

Field Research Method Lab: Addressing Field Research Constraints in China

Hosted by the [Department of Geography and Environment](#), London School of Economics and Political Science

Funded by the LSE [Teaching and Learning Centre](#)

Workshop Web: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/geographyAndEnvironment/research/FieldResearchMethodLab/home.aspx>



** Please send all event-related queries to the organiser, Dr Hyun Shin
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** Presenters are reminded to submit their papers (2,000 words maximum) by 31 May 2013. Submission via the workshop web site.

DAY ONE: 6th June 2013

Venue: Venue: Graham Wallace Room, 5th Floor, Old Building, LSE
(For maps and directions: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/mapsAndDirections/Home.aspx>)

09.00 – 09.30 **Registration**
09.30 – 09.45 **Opening and Introduction**

09.45 - 10.55 **Session 1:**
 Boundary Crossing and Researcher's Positionality I
 Chair: Dr Hyun Shin (Geography and Environment, LSE)

Studying governance in Beijing's 'Manhattan': On gaining and maintaining trust in a rapidly changing field

Dr Anna Boermel, Lau Ching Institute, King's College London, U.K.

Building trust and boundary: Fieldwork in Shanghai

Professor Qin Shao, Fellow at Re:Work, Humboldt University, Germany; Department of History, The College of New Jersey, U.S.A.

10.55 - 11.10 **Coffee/Tea Break**

11.10 - 12.55 **Session 2:**
 Local Epistemology and Knowledge Production
 Chair: Dr Hans Steinmuller (Anthropology, LSE)

Utilising participation in musical ethnographic fieldwork in rural Kam minority areas of southwestern China

Dr Catherine Ingram, Department of Music, SOAS, University of London, U.K.

False starts and reformulations in the study of everyday musical life in urban China

Paul Kendall, Asian Studies, University of Westminster

'Familiar strangers': Western-trained Chinese scholars in the field
Yang Yang, Department of Geography, University of Colorado at Boulder, U.S.A.

12.55 – 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.45 Session 3: Data Collection
Chair: Prof Charles Stafford (Anthropology, LSE)

The risk of conducting questionnaire surveys in China: Filling in questionnaires on behalf of others

Dr Qiong Xu

Conducting fieldwork in legal research: The experiences of China

Dr Jing Bian, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, SOAS, University of London, U.K.

Doing fieldwork in China: Complicated and heterogeneous relationships between the researcher and the researched

Yang Shen, Gender Institute, LSE, U.K.

15:45 – 16.00 Coffee/Tea Break

16.00 – 17.10 Session 4: Research Ethics
Chair: Dr Hyun Shin (Geography and Environment, LSE)

Research ethics and everyday ethics: Doing fieldwork with observers of their own 'culture' in rural Hubei

Dr Hans Steinmuller, Department of Anthropology, LSE, U.K.

Researching the Urban Condition: Intimate Perspectives

Dr Deljana Iossifova, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, U.K.

17.10 – 17.30 Day One Closing Remark

DAY TWO: 7th June 2013

Venue: Room OLD.3.21, 3rd Floor, Old Building, LSE - please note the change of venue on the 2nd day

09.00 – 09.30 Registration

09.30 – 09.45 Day Two Introduction

09.45 – 10.55 Session 5: Surveillance and Censorship
Chair: Dr Hyun Shin (Geography and Environment, LSE)

Censorship and its impact on researching on China

Dr Yuktेशwar Kumar, POLIS, University of Bath, U.K.

Working while being followed: Reflections on fieldwork constraints in a Beijing public park

Lisa Richaud, Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Free University of Brussels), Belgium

10:55 - 11.15 Coffee/Tea Break

**11.15 - 13.00 Session 6:
Boundary Crossing and Researcher's Positionality II
Chair: Prof John Harriss** (International Studies, Simon Fraser University)

Fieldwork: Long-term relationship to people in the field

Dr Ping Lin, Department of Politics, National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan; Centre for Taiwan Studies, SOAS, U.K.

'Renqing' in conducting interviews with Chinese business people: Insights from a returning researcher

Yue Wang, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, U.K.

Embedding research in local context: Local knowledge, Stakeholders' participation and fieldwork design

Dr Bin Wu, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham, U.K.

13:00 - 14.15 Lunch Break

14:15 - 15.45 Panel Discussion

Presentation:

What are we comparing China with? Challenges of collecting ethnographic data in China and their comparison with other societies

Professor Charles Stafford, Department of Anthropology, LSE, U.K.

Panel Discussants:

Professor Harriet Evans, Department of Modern and Applied Languages, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages, University of Westminster

Professor John Harriss, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Canada

Professor Jennifer Robinson, Department of Geography, University College London, U.K.

Chair: Dr Hyun Shin, Department of Geography and Environment, LSE, U.K.

15.45 - 16.00 Workshop Closing Remark