**Uint 11**

**Past Events**

***Mass Movements and Rural Governance in Communist China***

*Co-sponsored by the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies*

[**Li Lifeng**](http://www.harvard-yenching.org/scholars/li-lifeng) (Professor, Department of Political Science, Nanjing University; HYI Visiting Scholar 2012-13)  
Discussant: **Elizabeth Perry** (Henry Rosovsky Professor of Government, Harvard University; Director, Harvard-Yenching Institute)

**Date**: Tuesday, October 2, 2012  
**Time**: 12:00 - 1:30 pm  
**Location**: Yenching Common Room, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge

Successive mass movements spread like wildfire across China’s urban and rural areas after the founding of the People’s Republic, setting the tone for the nation’s domestic politics until late 1970s. Mass movements had already been adopted as an unconventional political strategy during the revolutionary era and continued to be practiced as an effective strategy of mobilization and governance long after the revolutionary victory. Building upon his earlier research on land reform, the first among dozens of nationwide political movements, Professor Li will examine the features and functions of mass movements in Communist China, especially the close and complicated connections between mass movements and rural governance and the lasting impact of such legacies in contemporary China. The goal is to shed new light on political operations in both revolutionary and post-revolutionary China.

***Training Program: Social Sciences Approaches to Chinese Everyday Life since 1978: Family, Education, Religion and Consumption***

**Date**: June 20 - July 3, 2012  
**Location**: Johns Hopkins University - Nanjing University Centre for Chinese and American Studies

The Harvard-Yenching Institute, Nanjing University and the University of Sydney are pleased to announce a new training program on "Social Sciences Approaches to Chinese Everyday Life since 1978: Family, Education, Religion and Consumption". The aims of the program are to spotlight the international implications of Chinese experiences against the background of globalization; to provide young scholars of the world engaged in China studies an opportunity to understand China; to share academic wisdom with outstanding researchers and be enlightened by criticisms from the younger generation; to initiate world-wide communication and cooperation among institutes for China Studies; and to advance international studies of China and promote their intellectual accumulation.

[Additional information](http://www.harvard-yenching.org/features/nanjing-university-training-program-2012)

***Women in Academia: Meritocracy and Gender Equality***

**Date**: June 18-19, 2012  
**Location**: Seoul National University

Sponsored by Institute for Gender Research, Seoul National University, Harvard-Yenching Institute, and Korea Institute, Harvard University

Organizers: Sun Joo Kim, Harvard-Yenching Professor of Korean History, Harvard University; Chung Chin-sung, Professor of Sociology, Seoul National University; Lee Na-young, Sociology, Chung-ang University

[**Conference schedule**](http://www.harvard-yenching.org/sites/harvard-yenching.org/files/featurefiles/Women%20in%20Academia%20schedule%20final.doc)

Women’s status in modern Korea has recently made much improvement, and now Korean women enjoy almost equal legal status as men in all aspects of life. With the legal inscription of gender equality in both domestic and public realms, women now have more representation in politics, business, and education. Discrimination of daughters in higher education has nearly disappeared as women comprise almost half of college students in Korea, and increasingly more women pursue graduate and professional degrees. Yet employment data, at the managerial and professional levels in particular, is not parallel to the educational level. In academia, institutional efforts have been made to hire more women faculty by assigning special employment quotas and by creating more congenial work environments for women over last decade. However, the representation of women in most departments and schools, except for a few women-dominated fields such as education, arts, and nursing, is still very meager and there are a number of departments at major universities that do not have a single woman faculty. More objective hiring and reviewing practices, such as grading publication records, have been introduced to put into practice true meritocracy. Whether adopting this type of conceivably more objective criteria in hiring and promotion practices has improved gender equality and meritocracy is controversial and questionable. This conference aims to analyze this discrepancy between legal and institutional prescriptions and employment practices in realizing gender equality, and tries to understand where the major obstacles exist. Comparative data and practices in China, Japan, and the United States will further enrich our understanding of the current status of gender equality in academia in these countries, and will give an opportunity to examine how different cultures and ideologies make impacts on policy making and practices.

***Social Welfare Development and Transformation of Governance: East Asian Drama***

**Date**: June 2012  
**Location**: Central China Normal University

This workshop will bring together scholars from different regions and areas of study, mainly the fields of political, sociological and public policy studies in East Asia, and will lalow for the exchange ideas on the following themes:

Theme 1: current trends and the future of East Asia welfare regimes  
Theme 2: the inter-government relationship in social welfare provision  
Theme 3: the role of the state and its relationship to civil society in social welfare provision  
Theme 4: seeking good governance in social welfare development

For more information, please contact Zhou Fenghua ([siluoip@163.com](mailto:siluoip@163.com)).

***Cultural Exchanges between Vietnam and East Asia***

**Date**: May 14-17, 2012  
**Location**: Institute of Culture, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, Hanoi

For Chinese, Lingnan refers to southern China. For Vietnamese, Linh Nam means “South of the border (with China)” in other words, the area now known as northern Vietnam. Whatever the exact geographical coverage of Lingnan/Linh Nam, it is clear that modern southern China and modern northern Vietnam share a common cultural heritage despite their divergent political histories after the tenth century.

During the 1950s, in both Vietnam and China the socialist state sought to radically transform local culture, by banning practices that were deemed superstitious and wasteful. Over the last three decades, economic reforms and political liberalization have led to the revival of traditional practices at the local level; in many cases, this revival is abetted by global actors such as UNESCO.

This workshop is intended to highlight some of the commonalities between the popular cultures of southern China and northern Vietnam and to compare the experiences of Chinese and Vietnamese in transforming, preserving and reviving local religio-cultural practices. Above all, it seeks to bring together scholars of Vietnam and China with the idea that they can benefit from such connections and comparisons.

***Buddhism and the Production of Social Space in Yangtze Delta during 1368-1949: Focusing on Township Formation Based on Temple Locations***

*Co-sponsored by Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies*

A talk by Prof. [**Zhang Weiran**](http://www.harvard-yenching.org/scholars/zhang-weiran)(Institute of Chinese Historical Geography, Fudan University; HYI Visiting Scholar 2011-12)

Discussant: **Peter Bol** (Carswell Professor of East Asian Languages Civilization, Director of the Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University)

**Date**: Thursday, May 10, 2012  
**Time**: 12:00 - 1:30 pm  
**Location**: Yenching Common Room, 2 Divinity Ave., Harvard University

***State Capacity and Local Governance: China and India Compared***

*A roundtable organized by the Harvard-Yenching Institute and co-sponsored with the Asia Center, the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, and the South Asia Initiative*

**Date**: Monday, May 7, 2012  
**Time**: 1:30 - 5:15 pm  
**Location**: Lower Level Seminar Room, Center for European Studies (Busch Hall), 27 Kirkland St., Harvard University

This roundtable brings together a group of distinguished scholars of China and India to consider some of the major political problems and perils facing the Asian giants today. How do the world’s two biggest countries compare in terms of their ability to manage and mollify their often unruly citizens? How well does each of them cope on the ground with such enormous challenges as poverty and inequality, popular protest, ethnic conflict, and environmental degradation? How effectively do central and local governments coordinate, complement, or contradict one another in meeting these challenges? Can China and India’s relative successes and shortcomings shed light on prospects for democratic versus non-democratic governance in the twenty-first century?

***China’s Urban Political Cultures: A Comparative Perspective***

*Sponsored by the Harvard-Yenching Institute, East China Normal University, and the Hong Kong Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences*

**Date**: Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5  
**Location**: Yenching Common Room, 2 Divinity Ave., Harvard University

***Mass Torts in China***

*Co-sponsored by Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies*

A talk by Prof. [**Zhu Yan**](http://www.harvard-yenching.org/scholars/zhu-yan) (Law School, Renmin University of China; HYI Visiting Scholar 2011-12)

Discussant: **William P. Alford** (Henry L. Stimson Professor of Law, Harvard Law School)

**\*Please note different location\***

**Date**: Friday, May 4, 2012  
**Time**: 12:00 - 1:30 pm  
**Location**: Vanserg Common Room, 25 Francis Avenue, Harvard University

Mass Torts are concerned with legal accidents, which involve hundreds, thousands, and even millions of victims due to some risks which trace back to the uncertainty of industrial technology. The urbanization of demography and the globalization of marketing further increase the probability of mass torts.

In the past decade many mass torts happened globally, such as the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the 2008 contaminated milk scandal 2008 in China, and the 2011 Fukuyama nuclear leak caused by the earthquake in Japan. In the above mentioned accidents, more than 100,000 residents or consumers suffered personal injuries and economic losses to varying degrees. In oil spill accidents, environmental damage may not be restored in a foreseeable period. De facto, mass torts spawn new tasks for legal study, particularly for modern tort law, practically and theoretically.

In this talk Prof. Zhu will give an introductory analysis by means of statistics on recent mass torts cases in the past a few years in China, in order to demonstrate that mass torts constitute an important issue in modern Chinese tort law. Then he will explore this legal issue in terms of the specific characteristics of mass torts, such as losses and damage, causation, limitation of litigation, and class action as a lawsuit form. Due to the sophisticated implications of mass torts, Prof. Zhu will also analyze the influences of mass torts and their lawsuits upon the Chinese administration and judiciary. For example, he will argue that administrative resolutions dominated by central and local governments can’t efficiently, equally, and openly resolve the problems arising from mass torts. Although mass lawsuits will challenge the management and expertise of People’s Courts in different jurisdictions, refusing to open the court door to victims could result in more problems which may even threaten social stability.