

Report to Academy of Social Sciences in Australia
Australia-China Joint-Action Program 2013

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Funding was provided to Prof David Goodman (University of Sydney) and Prof Chen Guangjin (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) together with Dr Minglu Chen (University of Sydney) and Dr Lu Peng (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) in order to allow them to examine *China's Private Entrepreneurs: Property, Rights, and Public Policy*.

All four of the researchers have been actively engaged for several years in work on entrepreneurs in China. They have been concerned about two important questions for the social and political change in China: how different kinds of private entrepreneurs in the PRC realize and exercise their socio-political rights; and how this might impact and change politics and society.

They have come together to cooperate on a wider project (than that for which this grant was provided) to examine these issues. The first stage (supported by this grant) was designed to bring the researchers together in order that they can refine their thinking and the topic through face to face interaction, with meetings and workshops in Beijing and Sydney. This duly occurred, in Beijing in May 2013 and in Sydney in December 2013. It was a very successful couple of meetings, which has led not only to research publications, but also to the second stage as originally envisioned, the establishment of a research network on the Chinese Business Elite.

The opportunity to come together allowed each of us to discuss fieldwork already completed and to benefit from the interactions, leading to the improvement in material each of us was preparing for publication at the time.

The following publications have thus resulted, at least in part, from this project and the Joint-Action Program:

Chen Guangjin 'Relative Deprivation or Living Anxiety: An analysis of Class Awareness of Chinese People in the Decade' in Yingjie Guo (ed) *Handbook of Class in China* Edward Elgar 2015.

Minglu Chen 'From Economic Elites to Political Elites: Private Entrepreneurs in the People's Political Consultative Conference' in *Journal of Contemporary China* September 2014.

David Goodman 'New Economic Elites: Family histories and social change' in Sujian Guo (ed) *State Society Relations and Governance in China* Rowman and Littlefield 2014, p.15-38.

Lu Peng 'Xin gudian shehui xue zhong de "a'er jizhi mi": Zhongguo di yi dai zui fuyou siying qiye jia de shehui qi yuan' ['The Horatio Alger myth in neo-classical sociology: origins of the first generation of visibly rich Chinese private entrepreneurs'] in *Xuehai* 3, 2013, 46-61.

The opportunity to meet, also led, as we had hoped to the decision to establish a framework that would enable people interested in research on entrepreneurs in China to come together. We talked about establishing a web-based newsletter, but lacking the resources for the moment decided to move more gradually. Instead we have decided to hold an annual workshop to discuss both papers on entrepreneurs in China, and to provide a networking opportunity for those interested in this topic of research. The first of these workshops will be held in Hong Kong at City University, 19-21 November 2014.

The workshop will have a limit on the number of papers being discussed and so the call for papers, which has been well answered will lead to a competitive and peer-reviewed process of selection. One idea is to encourage ECRs. Another is that the papers from the workshop will be published as a special issue of a journal such as (in English) the *Journal of Contemporary China* and (in Chinese) *Shehui yanjiu* (Social Research).

There will also be discussion and poster sessions at the workshop. In addition to the call for papers there is an extensive guest list of academics engaged in research on entrepreneurs in China who have been invited. This includes scholars not only from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Australia, but also from the USA, the UK, Singapore, Japan, and Germany.

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