

China's Reform and Opening Up: Four Decades of Legacies and Lessons Participant Biographies

Marc Blecher graduated from Cornell University and received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He is James Madison Professor of Politics and Professor East Asian Studies at Oberlin College. He has also served as Visiting Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Sussex (UK). He is the author of four books, and the co-editor of one more, on Chinese politics, society and political economy — including *Politics as a Science (aka Politology)* co-authored with Philippe Schmitter (Routledge), *Tethered Deer: Government and Economy in a Chinese County* (Stanford University Press), *Micropolitics in Contemporary China: A Technical Unit During and After the Cultural Revolution* (Sharpe), and *China Against the Tides: Restructuring Through Revolution, Radicalism and Reform* (Continuum), which has been translated into Chinese and Korean. He has also published several dozen articles on local politics and political economy in rural and urban China. His research focuses on workers politics in China. He lives in Oberlin, Ohio with his wife Sharon, and spends several months each year at his *pieds-à-terre* in London and New York.

Wenhong Chen is an associate professor of media sociology and the founding co-director of the Media and Entertainment Industries Program at the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her PhD in Sociology from the University of Toronto and was a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow at Duke University. Her research has focused on digital media technologies in entrepreneurial and organizational settings, supported by the Pew Internet and American Life Project, the Ford Foundation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Foundation of Science and Technology of Portugal, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, Advanced Micro Devices, Bell Canada, and the City of Austin. Dr. Chen has more than 70 publications, including articles in top-ranked journals in the fields of communication and media studies, sociology, and management. She received the William F. Ogburn Mid-Career Achievement Award, which “recognizes a sustained body of research that has provided an outstanding contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the area of sociology of communication, media, and/or information technology.” Dr. Chen’s research has also received awards from the Academy of Management, International Communication Association, and International Association of Chinese Management Research. Dr. Chen is the lead editor of the book *Networked China: Global Dynamics of Digital Media and Civic Engagement* (with Stephen Reese, Routledge 2015). Dr. Chen’s work has been reported by media in the U.S., China, and Canada. She is conducting a comparative project on US-China policies and practices of AI, big data and cloud computing.

Joshua Eisenman is assistant professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and coordinates the Understanding China program at the Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on the political economy of China's development and its foreign relations with the United States and the developing world—particularly Africa. Professor Eisenman's newest book, [*Red China's Green Revolution: Technological Innovation, Institutional Change, and Economic Development Under the Commune*](#) (Columbia University Press, 2018), explains how more capital investment and better farming techniques increased agricultural productivity growth in Maoist China. His work has been published in top academic journals including [*World Development*](#), [*Development and Change*](#), [*Journal of Contemporary China*](#) and [*Cold War History*](#), and in popular outlets such as [*Foreign Affairs*](#), [*The Wall Street Journal*](#) and [*Foreign Policy*](#). In [*China Steps Out: Beijing's Major Power Engagement with the Developing World*](#) (Routledge, 2018), he worked with Eric Heginbotham to analyze China's policies toward the developing world. His second book, [*China and Africa: A Century of Engagement*](#) (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), co-authored with David Shinn, was named one of the [top three books about Africa by Foreign Affairs](#). Professor Eisenman has been a visiting faculty member at Fudan University (Summer 2017), Peking University (Summer 2016), and NYU–Shanghai (2011–12). He was a policy analyst on the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (2003–05) and has been Senior Fellow for China Studies at the American Foreign Policy Council since 2006.

James K. Galbraith holds the Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and a professorship in Government at The University of Texas at Austin. He is also a managing editor of *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*. Galbraith holds degrees from Harvard University (BA) and Yale University (MA, M.Phil, PhD). He was Executive Director of the Joint Economic Committee of the United States Congress in the early 1980s and has advised the State Planning Commission of P.R. China and the Greek Finance Ministry. He chaired the board of Economists for Peace and Security from 1996 to 2016 (www.epsusa.org) and directs the University of Texas Inequality Project (<http://utip.lbj.utexas.edu>). In 2010, Galbraith was elected to the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*. In 2014, he was co-winner with Angus Deaton of the Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economics. His books include: *Welcome to the Poisoned Chalice: The Destruction of Greece and the Future of Europe* (2016); *Inequality: What Everyone Needs to Know* (2016); *The End of Normal: The Great Crisis and the Future of Growth* (2014); and *Inequality and Instability: A Study of the World Economy Just Before the Great Crisis* (2012).

