

Ethan Michelson

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Indiana University, Departments of Sociology and East Asian Languages & Cultures
2008–present Associate Professor
2003–2008 Assistant Professor
Indiana University, Maurer School of Law
2009–present Associate Professor of Sociology and Law
2008–2009 Adjunct Professor of Law

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Ph.D., Department of Sociology, 2003 (Dissertation: “Unhooking from the State: Chinese Lawyers in Transition”)
M.A., Department of Sociology, 1995

McGill University

B.A., First Class Joint Honors in East Asian Studies and Sociology, 1992

Nanjing University, Nanjing, China, Chinese language study, 1992–93

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming. Ethan Michelson and Sida Liu. “What Do Chinese Lawyers Want? Political Attitudes and Legal Practice in China.” In *China’s Emerging Middle Class: Beyond Economic Transformation*, edited by Cheng Li. Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press.
- Forthcoming. Ethan Michelson. “Family Planning Policy Enforcement in Rural China: Enduring State-Society Conflict?” In *Growing Pains: Tensions and Opportunity in China’s Transformation*, edited by Jean C. Oi, Scott Rozelle, and Xueguang Zhou. Stanford, CA: Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center, distributed by Brookings Institution Press, expected 2009.
- Forthcoming. Ethan Michelson and Benjamin L. Read. “Public Attitudes toward Official Justice in Beijing and Rural China.” In *Chinese Justice: Civil Dispute Resolution in Contemporary China*, edited by Margaret Y.K. Woo, Mary E. Gallagher, and Merle Goldman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
2009. “Gender Inequality in the Chinese Legal Profession.” *Research in the Sociology of Work* 19: 337-76.

2008. Benjamin L. Read and Ethan Michelson. "Mediating the Mediation Debate: Conflict Resolution and the Local State in China." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(5): 737-64.
2008. Ethan Michelson. "Dear Lawyer Bao: Everyday Problems, Legal Advice, and State Power in China." *Social Problems* 55(1): 43-71.
2008. Ethan Michelson. "Justice from Above or Below? Popular Strategies for Resolving Grievances in Rural China." *The China Quarterly* 193: 43-64.
Winner of the 2009 Gordon White Prize for most original article or research report published in *The China Quarterly*
2007. Ethan Michelson. "Lawyers, Political Embeddedness, and Institutional Continuity in China's Transition from Socialism." *American Journal of Sociology* 113(2): 352-414
Abridged and edited version to be reprinted in *Lawyers and the Construction of the Rule of Law: National and Transnational Processes*, edited by Yves Dezalay and Bryant Garth.
Co-Winner of the 2009 Research Article Award of the American Sociological Association Section on Asia & Asian America
2007. Ethan Michelson. "Climbing the Dispute Pagoda: Grievances and Appeals to the Official Justice System in Rural China." *American Sociological Review* 72(3): 459-85
2006. Ethan Michelson. "The Practice of Law as an Obstacle to Justice: Chinese Lawyers at Work." *Law & Society Review* 40(1): 1-38. (lead article)
Abridged and edited version reprinted in *Working in China: Ethnographies of Labor and Workplace Transformation*, edited by Ching Kwan Lee. Oxon, UK and New York: Routledge, 2007.
2000. Ethan Michelson and William L. Parish, "Gender Differentials in Economic Success: Rural China in 1991," Pp. 134-56 in *Redrawing Boundaries: Gender, Households, and Work in China*, edited by Barbara Entwisle and Gail Henderson. Berkeley: University of California Press.
2000. Ethan Michelson, Edward O. Laumann and John P. Heinz, "The Changing Character of the Lawyer-Client Relationship: Evidence From Two Chicago Surveys," in *The Management of Durable Relations: Theoretical and Empirical Models for Households and Organizations*, edited by Werner Raub and Jeroen Weesie. Amsterdam: Thela/Thesis Publishers.
1998. John P. Heinz, Edward O. Laumann, Robert L. Nelson, and Ethan Michelson, "The Changing Character of Lawyers' Work: Chicago in 1975 and 1995." *Law & Society Review* 32(5): 751-75.
Reprinted in *Urban Lawyers: The New Social Structure of the Bar*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2005.
1998. Ethan Michelson, "Guest Editor's Introduction." *Chinese Law and Government* 31(5): 5-38.
1998. Ethan Michelson, "Tradition in the Shadow of Modern Legal Practice: Continuity and Change in the Delivery of Justice in China (I)." *Chinese Law and Government* 31(5): 39-108.
1998. Ethan Michelson. "Tradition in the Shadow of Modern Legal Practice: Continuity and Change in the Delivery of Justice in China (II)." *Chinese Law and Government* 31(6): 3-104.

