: Beijing and Taipei in comparative perspective,” Symposium on Homeowners Association and the Reinvention of Grassroots Government in Urban China, City University of Hong Kong, August 17-18, 2010
- “Taiwan’s Urban Neighborhoods and the Conundrums of Ultra-Local Democracy,” Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, April 30, 2010
- “Administrative Grassroots Organizations: State-Fostered Neighborhood Groups in Beijing and Taipei,” Department of Political Science, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, February 22, 2010
- “The Alley-Level State: Residents and Neighborhood Organizations in Beijing and Taipei,” UCLA Center for Chinese Studies, April 27, 2009
- “The Multiple Uses of Local Networks: State Cultivation of Neighborhood Social Capital in China and Taiwan,” presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, March 20, 2009
- “The Alley-Level State: Residents and Neighborhood Organizations in Beijing and Taipei,” University of California, Berkeley, Center for Chinese Studies, October 26, 2007
- “*Shuang cheng ji: Beijing he Taipei shizhengfu suo peiyang de shequ zuzhi*” [A Tale of Two Cities: State-Fostered Neighborhood Organizations in Beijing and Taipei] Renmin University, Beijing [in Chinese], June 25, 2007
- “Field Research and Political Science Methodology,” Ming Chuan University, Taiwan [in Chinese], January 19, 2006
- “Rethinking State-Fostered Associational Life: Grassroots Engagement in the Cities of China and Taiwan,” University of Oregon, November 16, 2006; University of California, Santa Cruz, November 20, 2006; National Chengchi University Taiwan [in Chinese], January 8, 2007
- “More than an Interview, Less than Sedaka: Studying Subtle and Hidden Politics with Site-Intensive Methods,” Sources and Methods in Chinese Politics: A Workshop on Methodology, Research Design, and Fieldwork Strategies, University of Michigan, November 4, 2006
- “Neighborhood Organizations and Politics in China and Taiwan,” New Taiwanese Cultural Foundation, Taipei, March 16, 2006; in Chinese
- “The Uses of Local Interpersonal Networks in Governance: State Cultivation of Neighborhood Social Capital in China and Taiwan,” Department of Government, Georgetown University, January 25, 2006
- “Private Property and Political Change in China: The Case of Homeowners’ Organizations,” China Law Center, Yale Law School, December 13, 2005
- “Inadvertent Political Reform Via Private Associations: Assessing Homeowners’ Groups in ‘New Neighborhoods,’” conference on grassroots political reform in China, Harvard University, October 30, 2004
- “Homeowners’ Organizations in Urban China: Micro-Political Implications of Private Housing,” conference on privatization, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (in collaboration with the University of California at Davis), June 28, 2004
- “The State’s Evolving Relationship with Urban Society: China’s Neighborhood Organizations in Comparative Perspective,” conference on China’s changing cities held in Santa Monica by the Urban China Research Network of the Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research, State University of New York at Albany, May 1, 2004
- “Homeowners’ Organizations in Urban China: Individual Property Rights and Collective Empowerment,” conference on socio-economic rights in China, Dickinson College, April 16, 2004
- “Homeowners’ Organizations and Neighborhood Politics in Urban China,” East Asia Workshop, University of Chicago, April 9, 2004