Rana Siu Inboden is an associate with the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law and a visiting scholar at The University of Texas at Austin. She serves as a consultant on human rights, democracy and rule of law projects in Asia for a number of non-governmental organizations. Her current research interests focus on international human rights, Chinese foreign policy, and evaluating the effectiveness of international human rights and democracy projects. Previously, she served in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Rana joined the State Department in 2000, serving at the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai, in the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, and in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research where she covered U.S.-China relations. She obtained an M.A. at Stanford University in East Asian Studies and a B.S. at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She was awarded a U.S. State Department Superior Honor Award for her work in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Huaiyin Li is Professor of History and Asian Studies and Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He received his M.A. from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing in 1987 and Ph.D. from UCLA in 2000. His books include *Village Governance in North China, 1875-1936*, Stanford University Press, 2005; *Village China under Socialism and Reform: A Micro-History, 1948-2008*, Stanford University Press, 2009 (winner of 2009 Cecil B. Currey Book Award, the Association of Third World Studies; 2010 Robert W. Hamilton Book Runner-up Award, UT Austin; 2010 CHUS Award for Academic Excellence); and *Reinventing Modern China: Imagination and Authenticity in Chinese Historical Writing*, University of Hawaii Press, 2013 (2014 Robert W. Hamilton Book Runner-up Award, UT Austin).

James Mann is author-in-residence at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He formerly served as a Washington correspondent, foreign-affairs columnist and Beijing bureau chief for the *Los Angeles Times*. Mann has written three books about the relationship between America and China. The first, *Beijing Jeep*, describes what happened in the 1980s when an American company sought to enter the China market. In 2005, it was included in *Fortune* magazine's list of the 75 all-time best books. The second book, *About Face: A History of America's Curious Relationship With China, From Nixon to Clinton*, covers America's diplomacy with Beijing over three decades, starting with the Nixon opening. In 2000, it won the Helen Bernstein Award for best book of the year and the Asia-Pacific Award for best book about Asia. Mann's third book, *The China Fantasy*, explored America's ideas and dreams about China; in 2007, the *Washington Post* listed it as one of the best books of the year. Mann also writes about other aspects of American foreign policy. *Rise of the Vulcans*, his book about the George W. Bush administration, was a *New York Times* best-seller and a finalist for the Council on Foreign Relations' Arthur Ross book award. He has also written books about the Reagan and Obama administrations. Mann is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and is a board member of the Wisconsin Project for Nuclear Arms Control.

Thomas Palley is an independent economist and author living in Washington, DC. He is a founder and co-editor of the *Review of Keynesian Economics*. Most recently, Dr. Palley was Senior Economic Policy Adviser to the AFL-CIO. In the past, he has held positions as Chief Economist with the US – China Economic and Security Review Commission, Director of the Open Society Institute's Globalization Reform Project, and Assistant Director of Public Policy at the AFL-CIO. He holds a B.A. degree from Oxford University and both a M.A. degree in International Relations and a Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University. Dr. Palley's recent books are *From Financial Crisis to Stagnation: The Destruction of Shared Prosperity and the Role of Economics* (Cambridge University Press, 2012); *Financialization: The Economics of Finance Capital Domination* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013); and *The Economic Crisis: Notes from the Underground* (CreateSpace, 2012). He is also the author of *Plenty of Nothing: The Downsizing of the American Dream and the Case for Structural Keynesianism* (Princeton University Press, 1998) and *Post Keynesian Economics* (Macmillan Press, 1996). He also co-edited with Gustav Horn *Restoring Shared Prosperity: A Policy Agenda from Leading Keynesian Economists* (CreateSpace, 2013). He has published over 150 articles in a wide range of academic journals, as well as publishing numerous book chapters, newspaper op-eds, and articles in popular magazines. His op-eds and recent articles are available at www.thomaspalley.com.

