



# SNoW

Sino-Nordic Welfare Research Network

## Sino-Nordic Welfare Research Network

Financed by NordForsk (2011-2013) & Nordic Council of Ministers (2013-2015)

### Final Call for Papers!

#### SNoW PhD Course

#### **Analyzing Welfare Institutions, Policies and Politics in China and the Nordic Countries**

Nordic Centre, Fudan University, Shanghai

3-6 November 2015

*Please find the full text on topic and practicalities in the Call  
for papers in SNoW Newsletter no 1/2015:*

[1st issue / Volume 3 \(published March 2015\)](#)

*Please find a tentative Course Schedule on **page 2!***

***This is a final reminder of the deadline: 20 June 2015***

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## Analyzing Welfare Institutions, Policies and Politics in China and the Nordic Countries

Venue: Nordic Centre, Fudan University (Shanghai), Date: 3-6 November 2015

### How to apply for participation?

If you want to participate in the PhD-course please send an abstract (ca. 200 words outline of the paper you want to present) as well as a short bio (max. 1 page with name, title of PhD-project, affiliation, name of supervisor(s), discipline and contact details) to **Regina Wang** ([regina@nordiccentre.net](mailto:regina@nordiccentre.net)) at the Nordic Centre, Fudan University, and **Stein Kuhnle** ([stein.kuhnle@uib.no](mailto:stein.kuhnle@uib.no)) at the University of Bergen.

### Application date: 20 June 2015

Within two weeks after final application date you will be informed if you have been accepted or not. The maximum number of partly funded (see above) participants is 20, an additionally 5 students can be admitted at own cost. The full paper, ca. 5-6000 words, must be sent to the Regina Wang ([regina@nordiccentre.net](mailto:regina@nordiccentre.net)) and Stein Kuhnle ([stein.kuhnle@uib.no](mailto:stein.kuhnle@uib.no)) by 15 October 2015.

See also: SNoW homepage: <http://www.uib.no/en/snow>

### Tentative Course Schedule

#### SNoW PhD Course, Nordic Centre/Fudan, 3-6 November 2015

Monday 2 November: Arrival

18:00. Welcoming dinner

Tuesday 3 November: 9-12:

*Opening: Stein Kuhnle*

*Lecture 1: Pauli Kettunen:* (Transnational perspectives, topic: tbc)

*Lecture 2: Yuegen Xiong:* (topic: tbc)

12-14: Lunch

14-15:

*Lecture 3: Zhikai Wang:* "The role of social rights and social management in China's labour mobility"

15:30-17:00: *Panel debate:* How to compare China and Nordic/European countries? Concepts, Perspectives, Comparative empirical analysis  
(*Participants: tbc*)

17:00-18:00: **Student group work**, 4 groups; Case study

18:30: Dinner

Wednesday 4 November: 9-12:

*Lecture 4: Kinglun Ngok:* (topic: labour market policies and challenges)

*Lecture 5: Åsa Lundqvist:* "Gender Equality Policies in the Nordic Countries"

12-14 Lunch

14-17: **Parallel workshops I & II** (5 papers x 2)

18:00: Evening: excursion with dinner

Thursday 5 November: 9-12:

*Lecture 6: Ann-Zofie Duvander:* "Family Policy and Demographic Outcomes in the Nordic Countries"

*Lecture 7: Yifei Shen:* "Gender and Welfare Policies in China"

12-14: Lunch

14-15: *Lecture 8: Pan Yi:* (topic: tbc)

15-18: **Parallel workshops III & IV** (5 papers x 2)

Friday 6 November: 9-12:

*Lecture 9: Klaus Petersen:* (topic: social policy concepts)

*Lecture 10: Ka Lin:* (topic tbc)

12-14: Lunch

14-16: *Presentation of student group work* (case study); discussion

16-16.30: Closing session; handing out of certificates

18:00 Closing dinner

*Coffee breaks to be inserted in time table.*

NOTE: PhD candidates can listen in and participate in discussions in workshops beyond the one where they will themselves give a presentation: participants in workshops III and IV can choose to attend workshop I or II on 4 November; and participants in workshop I and II can choose to attend workshop III or IV on 5 November.