- “The Homeowners’ Rights Movement in Chinese Cities and its Political Implications,” National Taipei University, December 16, 2003
- “Explaining Cross-National Patterns in State-Fostered Local Associations” (co-authored with Robert Pekkanen) and “The State and Interpersonal Networks: China’s Neighborhood Committees,” papers presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, August 28, 2003; also co-organized the panel of which this was a part
- “Homeowners’ Organizations and Neighborhood Politics in Urban China,” Center for East Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin - Madison, May 2, 2003
- “Patterns of Citizen Response to Beijing’s Neighborhood Committees,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, New York City, March 29, 2003; also co-organized and chaired the panel of which this was a part: “Straddling State and Society: Challenges and Insights from Asian Associational Life”
- “Beijing’s Urban Residents’ Committees As a Case of Grassroots Administrative Engagement: Using Quantitative Data to Augment Qualitative Findings,” paper presented at “Cities in China: The Next Generation of Urban Research,” a workshop sponsored by the Urban China Research Network, Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research, State University of New York at Albany, June 15, 2002
- “The Human Face of the State: China’s Neighborhood Committees as a Case of Grassroots Administrative Engagement,” Department of Political Science, University of Iowa, April 19, 2002
- “China’s Urban Residents’ Committees as a Crucial Case of State-Fostered Grassroots Association,” International Studies Association annual convention, New Orleans, March 24, 2002; also organized the panel, “Straddling State and Society: Challenges and Insights from Asian Associational Life,” of which this presentation was a part
- “The Human Face of the State: What China’s Neighborhood Committees Tell Us about Social Capital,” Department of Political Science, The Ohio State University, December 5, 2001
- “Citizens and the State: Residents’ Committees in Urban China,” Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, October 16, 2001
- “Democratizing the Neighborhood? New Private Housing and Homeowner Self-Organization in Urban China,” paper presented at the panel on “Putting the Politics Back Into Privatization: Cross-National Studies of Transitions in Socialist, Post-Socialist, and Developing Countries,” annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, August 30, 2001
- “The Local State and Its Constituents,” workshop on Mapping the Local State in Reform-Era China, co-sponsored by the UCLA Center for Chinese Studies and the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, June 8-9, 2001
- “Activists Revisited: The Social Logic of Volunteer Participation in Beijing Neighborhoods,” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Chicago, March 23, 2001; also organized the panel, “Conflict and Cooperation Across State-Society Frontiers in Contemporary China,” of which this presentation was a part.
- “Dui Zhongguo chengshi shequ jianshe yu jiceng zizhi de ruogan xiangfa” [Thoughts on urban community building and grass-roots organizations in China], *Beijing shequ jianshe lilun yantaohui* [Beijing Community-Building Theory Conference], October 15, 2000; in Chinese

Reviews:

- Journal of East Asian Studies*, review of S. Frederick Starr, ed., *Xinjiang: China’s Muslim Borderland* (Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2004), Vol. 6, #2 (May-August 2006), pp. 315-318
- Journal of Politics*, review of Melanie Manion, *Corruption by Design: Building Clean Government in Mainland China and Hong Kong* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004), Vol. 67, #3 (August 2005), pp. 936-937

Far Eastern Economic Review, review of Robert Lawrence Kuhn, *The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2004), Vol. 168, #2 (January/February 2005), pp. 70-72

The China Journal, review of Linda Wong and Norman Flynn, eds., *The Market in Chinese Social Policy* (Houndsmills, UK: Palgrave, 2001), #48 (July 2002), pp. 216-217

Anonymous manuscript reviews for the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, the *China Quarterly*, the *China Journal*, the *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Journal of Gender Studies*, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, and *Pacific Affairs*

Grants and Fellowships:

Visiting Faculty Fellowship, Center for Democracy and the Third Sector, Georgetown University, 2005-06, \$50,000

Junior Scholar Grant, Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (USA), 2005-06, \$14,700

Shorenstein Fellowship, Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University, 2005-06, \$40,000 (declined)

At University of Iowa

Travel grant, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Fall 2006, \$3,500

Interdisciplinary Research Grant, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, June 2005 (with collaborator Ethan Michelson of Indiana University), \$12,000

Old Gold research funding, 2004-2005, \$6,000

Shambaugh conference grant, Department of Political Science, for fall 2005, \$14,500

Course development grant, International Programs, summer 2004, \$4,000

Faculty grant, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Iowa, 2003-2004, \$2,500

During Graduate School

Hauser Center Doctoral Fellowship (John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard, 2001-2002)

Graduate Student Small Grant, Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research, SUNY-Albany (Spring 2001), \$3,000

Committee on Scholarly Communication with China Research Grant (Fall 2000), \$9,845

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (1999-2000), \$27,610

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship (Harvard, 1997-99)

Asia Center NCR Travel Grant (Harvard, Summer Pre-Dissertation Research in China, 1998)

