The Rise of Public Opinion in China
An International Conference
October 18-19 (Friday – Saturday), 2013
Sponsored by the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, Benjamin F. Shambaugh Memorial Fund, College of Liberal Arts Sciences, and the Department of Political Science, the University of Iowa

Wenfang Tang (conference organizer)
Department of Political Science
University of Iowa

One of the most exciting new topics in the recent years in the study of Chinese politics is the rise of public opinion and citizen-initiated political action. The mass public has become an important determinant in political outcome even China’s political system remains authoritarian. Individual political participation in elections, protests, petitions, contacting government officials, internet discussions, legal dispute resolution, and other forms of political activism have captured the attention of researchers beyond their traditional foci of political elites and institutions. The rise of public opinion and mass political activism have promoted the development of public opinion research on China and further facilitated the integration of China in the comparative framework of social science theories.

The goal of the Iowa Conference on the Rise of Public Opinion in China is to synthesize the recent academic activities in Chinese public opinion research. It will invite the leading scholars in the field to share their research findings in the following three categories:

1) Studies of Chinese public opinion and political behavior, including any aspect of political and social values, attitudes, and action at the individual level and their impact in the political change in China;
2) Methodological issues of public opinion research, such as the development and problems of public opinion surveys in China, advantages and problems in qualitative and quantitative methods, practices and problems in measuring social science concepts in the Chinese context, new methods in public opinion research such as experimental political research;
3) Chinese public opinion research in comparative perspective, including cross-country quantitative studies based on survey data as well as in-depth qualitative case studies on individual level political attitudes and behavior and their role in promoting political change in China and in other societies.

Papers submitted for the conference will be considered for publication in an edited volume.
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 17: Participants arrive and check in to Sheraton Hotel

Noon-1 pm (Department of Political Science, 302 Schaeffer Hall) Lunch Talk: “Modernization and World Peace,” Ronald Inglehart (University of Michigan)

Group Dinner at 6:30 pm, Share Restaurant (see map in folder for location) (319) 354-4640

Friday, October 18

7:55 am Meet in Sheraton Hotel lobby and walk to UCC

8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast (UCC 1117, IP Commons)

9:15 – 9:30 Welcome remarks, Morten Schlutter (Director of Center for Asian and Pacific Studies), Downing Thomas (Associate Provost and Dean of International Programs), Sally Mason (President, University of Iowa) (UCC2520D)

9:30-10:00 Photo session

10:00 – 10:30 Opening keynote speech, “Modernization and Cultural Change: China in Global Perspective,” Ronald Inglehart (University of Michigan) (UCC2520D)

Panel 1, 10:30-12:00, Public opinion and political trust (I) (UCC2520D)

Chair: Qiang Li (Peking University)

They Have Issues: Public Goods and Regime Support in Urban China (Bruce J. Dickson, George Washington University, Mingming Shen and Jie Yan, Peking University)

Paternalistic View of Government: China and Its Asian Neighbors (Yun-han Chu, National Taiwan University, Jie Lu, American University)

The Neglected Aspect of Institutionalization in the Authoritarian Resilience Thesis in the Chinese Context (Ya-Wen Lei, Harvard University)

Discussant: William Reisinger (University of Iowa), Lianjiang Li (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (UCC2520D)
Panel 2, 1:00 – 2:30, Public opinion and political trust (II) (UCC2520D)

Chair: Bruce J. Dickson, George Washington University

The Political Payoffs of Governance Reforms: How Citizens See and Judge the State in Authoritarian China (Lily Tsai, MIT)

Hierarchical Trust in China (Lianjiang Li, Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Testing Political Trust in a List Experiment (Wenfang Tang and Yang Zhang, University of Iowa)

Discussant: Vicki Claypool (University of Iowa), Melanie Manion (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

2:30-2:45 Tea Break (UCC2520D)

Panel 3, 2:45 – 4:15, Public opinion and public policy (I) (UCC2520D)

Chair: Melanie Manion (University of Wisconsin – Madison)

Democracy or Populism: The Politics of Public Opinion in China (Keping Yu, Peking University)

Getting Schooled: The Role of Education in Workers’ Legal Mobilization in Contemporary China (Mary Gallagher, University of Michigan)

A Middle Class without Democracy: Economic Growth and the Prospects for Democratization in China (Jie Chen, University of Idaho)

Discussant: Bruce Dickson (George Washington University)

5:00 – 7:00 WorldCanvass

Show Name: “The Rise of Public Opinion in China”, hosted by Joan Kjaer Kirkman

Location: Senate Chamber of the Old Capitol Museum (see map in folder for location)

Participants:

- Public opinion and political reform—guests: Dali Yang, Keping Yu, Qiang Li
- Public opinion and political trust—guests: Wenfang Tang, Bruce Dickson, Melanie Manion
- Public opinion and foreign policy—guests: Peter Gries, Brian Lai, Ning Zhang
- Public opinion and social media—guests: Judy Polumbaum, Lu Shen, Xianwei Wu
Participants must arrive in the Senate Chamber by 4:30 p.m. and all conference attendees are invited to listen to the conversation as members of the audience.

WorldCanvass features multi-disciplinary discussions of international topics by experts from the U.S. and around the world. The program is produced before a live audience and the televised version is distributed across the state of Iowa on The Hawkeye Network. Audio versions of WorldCanvass can be accessed on KRUI-FM, the Public Radio Exchange, an iTunes podcast, and the International Programs website.

**Group Dinner at 7:45 pm, One Twenty Six Restaurant** *(see map in folder for location)*

(319) 887-1909

Saturday, October 19

8:00-8:45 Breakfast (UCC2520D)

Panel 4, 8:45-10:15, Public opinion and public policy (II) (UCC2520D)

Chair: *Keping Yu, Peking University*

The Intended and Unintended Consequences of Social Policies in China *(Xiaobo Lu, Texas A&M University)*

Women’s Empowerment in Participatory Gender Budget: The Case of Wenling in China’s Zhejiang Province *(Xiajuan Guo, Zhejiang University)*

Value of public opinion in Government Performance Management: A practice in Hangzhou *(Bin Wu, Hangzhou Comprehensive Performance Assessment Committee)*

Discussant: *Stanley Rosen (University of Southern California), Fred Solt (University of Iowa)*

10:15-10:30 Tea Break (UCC2520D)

Panel 5, 10:30-12:00, Public opinion and foreign policy (UCC2520D)

Chair: *Jie Chen (University of Idaho)*

Hollywood in China: How American popular culture shapes Chinese Views of the ‘Beautiful Country’, An Experimental Study *(Peter Gries, Matthew A. Sanders, and David Stroup, University of Oklahoma)*

No Postmaterialists in Foxholes: Postmodern Values, Nationalism and National Threat in the People’s Republic of China *(Jonathan J. Reilly, University of Pittsburgh)*
How does Analogical Reasoning Shape China’s Public Opinion on the Diaoyu Islands? (Ning Zhang, California Polytechnic State University)

Discussant: Brian Lai (University of Iowa), Dali Yang (University of Chicago)

12-1:00 Lunch (UCC2520D)

Panel 6, 1:00 – 2:30, Public opinion and survey research (UCC2520D)

Chair: Frederick Boehmke, University of Iowa

Improving the Process Quality of Survey Research in China: Experiences from the Chinese Family Panel Studies (Liying Ren and Qiang Li, Peking University)

Sampling in Political Science Surveys: Experience and Challenges (Jie Yan and Liying Ren, Peking University, Yuhua Wang, University of Pennsylvania)

Chinese General Social Survey 2003 – 2013: Ten Years of Academic Survey Exploration on Monitoring Chinese Behavior and Attitude (Weidong Wang, Remin University)

Discussant: Pierre Landry (University of Pittsburgh), Caroline Tolbert (University of Iowa)

2:30-2:45 Tea Break (UCC2520D)

Panel 7, 2:45 – 4:15, Public opinion and local politics (UCC2520D)

Chair: Pierre Landry (University of Pittsburgh)

Cadre and Citizen Opinion in China: Vertical Survey Research (John James Kennedy, University of Kansas and Yaojiang Shi, Northwest University, Xian)

Local Cadres’ Political Trust and Political Efficacy: Evidence from Surveys (Xuelian Chen, China Center for Comparative Politics & Economics, Central Compilation and Translation Bureau)

Economic Performance, Modernization, and State Dependency: explaining the patterns of local government performance assessment in China (Junyan Jiang and Dali Yang, University of Chicago).

Discussant: Jie Lu (American University)

Group Dinner at 6:00 pm, The Brown Bottle Restaurant (see map in folder for location) (319) 351-6704
Participants and coauthors (c)

Fred Boehmke, Professor of Political Science, University of Iowa, frederick-boehmke@uiowa.edu

Jie Chen, Dean, College of Graduate Studies, William Borah Distinguished Professor of Political Science, University of Idaho, jiechen@uidaho.edu

Xuelian Chen, Associate Professor & Director of Social Survey Office, China Center for Comparative Politics & Economics, Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, visiting scholar at Harvard, chenxuelian@hotmail.com

Yun-han Chu, Distinguished Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Political Science, Institute of Political Science, Academic Sinica and National Taiwan University, yunhan.chu@gmail.com

(c)

Vicki Claypool, Professor of Political Science, University of Iowa, vicki-hesli@uiowa.edu

Bruce Dickson, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University, bdickson@gwu.edu

Mary Gallagher, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, metg@umich.edu

Peter Gries, Professor of International and Area Studies, Harold J. & Ruth Newman Chair & Director, Institute for US-China Issues, The University of Oklahoma, gries@ou.edu

Xiajuan Guo, Professor of Political Science, Zhejiang University, gxiajuan@hotmail.com

Ronald Inglehart, Professor of Political Science, President of the World Values Survey, University of Michigan, rfi@umich.edu

John James Kennedy, Associate Professor of Political Science, Director for the Center for Global and International Studies (CGIS), University of Kansas; President of the Association of Chinese Political Studies (2012-2014), kennedy1@ku.edu

Brian Lai, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Iowa, brian-lai@uiowa.edu

Pierre Landry, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh, pierrelandry@gmail.com

Ya-Wen Lei, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Harvard University, yawenlei@umich.edu

Lianjiang Li, Professor of Political Science, Chinese University of Hong Kong, lianli@cuhk.edu.hk

Qiang Li, Professor of Political Science, Director of Institute of Social Science Survey, Director of Social Science Division, Assistant President, Peking University, qlipoli@pku.edu.cn
Junyan Jiang, Graduate Student, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, junyanjiang@uchicago.edu

Jie Lü, Assistant Professor of Political Science, American University, jlu@american.edu

Xiaoobo Lü, Assistant Professor, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, xlu@bushschool.tamu.edu

Melanie Manion, Vilas-Jordan Distinguished Achievement Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science, La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin – Madison, manion@lafollette.wisc.edu

Jonathan Reilly, University of Pittsburgh, jonlaoshi@hotmail.com

William Reisinger, Professor of Political Science, University of Iowa, william-reisinger@uiowa.edu

Liying Ren, Director, Data Management and Statistics Division, Institute of Social Science Survey, Peking University, isssrenly@pku.edu.cn (c)

Stanley Rosen, Professor of Political Science, University of Southern California, rosen@usc.edu

Mingming Shen, Professor of Political Science, Director, Research Center for Contemporary China, Peking University, shenmm@pku.edu.cn (c)

Yaojiang Shi, Northwest University, Xian (c)

Fred Solt, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Iowa, frederick-solt@uiowa.edu

Wenfang Tang, Stanley Hua Hsia Professor of Political Science and International Studies, University of Iowa, wenfang-tang@uiowa.edu

Caroline Tolbert, Professor of Political Science, University of Iowa, caroline-tolbert@uiowa.edu

Lily Tsai, Associate Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, l_tsai@mit.edu

Weidong Wang, Associate Professor of Sociology, Remin University, me@wangweidong.com

Yuhua Wang, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, yuhuaw@sas.upenn.edu (c)

Bin Wu, Director, Hangzhou Comprehensive Performance Assessment Committee, Director, Office of Hangzhou Performance Management Committee, Researcher, Centre for Chinese Local Government Innovation, Zhejiang University, wb@kpb.hz.gov.cn.
Jie Yan, Associate Professor of Political Science and Associate Director, Research Center for Contemporary China, Peking University, isssysyanj@pku.edu.cn

Dali Yang, Professor of Political Science, Faculty Director of UChicago Beijing Center, University of Chicago, daliyang@uchicago.edu

Keping Yu, Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for Chinese Government Innovation, Peking University, yuikp@pku.edu.cn

Ning Zhang, Associate Professor of Political Science, California Polytechnic University, nizhang@calpoly.edu

Yang Zhang, Doctoral Student, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa, yang-zhang@uiowa.edu