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## New Books on Social Policy in China

(Collected by Jing Xu, Fudan University)

### **China's Social Welfare: The Third Turning Point**

*Joe C. B. Leung (author), Yuebin Xu (author)*

*Bristol, Britain: Policy Press*

The extraordinary rise of China is one of the greatest global stories of recent times. However, China's development has been described as 'uneven, uncoordinated, and unsustainable', and has now reached a critical turning point. To transform itself into a successful high-income economy, China urgently needs to develop a new welfare regime. Social policy and social welfare program are pivotal not only to meet mounting social needs but also to promote social cohesion. This timely book explores key turning points in China's trajectory, from the creation of a socialist egalitarian society promising a relatively stable livelihood at the expense of economic development, through the market-oriented reforms which have dismantled the traditional social protection system. The authors present the formidable social challenges ahead, including demographic shift, residential migration, and corrosive inequalities, and outline the emerging forms of social security protection in urban and rural areas, community-based social care services, non-governmental organizations and the social work profession.

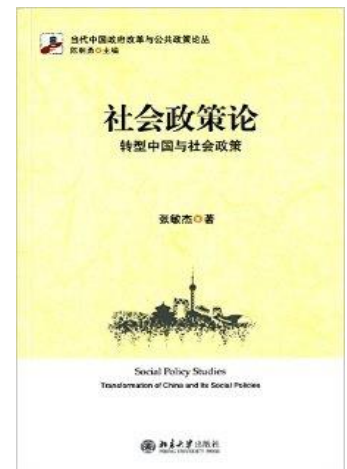


### **Social Policy Studies Transformation of China**

*Minjie Zhang (author)*

*Beijing, China: Peking University Press*

China has gone through a typical Chinese developing path and finds its new objective of social transformation. However, social development is still far behind economy with the lack of some basic policies in social management. Traditional public policy has limited the social transformation and leads to the problem of income disparity. Social Policy Studies Transformation of China has traced back to the history of China social policy, and tries to analyze the problems of transformation and construction. The author believes that China needs a more justice and foreseeing social policy system so that the government can take the responsibility to provide social welfare for those who are left behind.

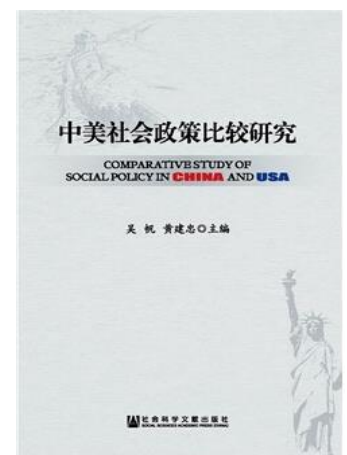


### **Comparative Study of Social Policy in China and USA**

*Fan Wu (ed.), Jianzhong Huang (ed.)*

*Beijing, China: Social Sciences Academic Press*

This book is based on the conference "Comparative Study of Social Policy in China and USA", which was held in Nankai University. It includes 13 essays from this conference, and has a deep discussion on the topic of social policy, social work, social organizations and women development in China and USA. All these scholars are professional in their research filed, and can help readers to know more about the social development of the two biggest countries in the world.



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## Upcoming Events: Conferences

(Collected by Jing Xu, Fudan University)

### **2015 Chinese Sociology Annual Conference**

2015 Annual Conference of Chinese Sociology will be held in Changsha from July 11th to 12th. The theme for this year is Social Transformation and Governance in a New Economic Background. And the conference will focus on the following topics: migration and society, social regime reform, eldercare sociology, social problems of education, social capital, urbanization, cultural sociology and other related topics.

<http://csa.cass.cn/news/749912.htm>

### **Conference on Urban Development in China**

Along its fast paced economic growth in the last decades, China went through a fast urbanization process since 1977, going from a mostly rural country to an urban society. While China is not the only emerging economy that went through a fast paced urbanization process, some specificities of the Chinese context lead to unique features and challenges, including hukou system, the reliance on public investment by both public companies and local governments and demographic changes. This conference will be held by International Business School Suzhou (IBSS) and Liverpool University (XJTLU) on June 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in Suzhou.

<http://www.rsac.org.cn/rsac/meetings/index/33>

## Recent Conferences, held in early June 2015:

(Collected by Jing Xu, Fudan University)

### **Aging and Eldercare Industry Conference**

Aging and Eldercare Industry Conference is held by Chinese Journal of Population Science. And the forum will begin at Fangchenggang on June 1st, 2015. It is aimed to have a look at the current situation, problem and challenges of aging China, and tries to provide some suggestions to develop eldercare industry. The topic includes the situation and trend of aging population, challenges of eldercare industry, developing path of eldercare industry, and endowment insurance transformation.

<http://iple.cass.cn/news/749271.htm>

### **International Conference - Labor, Mobility and Development in PRD and Beyond**

The annual social research conference of Pearl-River Delta will be held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, and the topic for this year is Labor, Mobility and Development in PRD and Beyond. Pearl-River Delta is one of the most fast developing areas in China, Universities Service Centre for China Studies hopes that this conference will help to discuss and share the related theories and researches about the social development and transformation of PRD and other forelands.

