Sociology 723 (Spring 2011)

Seminar in Modern Chinese Society

Seio Nakajima

Tuesday 1:00-3:30 pm, SAUND 247B

Office hours: TBA
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Course Description:

This seminar has three major goals: (1) to familiarize students with the evolution and the current state of the study of contemporary Chinese society by discussing some important substantive topics (e.g., rural society, urban society, family, household, and population, gender and sexuality, work and labor) (mastering of substantive topics); (2) to consider how research on contemporary Chinese society both draws from and informs sociological and other theories (mastering of theory); (3) to prepare a research proposal on a subject of the student's choosing (mastering of methods and research design). Although the substantive topics we deal with in this seminar are drawn from Chinese society, it is my hope that this seminar will help students acquire necessary knowledge and skills to embark on a theoretically-informed and methodologically-sound research on any society of interest to students.

Notes:

- Although the formal title of this seminar is *Modern* Chinese Society, I have decided to focus our readings and discussions on *contemporary* Chinese society in the era of Reform and Opening (1978-present). We have two weeks (Week 14 & 17) discussing some historical issues, but we will *not* survey the entire history of modern Chinese society.
- Students should be aware that this is an extremely reading and discussion-intensive course. Seminar participants are expected to be prepared for every class.
- In addition to the three major goals above, whenever appropriate, we will discuss miscellaneous technical "know-how" of doing academic research (on China). E.g., how to arrange interview appointments, what recording devices to use, effective collection of visual data, use of EndNote software for organizing references, etc. What to discuss each semester largely depends on the needs and interests of the students taking the course.
- Where possible, I have arranged the readings so the chapters from *Doing Fieldwork in China* are read together with substantive research articles written by the authors of the chapters in the *Doing Fieldwork* volume. In other cases, I have included articles from other authors.
- Although each reading is assigned to a weekly topic (e.g., "Urban Society," "Gender and Sexuality"), many, if not all, of the readings are relevant to a number of substantive topics. So, when you do the readings, try to bring in what you've learned in other weeks to organically connect multiple topic areas to discuss the week's readings.
- Because I understand students come from diverse disciplinary background, I do *not* expect all students to have graduate-level knowledge on sociological theory and methods. I will provide "mini-lectures" on sociology (and other topics) whenever necessary so every student has an equal opportunity to learn from and enjoy this seminar!

Required Texts:

- Heimer, Maria, and Stig Thøgersen (Eds.). 2006. *Doing Fieldwork in China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Hsing, You-tien, and Ching Kwan Lee, (Eds.). 2009. *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*. London: Routledge.
- A coursepack of readings (available at Professional Image, 2633 South King St., ph: 973-6599). Marked with * in the reading list.
- Readings available at UH Library Electronic Resources (students obtain themselves). Marked with @ in the reading list.

Course Requirements:

1) Active participation in seminar discussions.
   Remember the aphorism: "Even to have expressed a false thought boldly and clearly is already to have gained a great deal." (Ludwig Wittgenstein). So, don't be shy and speak up!
2) Weekly electronic reading notes.
   Every week you will submit reading notes (approx. 1-2 pages) to the class electronically (using Laulima; details TBA) by **11:59 pm, Monday, on the eve of the class**. The reading notes should be a reaction/critical engagement rather than a simple summary of the readings assigned for the week (so you don't necessarily need to refer to every one of the assigned readings). You might focus on the questions you want to ask in the class, or point to gaps and conflicts in one or more readings. The purpose of these reading notes is to stimulate class discussion.
3) Being a discussant for two class sessions.
   A discussant will be responsible for leading at least a brief discussion around the points raised in his/her weekly electronic reading notes.
4) A Research proposal.
   A research proposal on a topic of student's own choosing in consultation with the instructor (approx. 20 double-spaced pages; 30 pages max.) With the instructor's approval, students may substitute a completed research paper for the research proposal. The following schedule will be in effect (tentative):

   February 22: Short initial proposal (1-2 pages) due at Laulima by 11:59 pm.
   April 5: A full rough first draft of the research proposal/paper due at Laulima by 11:59 pm.
   May 3: The final draft due at Laulima by 11:59 pm.