Jaganath Sankaran works on problems that lie at the intersection of international security and science & technology. Sankaran received his Ph.D. (International Security Policy) in 2012, writing his dissertation on the role of deterrence, dissuasion, denial, and arms control in preserving peace and stability in outer space. Sankaran was trained initially as an engineer and spent the first four years of his career as a defense scientist with the Indian Missile R & D establishment. His work in weapons design and development led to his contemporary interests in matters such as the balance of military power, strategic stability, and arms control. The current focus of Sankaran's research is Asia-Pacific. Sankaran studies the growing military and nuclear weapons capabilities of China and the counter military balancing undertaken by the United States, Japan, India and other states. Sankaran has also worked on U.S.-Russia strategic stability and nuclear arms control. Sankaran has held fellowships at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University and at RAND Corporation. Sankaran has published in *International Security*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, *Arms Control Today*, *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, and other outlets. His research has also been published by the RAND Corporation and the Stimson Center.

Andrew Scobell is Senior Political Scientist at the nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corporation in Washington, DC and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. Prior to this he was a tenured faculty member at the George H. W. Bush School of Government and Public Service and Director of the China Certificate Program at Texas A&M University located in College Station, Texas. Recent publications include *At the Dawn of the Belt and Road: China in the Developing World* (RAND, 2018) and *PLA Influence on China's National Security Policymaking* (Stanford University Press, 2015). Scobell earned a doctorate in political science from Columbia University.

Dorothy J. Solinger is Professor Emerita of Political Science at the University of California, Irvine. She has authored six books, including *Contesting Citizenship in Urban China* (1999) (winner of the 2001 Joseph R. Levenson prize of the Association for Asian Studies for the best book on 20th century China), *States' Gains, Labor's Losses* (2009) and *Chinese Business Under Socialism* (1984). She has also edited or co-edited another six books, including (co-edited with Nina Bandelj), *Socialism Vanquished, Socialism Challenged: Eastern Europe and China, 1989-2009* (2012), and published nearly 100 articles and book chapters. Her most recent publication is her edited book, *Polarized Cities: Portraits of Rich and Poor in Urban China* (2019). She has been Visiting Lecturer at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Visiting Research Professor, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore. She has held fellowships from the Center for Chinese Studies at UC Berkeley and at the University of Michigan, from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Hoover Institution, the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation of the ACLS, and the Smith Richardson Foundation. Her current work is on the urban poor and the assistance program for its members.

Isabella Weber is a lecturer in Economics at Goldsmiths, University of London, and the principal investigator of the ESRC-funded research project [“What drives specialisation? A century of global export patterns.”](#) She gained her Ph.D. at the University of Cambridge and was recently a visiting researcher at Tsinghua University (Beijing). She holds a M.Phil. and M.A. in Economics from the New School for Social Research (New York), a B.A. in Politics and Economics from Free University Berlin and studied Chinese at Peking University. Her work combines economic theory, economic history, China studies and global political economy. She focusses on the interaction between economic thinking, policy and long-term structural patterns in periods of deep social transformation such as China’s reform process.

Brantly Womack is Professor of Foreign Affairs and holds the Miller Center’s C K Yen Chair at the University of Virginia. He received his BA in politics and philosophy from the University of Dallas and his PhD in political science from University of Chicago. He was a Fulbright Scholar in philosophy at the University of Munich. He is the author of *Asymmetry and International Relationships* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), *China Among Unequals: Asymmetric International Relationships in Asia* (World Scientific Press 2010), and of *China and Vietnam: The Politics of Asymmetry* (Cambridge 2006), as well as over a hundred articles and book chapters. He co-edited with Yuk Wah Chan *Borderlands in East and Southeast Asia* (Routledge 2017), with Hao Yufan *Rethinking the Triangle: Washington, Beijing, Taipei* (University of Macau Press and World Scientific Press, 2016), edited *China’s Rise in Historical Perspective* (Rowman and Littlefield 2010) and *Contemporary Chinese Politics in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge 1991). In 2011 Womack received the China Friendship Award for his work with Chinese universities. He holds honorary positions at Jilin University, East China Normal University, and Zhongshan (Sun Yat-Sen) University. He has been a visiting research professor at the East Asia Institute of National University of Singapore, East China Normal University in Shanghai, and China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing.