



CHES5135 State and Civil Society in Contemporary China

2020-21, Term 1, Thursdays 1:30-4:15pm

Venue: TBC

Lecturer: Dr. Stephan ORTMANN (ortmann.stephan@googlemail.com)

Teaching Assistant: TBC

This course debates the relationship between the state and civil society in contemporary China. The first part of the course reflects on different paradigms in which the evolving relationship has been studied. On the one hand, there has been a rise of contentious politics and pressure for fundamental change. This was met with some optimism about the potential effect of civil society on the democratization of the country. At the same time, however, others have argued that the state has effectively coopted the society and non-governmental organizations, which has enhanced the state's ability to govern the country and has reduced the pressure for more fundamental political change. In the second half of the course, these debates will be placed in the context of various examples of the state-society relationship including the environmental movement, women's rights movement, religious movements, and traditional as well as online media. Students will also be able to apply their knowledge to other cases in individual research papers.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you should:

- analytically reflect on state-society relations in China
- understand the role of state and civil society
- critically reflect on political and social transformations
- develop important critical thinking skills

Learning Activities

Students are required to attend a two-hour lecture followed by a one-hour tutorial session every week. They will be expected to have done the required readings before the lecture, so that they can ask informed questions. The tutorial time will be used to discuss the readings, the lecture and the various research topics. This course uses the CUHK eLearning system, which can be found at <https://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk>. The course readings, assignments and recent announcements are uploaded on this platform. Make sure to check it regularly.

Assessment Scheme

- Attendance and active participation: 5% of the course grade is attendance and 10% goes to active participation in class discussions.
- Short reflections on the reading: Students are required to prepare for the class by reading the required reading and sending a short reflection (200-500 words) on the reading by email (10%).
- Research paper: ~5,000 word paper (50%)
 - Short presentations related to their paper topic (15%).
 - A one-page paper outline (unmarked)
 - A peer review (10%) in the form of a full text
 - The final paper should be submitted to VeriGuide by 12am (midnight) of the due date.
 - Please also submit a hard copy of the paper and the signed VeriGuide receipt to the mailbox as soon as possible afterwards. VeriGuide can be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide>.
 - Late assignments will NOT be accepted.
 - Further details will be provided in the first week

Course Grading System:

Attendance and active participation	15%
Short reflections on the reading	10%
Presentation	15%
Peer review	10%
Research paper	50%

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of the policies, regulations and procedures.

Course Schedule

[PDF versions of readings and assignments can be found on the CUHK eLearning System. Registered students may access the CHES5135 account by using their Student ID and OnePass password]

WEEK 1 (10 Sep): Introduction

WEEK 2 (17 Sep): Debating state and civil society

Alagappa, Muthiah. "Civil society and political change: An analytical framework." *Civil society and political change in Asia: Expanding and contracting democratic space*. Stanford: Stanford University Press (2004): 25-57.

Lewis, David. "Civil society and the authoritarian state: Cooperation, contestation and discourse." *Journal of Civil Society* 9, no. 3 (2013): 325-340.

WEEK 3 (24 Sep): Overview of state-society relations in China

He, Baogang. "The Making of a Nascent Civil Society in China," David C. Schak, and Wayne Hudson, eds. *Civil Society in Asia*. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing, 2003: 114-139.

Wright, Teresa. *Accepting authoritarianism: state-society relations in China's reform era*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010. Chapter 1

Yang, David Da-hua. "Civil society as an analytic lens for contemporary China." *China: An International Journal* 2, no. 01 (2004): 1-27

WEEK 4 (1 Oct): NO CLASS – Holiday

4 October 2020 Paper outline due

WEEK 5 (8 Oct): State, society and the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre

Ostergaard, Clemens Stubbe. "Citizens, groups and a nascent civil society in China: towards an understanding of the 1989 student demonstrations." *China Information* 4, no. 2 (1989): 28-41.

Zhao, Dingxin. "State legitimacy and dynamics of the 1989 pro-democracy movement in Beijing." In Jeffrey Broadbent and Vicky Brockman (eds.) *East Asian Social Movements*, pp. 385-411. New York: Springer, 2011.

WEEK 6 (15 Oct): China's middle class and democratization

Nathan, Andrew J. "The Puzzle of the Chinese Middle Class." *Journal of Democracy* 27, no. 2 (2016): 5-19.

Hu Xiaobo. "The Middle Class in Chinese Democratisation." In Wei Shan and Lihun Yang (eds.) *Changing State-Society Relations in Contemporary China*, pp. 107-122. Singapore: World Scientific, 2017.

WEEK 7 (22 Oct): Contentious politics in China

Cai, Yongshun. "Power structure and regime resilience: contentious politics in China." *British Journal of Political Science* 38, no. 03 (2008): 411-432.

O'Brien, Kevin J. "Rightful resistance." *World Politics* 49, no. 01 (1996): 31-55.

Lorentzen, Peter. "Designing contentious politics in post-1989 China." *Modern China* 43, no. 5 (2017): 459-493.

WEEK 8 (29 Oct): Corporatism in China

Unger, Jonathan, and Anita Chan. "China, corporatism, and the East Asian model." *The Australian Journal of Chinese Affairs* 33 (1995): 29-53.

Hsu, Jennifer YJ, and Reza Hasmath. "The local corporatist state and NGO relations in China." *Journal of Contemporary China* 23, no. 87 (2014): 516-534.

Teets, Jessica C. "Let many civil societies bloom: The rise of consultative authoritarianism in China." *The China Quarterly* 213 (2013): 19-38.

WEEK 9 (5 November): *Civil society and the environment in China*

Ho, Peter. "Greening without conflict? Environmentalism, NGOs and civil society in China." *Development and Change* 32, no. 5 (2001): 893-921.

Thibaut, Johann L. "An environmental civil society in China? Bridging theoretical gaps through a case study of environmental protest." In *Internationales Asien Forum. International Quarterly for Asian Studies*, vol. 42, no. 1/2, p. 135. Arnold Bergsträsser Institut, 2011.

WEEK 10 (12 November): *Women and civil society in China*

Guo Xiajuan and Yang Lijun. "Women's political participation in China." In Wei Shan and Lihun Yang (eds.) *Changing State-Society Relations in Contemporary China*, pp. 249-265. Singapore: World Scientific, 2017.

Zeng, Benxiang. "Women's political participation in China: improved or not?" *Journal of International Women's Studies* 15, no. 1 (2014): 136-150.

15 November 2020: Paper draft due for peer review

WEEK 11 (19 November): *Religion, state and society in China*

Zimmermann-Liu, Teresa and Teresa Wright. "Making sense of China's state-society relations: Unregistered Protestant churches in the reform era." In Francis Khek Gee Lim (eds.) *Christianity in Contemporary China: Socio-cultural Perspectives*, pp. 220-233. Abingdon and London: Routledge, 2012.

Mauldin, Joshua T. "Law, Religion, and Society in China: A Contested Terrain." *Journal of Law and Religion* 35, no. 1 (2020): 102-112.

22 November 2020: Peer review due

WEEK 12 (26 November): *Traditional media and society in China*

Shambaugh, David. "China's propaganda system: Institutions, processes and efficacy." *The China Journal* 57 (2007): 25-58.

Cho, Li-Fung. "The Origins of Investigative Journalism: The Emergence of China's Watchdog Reporting." *Investigative journalism in China: eight cases in Chinese watchdog journalism*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press (2010).

WEEK 13 (3 December): *The rise of social media and censorship*

Han, Rongbin. "Manufacturing Consent in Cyberspace: China's 'Fifty-Cent Army'." *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 44, no. 2 (2015): 105-134.

King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. "How censorship in China allows government criticism but silences collective expression." *American Political Science Review* 107, no. 02 (2013): 326-343.

Yang, Guobin. "Internet activism & the party-state in China." *Daedalus* 143, no. 2 (2014): 110-123.

Sunday, 6 December 2020: Final paper due

Selected additional readings

- Brook, Timothy, and B. Michael Frolic, eds. *Civil society in China*. Armonk: ME Sharpe, 1997.
- Chen, Jie. *A middle class without democracy: Economic growth and the prospects for democratization in China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Hassid, Jonathan, and Wanning Sun. "Stability Maintenance and Chinese Media: Beyond Political Communication?" *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 44, no. 2 (2015): 3-15.
- Howell, Jude. "Civil society in China: Chipping away at the edges." *Development* 50, no. 3 (2007): 17-23.
- Howell, Jude. "Civil society, corporatism and capitalism in China." *Journal of Comparative Asian Development* 11, no. 2 (2012): 271-297.
- Howell, Jude. *Governance matters: key challenges and emerging tendencies*. Rowman and Littlefield Incorporated, 2003.
- Hsiung, Ping-Chun, Maria Jaschok, and Cecilia Milwertz, eds. *Chinese women organizing: Cadres, feminists, Muslims, queers*. London and New York: Routledge, 2020.
- Kang Xiaoguang and Han Heng. "Graduated controls the state-society relationship in contemporary China." *Modern China* 34, no. 1 (2008): 36-55.
- Ma, Shu-Yun. "The Chinese discourse on civil society." *The China Quarterly* 137 (1994): 180-193.
- Pang, Qin. *State-society relations and Confucian revivalism in contemporary China*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.
- Perry, Elizabeth J. "Trends in the study of Chinese politics: state-society relations." *The China Quarterly* 139 (1994): 704-713.
- Salmenkari, Taru. *Civil Society in China and Taiwan: Agency, Class and Boundaries*. London and New York: Routledge, 2017.
- Shan, Wei, and Lijun Yang, eds. *Changing State-Society Relations in Contemporary China*. Singapore: World Scientific, 2016.
- Sullivan, Jonathan. "China's Weibo: Is faster different?" *New Media & Society* 16, no. 1 (2014): 24-37.
- Teets, Jessica C. "Let many civil societies bloom: The rise of consultative authoritarianism in China." *The China Quarterly* 213 (2013): 19-38.
- Wu, Fengshi, and Shen Yang. "Web 2.0 and Political Engagement in China." *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations* (2015): 1-22.
- Yang, Guobin. "The Internet and civil society in China: A preliminary assessment." *Journal of Contemporary China* 12, no. 36 (2003): 453-475.
- Yang, Guobin. *The power of the Internet in China: Citizen activism online*. Columbia University Press, 2009.
- Yu, Jianxing, and Sujian Guo, eds. *Civil society and governance in China*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012.
- Zhang, Han. *China's Local Entrepreneurial State and New Urban Spaces: Downtown Redevelopment in Ningbo*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.