Week 1: January 11: Introduction

No required reading. Get acquainted.

Week 2: January 18: State of the Field

*Gold, Thomas B. 1993. "The Study of Chinese Society." Pp. 43-64 in *American Studies of Contemporary China*, edited by David Shambaugh. Armonk, New York: An East Gate Book.

*Bian, Yanjie. 2002/2003. "Sociological Research on Reform-Era China." *Issues & Studies, Special Issue: "The State of the China Studies Field"* 38/39:139-174.

Thøgersen, Stig, and Maria Heimer. 2006. "Introduction." Pp. 1-23 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

O'Brien, Kevin J. 2006. "Discovery, Research (Re)design, and Theory Building." Pp. 27-41 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Sæther, Elin. 2006. "Fieldwork as Coping and Learning." Pp. 58-77 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Heimer, Maria. 2006. "Field Sites, Research Design and Type of Findings." Pp. 58-77 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Lee, Ching Kwan, and You-tien Hsing. 2009. "Social Activism in China: Agency and Possibility." Pp. 1-13 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

Discussant (s): No assigned discussant. Discuss together.

Week 3: January 25: Rural Society

Thøgersen, Stig. 2006. "Beyond Official Chinese: Language Codes and Strategies." Pp. 110-126 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Thøgersen, Stig. 2006. "Approaching the Field Through Written Sources." Pp. 189-205 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

@Thøgersen, Stig. 2000. "Cultural Life and Cultural Control in Rural China: Where is the Party?" *The China Journal* 44:129-141.

Ying, Xing. 2009. "Barefoot Lawyers and Rural Conflicts." Pp. 64-82 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

Herrold-Menzies. 2009. "Peasant Resistance Against Nature Reserves." Pp. 83-98 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

Discussant (s):

Week 4: February 1: Urban Society

Solinger, Dorothy J. 2006. "Interviewing Chinese People: From High-Level Officials to the Unemployed." Pp. 153-167 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

*Solinger, Dorothy J. 2002. "The Floating Population in the Cities: Markets, Migration, and the Prospects for Citizenship." Pp. 273-288 in *China Off Center: Mapping the Margins of the Middle Kingdom*, edited by Susan D. Blum and Lionel M. Jensen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Kjellgren, Björn. 2006. "The Significance of Benevolence and Wisdom: Reflections on Field Positionality." Pp. 225-244 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Mark Selden. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

*Kjellgren, Björn. 1999. "Trends in Urban Chinese Culture: The Shenzhen Experience." *Stockholm Journal of East Asian Studies* 10:97-123.

Hsing, You-tien. 2009. “Urban Housing Mobilizations.” Pp. 17-41 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

@Zhang, Li. 2006. “Contesting Spatial Modernity in Late-Socialist China.” *Current Anthropology* Vol. 47, No. 3:461-484.

Discussant (s):

Week 5: February 8: Family, Household, and Population

@Attané, Isabelle. 2002. "A Half Century of Chinese Socialism: The Changing Fortunes of Peasant Families." *Journal of Family History* 27:150-171.

*White, Tyrene. 2010. "Domination, Resistance and Accommodation in China's One-Child Campaign." Pp. 171-196 in *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance, 3rd Edition*, edited by Elizabeth J. Perry and Mark Selden. London, UK: Routledge.

*Lee, Sing, and Arthur Kleinman. 2003. "Suicide as Resistance in Chinese Society." Pp. 289-311 in *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance, 2nd Edition*, edited by Elizabeth J. Perry and Mark Selden. London, UK: Routledge.