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (UC-Berkeley, Summer Language Study in Taipei, 1996)

Graduate School Fellowship (UC-Berkeley, 1996-97)

Institute of East Asian Studies Graduate Fellowship (UC-Berkeley, 1995-96)

TEACHING

Courses Taught at the University of California, Santa Cruz:

Poli 60: Comparative Politics / Introduction to the Politics of the Developing World

Poli 141: Politics of China

Poli 143: Foreign Relations of China

Poli 190t: Governance and Conflict in East Asia

Poli 200b: Social Forces and Political Change

Courses Taught at the University of Iowa:

030:148 Introduction to the Government and Politics of China

030:163 Introduction to Chinese Foreign Policy

030:390 Graduate-Level Independent Study in Chinese Politics

030:042 Introduction to the Politics of Developing Areas

030:179 Human Rights and Asian Values

030:347 Associations, Networks, and Trust in the Realm of Politics

030:029 The Media vs. the Academy: Interpreting Political Events (co-taught)

030:173 Voluntary Organizations and Politics in Comparative Perspective

SERVICE

University of California, Santa Cruz:

Coordinator, department colloquium, Politics Department, 2009-

Member, graduate committee, Politics Department, 2008-

Board member, Ranch View Terrace faculty/staff housing homeowner association, 2009-

Professional Service:

Panel discussant: Association for Asian Studies (2009, 2010); American Political Science Association (2006); Midwest Political Science Association (2006); Western Political Science Association (2010)

Organized the Asian Politics Section of the Midwest Political Science Association 2006 annual conference

Taught a half-day course on field research at an international conference sponsored by the Academic Fellowship Program of the Open Society Institute, Sinaia, Romania, Feb. 23, 2006

Co-taught a half-day course, "Strategies for Field Research in Comparative Politics and International Politics," at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in 2002, 2004, 2005, and 2006

University and Community Service:

Gave talks on my research at workshops of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, Aug. 4 and Sept. 8, 2007

Moot court judge, law school, Feb. 21, 2007

"China: The Ownership Society?" (with Ethan Michelson), Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, June 28, 2005

Provided Chinese-English interpretation at eleven public speaking appearances by International Writing Program guest writers Yu Hua, Mo Yan, Chen Danyan, Tang Ying, Zhang Xian, Lou Ye, Bi Feiyu, Ya Hsien, and Li Rui, and translated short plays and poems, 2003-07

Moderated panel discussion on the Cultural Revolution, International Programs, Sept. 7, 2004

Established and organized cross-disciplinary China Studies Reading Group, starting in fall 2003

Presented at panel on teaching international students, meeting of Directors of Graduate Study, Nov. 19, 2003

Previous:

Provided Chinese-English interpretation at talks by Chinese Politburo member Li Tieying, student leader Wang Dan, five other academic speakers, and conferences on Tibet and Shanghai, Harvard University, 1997-2003

MISCELLANEOUS

Non-Academic Publications:

“*Cong mei ri yi bei fennu dao ‘dimian zuozhan’*” [From a Daily Cup of Outrage to ‘Ground War’], *Ershiyi Shiji Jingji Baodao* [21st Century Economic Report], Guangzhou, China (November 1, 2004); in Chinese

Other Work Experience:

Assistant Editor, Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, Harvard Univ. (part-time, 2001)

- Translated and edited Mao Zedong texts for Stuart R. Schram’s ten-volume compilation, *Mao’s Road to Power: Revolutionary Writings, 1912-1949*

Researcher and Interpreter, Beijing Bureau, *The New York Times* (1993-95, part-time)

English Language Instructor, *Foreign Affairs College*, Beijing (1993-95)

Freelance Writer and Translator, Beijing (1993-94)

Reporter Intern, *Milwaukee Sentinel* (Summer 1992)

Editor, *Cornell Political Forum*, Ithaca, New York (1993)

Reporter and Copy Editor, *Cornell Daily Sun*, Ithaca, New York (1989-1991)

Languages:

Native speaker of English

Full fluency in written and spoken Chinese