<http://www.sociology2010.cass.cn/news/749775.htm>



## Kristian Kongshøj

will defend his PhD dissertation at **Aalborg University** on 12 June 2015:  
**“Social Citizenship in China and the Nordic countries: Amorphous welfare states and their normative foundations”**



*The dissertation investigates three broad research questions: (1) What are the normative foundations of citizenship in China and the Nordic countries, both from a normative theoretical perspective and in terms of welfare attitudes among the citizenry; (2) To what degree has the goal of more universal welfare in China been achieved regarding health, unemployment and pensions, and what are the challenges in this regard?; (3) What have been the comparative policy reform paths in China and the Nordic countries vis-à-vis universalism and social rights in the same three policy fields?*

From a normative-theoretical perspective, social liberal or ‘egalitarian’ liberal citizenship is outlined on the basis of T.H. Marshall. ‘Confucianism’ is discussed as an approach to citizenship in comparison with traditional Western counterparts, including republicanism, communitarianism and liberalism. Conservatism is also included, and it is emphasized that Confucianism and social conservatism share some resemblances. Empirically, Chinese and Nordic citizens have distinct perceptions and normative orientations in terms of welfare and inequality, but this partly reflects that China is a strong outlier in the ISSP 2009 survey. By the statistical method of latent class analysis, four qualitatively different types of citizens emerge within each country. One corresponds roughly to egalitarian liberalism, while the other to some extent resembles ‘Confucianism’. Potential theoretical explanations are discussed.

As regards the second research question, it is concluded that China has taken significant leaps towards more universal welfare, although it is primarily insurance-based. This includes increased coverage of existing schemes as well as the extension of new schemes within all three policy fields. This trend is most pronounced in the field of health insurance. The *hukou*-based divide in social rights is less pronounced than before. On the other hand, inadequate and even declining adequacy for those covered is also a pronounced trend. Big challenges in terms of financing and fragmentation across *hukou* and geographical divides remain. This is most pronounced in the field of pensions.

Finally, it is shown how certain historical paths towards more universal welfare are shared between China and the Nordic countries. The timescale is relatively ‘compressed’ in China, and the Chinese problems partly reflect the challenge of extending and restructuring the welfare system at the same time. The points of departure are very different, but both China and the Nordic countries have reformed their pension systems towards multi-tiered and multi-pillar pension systems. Declining generosity of unemployment protection is also a shared experience. The Nordic pension systems do not share the same inadequacies and future problems, however, and Nordic unemployment protection is relatively more universal. The policy field of health care is where Sino-Nordic differences are most pronounced, although some historical Nordic mechanisms of ‘universalization’ resemble the current Chinese trends. It is also emphasized, however, that many of these common trends, whether historical or contemporary, are not exclusive to these five country cases. The Nordic development is to some extent general to other Western welfare states, just as some traits of Chinese social reforms resemble changes in other developing economies.

**Hans Jørgen Gåsemyr**

will defend his PhD dissertation at the **University of Bergen**, on 26 June 2015:

**“Non-governmental participation within authoritarian constraints: Twenty years of organizational growth and institutional development around AIDS in China”**

*The two main research questions raised in the dissertation are: How do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) develop within authoritarian and formally restrictive settings? And why has the non-governmental participation around AIDS in China increased?*

The dissertation consists of a very comprehensive introduction (about 103 pages) and five journal articles, and explores and explains the evolution of four main processes and several mechanisms that have led to more non-governmental organizing around AIDS-related issues in China over the past two decades. The dissertation research documents and explains the brokering of new institutional arrangements and the emergence of almost 2,000 NGOs and smaller groups. It is a case study of civil society and NGO development in an authoritarian, high-capacity, and developing country, where non-governmental actors have restricted, but real, opportunities to emerge, work, and develop. The dissertation combines actor- and system-oriented explanations, highlighting the roles of human agency, informal institutions, and structural constraints. It draws on new institutionalism theory and studies on contentious politics and social movements in exploring and explaining how NGOs can function and progress within authoritarian settings. The analyses build on extensive data collection, including a quantitative mapping of Chinese, AIDS-related organizations and groups, qualitative and in-depth studies of 41 NGOs in multiple Chinese cities, and more than 150 interviews conducted over a period of several years. One major finding is that the need for more social and health-related services have led to more and innovative cooperation between social and voluntary organizations and governmental authorities in many places, in spite of formal rules and constraints.

The titles of the five journal articles are: (1) “Twenty Years of Mobilising around AIDS in China: The Main Actors and Influences behind Organisational Growth”; (2) “Networks and Campaigns but Not Movements: Collective Action in the Disciplining Chinese State”; (3) “International Support to Civil Society: Breaking New Ground through Informal Institutions”; (4) Navigation and Circumvention: The Tricks of the Trade of Developing NGOs in China”; (5) Building NGO-Government Relations within Authoritarian Constraints: The Case of Selective Cooperation around AIDS in China”.

## What is going on in the social work practice in China and Finland?

Ping Fang & Riitta-Liisa Kokko & Raija Koskinen

June 6th 2015



We are currently doing research where Finnish perspective, representing the Nordic welfare model, is combined as the data from Chinese social work practices is gathered and analyzed. Our interest is to find out more about the ways in which social work as negotiated activity is implemented in practice in urban areas of China. The Chinese government has put a lot of resources in establishing social work education in the universities since the 1980s. In the turn of the new century, at the local and practical level the educated social workers in various positions meet multifaceted challenges in finding their role as part of the established welfare system. One of our primary findings is that there are similar challenges to be dealt with when social work is implemented in Finland and China: the value-base of work, the use of concepts and resources and the task given for social work by the state. These findings encourage us to disseminate our data from a comparative perspective.

Two periods of field research have been realized during the spring 2015 in Shanghai. The data gathered includes interviews, fieldwork notes and documents used in social work practice. Some data concerning Beijing is gathered through Raija Koskinen's involvement in a project *Finnish-Chinese Collaboration for Doctoral Studies in Social Work* (FCSW) financed in 2013 – 2015 by CIMO. Furthermore, the research makes use of data gathered by Ping Fang in Guangzhou in 2014. More data concerning the development of social work in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou is still to be gathered in form of enquiries by using the contacts established with practitioners during the fieldwork period. In order to have strong enough base for comparative analysis some new data is also gathered in Finland eventually in form of enquiries.

One of the key elements in being able to realize our research is the contacts established within SNoW. Raija Koskinen and Ping Fang when participating the PhD course organized by SNoW in 2013, found mutual interests within welfare state research on the topics focusing on social work development. Research funding to do field work in China 2015 was granted for Finnish PhD student Raija Koskinen and Finnish PhD, university lecturer Riitta-Liisa Kokko by the University of Helsinki through CIMO's China project *New Possibilities in Mobility*. The plan titled "*The social work management practices in China seen from the Finnish perspective*" was in the autumn 2014 introduced to professor Yuan Ren, Fudan University who kindly agreed to support the research as our supervisor in China. Furthermore, the plan was introduced to Chinese PhD student Ping Fang, Sun Yat-sen University, who currently is involved in our research setting.

## SNoW participates in two collaborative activities in June 2015:

### (1) NordWel International Summer School: “State, society & citizen – cross-disciplinary perspectives on welfare state development”

**NordWel**, the Nordic Centre of Excellence: *The Nordic Welfare States – Historical Foundations and Future Challenges*, organizes in cooperation with **SNoW**, Sino-Nordic Welfare Research Network, an international summer school for PhD candidates at the University of Helsinki during 9-12 June 2015. The program consists of lectures, workshops and panel discussion. The lectures are held by international and Nordic senior scholars and address different central themes and topics in welfare research. PhD candidates are invited to present their paper and get comments from our senior scholars and fellow students. A total of 16 PhD candidates have been admitted to the Summer School, mostly from the Nordic countries and China.

For more information on the organization and program, see:

<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/nord-wel/summer-school/nordwel-international-summer-school-2015/>

### (2) CASS International Conference on “Ageing Welfare and Social Policy” Conference Briefing of Sino-Nordic Welfare Forum

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sino-Nordic Welfare Forum with the theme of “Ageing Welfare and Social Policy” will be jointly held by Sino-Nordic Welfare Laboratory in the Institute of Sociology (IOS), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and Sino-Nordic Welfare Research Network (SNoW) on 20-21, June, 2015 in Beijing.

CASS is one of the national academies and think tank and strategy and policy advisors on social sciences in China. The Institute of Sociology (IOS) at CASS has a promising research team on welfare and social policy, and it will play important roles in exploring the macroscopic design and microscopic evaluation of social policy on the construction of Chinese social welfare system. The conference will discuss many issues around the topics of general ageing policy, care services, long term care, community care, ageing poverty, pensions and education system for the elderly.

A Call for papers was included in SNoW Newsletter no1/March 2015. About 20 papers will be presented, among these 6 from Nordic participants, from four of the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. A report on the seminar will be included in the *SNoW Newsletter* no 3/September 2015.