*Davis, Deborah S. 2004. "Talking About Property in the New Chinese Domestic Property Regime." Pp. 288-307 in *The Sociology of the Economy*, edited by Frank Dobbin. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Discussant (s):

Week 6: February 15: Gender and Sexuality

*Rofel, Lisa. 1994. "Liberation Nostalgia and a Yearning for Modernity." Pp. 226-249 in *Engendering China: Women, Culture, and the State*, edited by Christina K. Gilmartin, Gail Hershatter, Lisa Rofel, and Tyrene White. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Zheng, Wang. 2009. "Feminist Networks." Pp. 101-118 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

*Hyde, Sandra Teresa. 2001. "Sex Tourism Practices on the Periphery: Eroticizing Ethnicity and Pathologizing Sex on Lancang." Pp. 143-162 in *China Urban: Ethnographies of Contemporary Culture*, edited by Nancy N. Chen, Constance D. Clark, Suzanne Z. Gottschang, and Lyn Jeffery. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

@Farrer, James. 2008. "Play and Power in Chinese Nightlife Spaces." *China: An International Review* Vol. 6, Number 1:1-17.

Discussant (s):

Week 7: February 22: Work and Labor

RESEARCH PROPOSAL/PAPER SHORT INITIAL PROPOSAL (1-2 pages) DUE AT LAULIMA BY 11:59 PM.

Lee, Ching Kwan. 2009 “Workers and the Quest for Citizenship.” Pp. 42-63 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

*Blecher, Marc J. 2006. "Hegemony and Workers' Politics in China." Pp. 405-427 in *China's Deep Reform: Domestic Politics in Transition*, edited by Lowel Dittmer and Guoli Liu. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

@Hanser, Amy. 2007. "Is the Customer Always Right? Class, Service, and the Production of Distinction in Chinese Department Stores." *Theory and Society* 36:415-435.

@Otis, Eileen M. 2008. "Beyond the Industrial Paradigm: Market-Embedded Labor and the Gender Organization of Global Service Work in China." *American Sociological Review* 73:15-36.

Discussant (s):

Week 8: March 1: Religion

Madsen, Richard. 2009. "Religious Revival." Pp. 140-156 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

@Vala, Carsten T., and Kevin J. O'Brien. 2007. "Attraction Without Networks: Recruiting Strangers to Unregistered Protestantism in China." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* Volume 12, Number 1:79-94.

@Ashiwa, Yoshiko, and David Wank. 2006. "The Politics of a Reviving Buddhist Temple: State, Association, and Temple in Southeast China." *Journal of Asian Studies* 65:337-359.

*Ashiwa, Yoshiko, and David Wank. 2009. "Making Religion, Making the State in Modern China." Pp. 1-21 in *Making Religion, Making the State*, edited by Yoshiko Ashiwa and David Wank. Stanford University Press.

*Gladney, Dru C. 2009. "Islam in China: State Policing and Identity Politics." Pp. 151-178 in *Making Religion, Making the State*, edited by Yoshiko Ashiwa and David Wank. Stanford University Press.

Discussant (s):

Week 9: March 8: Ethnicity and Diversity

Hansen, Mette Halskov. 2006. "In the Footsteps of Communist Party: Dilemmas and Strategies." Pp. 81-95 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

@Hansen, Mette Halskov. 1999. "The Call of Mao or Money?: Han Chinese Settlers on China's Southwestern Borders." *The China Quarterly* 158, June:394-413.

Yeh, Emily T. 2006. "'An Open Lhasa Welcomes You': Disciplining the Researcher in Tibet " Pp. 96-109 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

@Yeh, Emily T. 2007. "Tropes of Indolence and the Cultural Politics of Development in Lhasa, Tibet." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 97:593-612.

Thunø, Mette. 2006. "In the 'Field' Together: Potentials and Pitfalls in Collaborative Research." Pp. 245-261 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

@Thunø, Mette, and Frank N. Pieke. 2005. "Institutionalizing Recent Rural Emigration from China to Europe: New Transnational Villages in Fujian." *International Migration Review* 39:485-514.

*Bulag, Uradyne E. 2010. "Alter/native Mongolian Identity: From Nationality to Ethnic Group." Pp. 261-287 in *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance, 3rd Edition*, edited by

Elizabeth J. Perry and Mark Selden. London, UK: Routledge.

Discussant (s):

Week 10: March 15: Environmental Issues

@Ho, Peter. 2006. "Trajectories of Greening in China: Theory and Practice." *Development and Change* 37:3-28.

@Mol, Arthur P. J. 2006. "Environment and Modernity in Transitional China: Frontiers of Ecological Modernization." *Development and Change* 37:29-56.

@Yang, Guobing. 2005. "Environmental NGOs and Institutional Dynamics in China." *The China Quarterly* 181:46-66.

Yang, Guobing. 2009. "Civic Environmentalism." Pp. 119-139 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

Discussant (s):

Week 11: March 22: Spring Break-NO CLASS

Week 12: March 29: Civil Society, Human Rights, and Dissident Movements

He, Baogang. 2006. "Consultancy: A Different Gate to the Field." Pp. 168-188 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

*He, Baogang. 2003. "The Making of a Nascent Civil Society in China." Pp. 114-139 in *Civil Society in Asia*, edited by David C. Schak and Wayne Hudson. Hampshire, England: Ashgate Publishing Limited.

Svensson, Marina. 2006. "Ethical Dilemmas: Balancing Distance with Involvement." Pp. 262-280 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Mark Selden. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

*Pei, Minxin. 2010. "Rights and Resistance: The Changing Contexts of the Dissident Movement." Pp. 31-56 in *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance, 3rd Edition*, edited by Elizabeth J. Perry and Mark Selden. London, UK: Routledge.

*Barmé, Geremie R. 2010. "The Revolution of Resistance." Pp. 288-317 in *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance, 3rd Edition*, edited by Elizabeth J. Perry and Mark Selden. London, UK: Routledge.

@Chen, Jie, and Bruce J. Dickson. 2008. "Allies of the State: Democratic Support and Regime Support among China's Private Entrepreneurs." *The China Quarterly* 196:780-804.

Discussant (s):

Week 13: April 5: Popular Culture

FULL ROUGH FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL PAPER DUE AT LAULIMA BY 11:59 PM.

@Davis, Deborah S. 2005. "Urban Consumer Culture." *The China Quarterly* 183:692-709.

Nakajima, Seio. 2009. "Film as Cultural Politics." Pp. 159-183 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society:The New Social Activism*, edited by You-tien Hsing and Ching Kwan Lee.

London, UK: Routledge.

Wei, Bu. 2006. "Looking for 'the Insider's Perspective': Human Trafficking in Sichuan." Pp. 209-224 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Pan, Zhongdang. 2009. "Bounded Innovation in the Media." Pp. 184-206 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

Woodworth, Max D. 2009. "Inner City Culture Wars." Pp. 207-224 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

Fiskesjö, Magnus. 2009. "Politics of Cultural Heritage." Pp. 225-245 in *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and You-tien Hsing. London: Routledge.

Discussant (s):

Week 14: April 12: History and Memory

*Lee, Ching Kwan, and Guobin Yang. 2007. "Introduction: Memory, Power, and Culture." Pp. 1-20 in *Re-envisioning the Chinese Revolution: The Politics and Poetics of Collective Memories in Reform China*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and Guobin Yang. Stanford University Press.

*Pickowicz, Paul G. 2007. "Rural Protest Letters: Local Perspectives on the State's Revolutionary War on Tillers, 1960-1990." Pp. 21-49 in *Re-envisioning the Chinese Revolution: The Politics and Poetics of Collective Memories in Reform China*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and Guobin Yang. Stanford University Press.

*Lee, Ching Kwan. 2007. "What Was Socialism to Chinese Workers? Collective Memories and Labor Politics in an Age of Reform." Pp. 141-165 in *Re-envisioning the Chinese Revolution: The Politics and Poetics of Collective Memories in Reform China*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and Guobin Yang. Stanford University Press.

*Chi, Robert. 2007. "'The March of the Volunteers': From Movie Theme Song to National Anthem." Pp. 217-244 in *Re-envisioning the Chinese Revolution: The Politics and Poetics of Collective Memories in Reform China*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and Guobin Yang. Stanford University Press.

*Denton, Kirk A. 2007. "Horror and Atrocity: Memory of Japanese Imperialism in Chinese Museums." Pp. 245-286 in *Re-envisioning the Chinese Revolution: The Politics and Poetics of Collective Memories in Reform China*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and Guobin Yang. Stanford University Press.

Discussant (s):

Week 15: April 19: Market Transition Debate, Social Stratification, Inequality, and Education

Gustafsson, Björn, and Li Shi. 2006. "Three Ways to Obtain Household Income Data." Pp. 129-152 in *Doing Fieldwork in China*, edited by Maria Heimer and Stig Thøgersen. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

@Bian, Yanjie. 2002. "Chinese Social Stratification and Social Mobility." *Annual Review of Sociology* 28:91-116.

@Nee, Victor. 1996. "The Emergence of a Market Society: Changing Mechanisms of Stratification in China." *American Journal of Sociology* 101:908-949.

@Nee, Victor. 2007. "China in Transition: An Interview with Victor Nee." *Accounts* 7:2-5. (available at: http://www.economyandsociety.org/ASA_EconSoc_Newsletter_Interview_Fall2007_Nee.pdf)

*Hannum, Emily, and Albert Park. 2009. "Market Reform and Educational Opportunity in China." In *Education and Reform in China*, edited by Emily Hannum and Albert Park. London: Routledge.

*Lin, Jing. 2009. "Emergence of Private Schools in China: Context, Characteristics and Implications." In *Education and Reform in China*, edited by Emily Hannum and Albert Park. London: Routledge.

Discussant (s):

Week 16: April 26: Debate on Guanxi

*Gold, Thomas B., Doug Guthrie, and David Wank. 2002. "An Introduction to the Study of Guanxi." Pp. 3-20 in *Social Connections in China: Institutions, Culture, and the Changing Nature of Guanxi*, edited by Thomas B. Gold, Doug Guthrie, and David Wank. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

@Guthrie, Doug. 1998. "The Declining Significance of Guanxi in China's Economic Transition." *The China Quarterly* 154:254-282.

@Yang, Mayfair Mei-hui. 2002. "The Resilience of Guanxi and its New Deployments: A Critique of Some New Guanxi Scholarship." *The China Quarterly* 170:459-476.

@Chan, Cheris Shun-ching. 2009. "Invigorating the Content in Social Embeddedness: An Ethnography of Life Insurance Transactions in China." *American Journal of Sociology* Volume 115 Number 3:712-754.

Discussant (s):

Week 17: May 3: New Sociological Studies of the Cultural Revolution

RESEARCH PROPOSAL/PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE AT LAULIMA BY 11:59 PM.

@Walder, Andrew G. 2006. "Ambiguity and Choice in Political Movements: The Origins of Beijing Red Guard Factionalism." *American Journal of Sociology* 112:710-750.

@Andreas, Joel. 2007. "The Structure of Charismatic Mobilization: A Case Study of Rebellion During the Chinese Cultural Revolution." *American Sociological Review* 72:434-458.

*Yang, Guobing. 2007. "'A Portrait of Martyr Jiang Qing': The Chinese Cultural Revolution on the Internet." Pp. 287-316 in *Re-envisioning the Chinese Revolution: The Politics and Poetics of Collective Memories in Reform China*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee and Guobing Yang: Woodrow Wilson Press and Stanford University Press.

Discussant (s):

Academic Honesty: “Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:
a. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.
b. Furnishing false information to any UH official, faculty member, or office.
c. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any UH document, record, or form of identification.
The term ‘cheating’ includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the UH faculty, staff or student (4) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.
The term ‘plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials."
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