1996. William L. Parish and Ethan Michelson, "Politics and Markets: Dual Transformations." *American Journal of Sociology* 101(4): 1042–1059.
 Reprinted in *Shichang Zhuanxing Yu Shehui Fenceng: Meiguo Shehuixuezhe Fenxi Zhongguo* (Market Transition and Social Stratification: American Sociologists' Analyses of China), edited by Yanjie Bian. Beijing: San Lian Press, 2002.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS

2008. Ethan Michelson. "Popular Attitudes towards Dispute Processing in Urban and Rural China," The Foundation for Law, Justice, and Society.
2004. Ethan Michelson. "Shimin Shenghuo Zhong de Falü," (Law in the Lives of Urban Citizens) Pp. 81–104 in *Falü Yu Shehui: Shehuixue He Faxue de Shijiao* (Law and Society: Sociological and Jurisprudential Perspectives), edited by Guo Xinghua and Lu Yilong. Beijing: Renmin Daxue Chubanshe.
2003. Ethan Michelson, "Jiufen Yu Falü Xuqiu: Yi Beijing de Diaocha Wei Li," (Disputes and Legal Demand: Taking a Beijing Survey as a Case) *Jiangsu Shehui Kexue* (Jiangsu Social Science) 1: 72–80.
2001. Ethan Michelson, "Lang Lai Zi Nali? Zhongguo Lüshi de Xiwang Lai Zi Nali? (From Where Does the Wolf Come? From Where Do Chinese Lawyers' Hopes Come?)" *Huanqiu Falü Pinglun* (Global Law Review) 119: 173–5.
2000. Gao Hongjun and Ethan Michelson, "Shichang Jingji, Jiufen Jiejue Yu Lixing Falü: Bianhuazhong De Zhongguo Jiquan Shetuan (The Market, Dispute Resolution, and Rational Law: Corporatism in a Changing China)," Pp. 168–187 in *Gong Fa* (Public Law Review), Volume 2, edited by Xia Yong. Beijing: Falü Chubanshe.
2000. Ethan Michelson, "Statistical Appendix," in *Zou Xiang Quanli de Shidai: Zhongguo Gongmin Quanli Fazhan Yanjiu* (Towards an Age of Rights: Research on The Development of Chinese Citizen Rights), Revised Edition, edited by Xia Yong. Beijing: Zhongguo Zhengfa Daxue Chubanshe.
1993. Ethan Michelson. "In Defense of Collective Farms: Collectivization and Decollectivization in the People's Republic of China." *Society for Economic Anthropology Newsletter* 13(2): 6-15.

JOURNAL ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

- R&R. When Organizations Subsume Law: Work Units and the Structure of Disputing in Urban China. (*American Journal of Sociology*)
- R&R. Connected Contention: Social Resources and Petitioning the State in Rural China. (*Social Forces*)
- R&R. Opening a Chinese Black Box: How and Why Do Political Connections Matter in Rural China? (*The Sociological Quarterly*)
- Deprivation, Discontent, and Disobedience in Rural China: Collective Learning in Southeastern Henan
- Estimating Great Leap Famine Mortality from County Gazetteers
- Global Institutions, Local Meaning: Appropriation and Indigenization in the Chinese Legal System

Gendered Opportunities and Constraints in the Chinese Bar
Relocating and Decomposing Boundary Work: Lawyers and Non-Lawyers in China's Market
for Legal Services (with Sida Liu)
Winners and Losers in China's Housing Reforms: The Privatization of Housing in Beijing
(with Ben Read and Jeffrey Payne)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND DISTINCTIONS

U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Program Fellowship,
2009-2010
U.S. Department of State Fulbright Research Scholar Grant, 2009-2010, declined
2009 Research Article Award of the American Sociological Association Section on Asia &
Asian America
Gordon White Prize for most original article or research report published in *The China
Quarterly* in 2008
Indiana University Outstanding Junior Faculty Award, campus-wide award for junior faculty
members who show promise of achieving great distinction as scholars or artists, 2007–
2008
Hopkins-Nanjing Center, Institute for International Research, In-Residence Research
Fellowship, 2006–2007
Indiana University Research Leave Supplement, 2006–2007
The University of Iowa, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, Interdisciplinary Research
Grant, Summer 2005 (co-PI: Benjamin L. Read)
The University of Chicago Doolittle Fellowship, 2002
American Bar Foundation, Doctoral Fellowship, 2001–2003
Ford Foundation Individual Grant for Promoting Sociology of Law in China, 2000–2001
(Grant #15006118)
Fulbright-Hays, Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 1999–2000
National Science Foundation, Law and Social Science Program, Grant for Improving Doctoral
Dissertation Research, 1999-2000 (co-PI: William L. Parish) [NSF#9906234]
Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship, 1999–
2000
Social Science Research Council, International Predissertation Fellowship Program, 1995–96
National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, 1993–97
China/Canada Scholar Exchange Programme Fellowship, 1992–93
Harold K. Schneider Prize, Society for Economic Anthropology, 1992–93
David N. Solomon Prize in Sociology, McGill University, 1991–92
Bielski Prize in Sociology, McGill University, 1989–90
James McGill Award, McGill University, 1989–90

INVITED TALKS

2009. Sino-Global Legal Alliance, Beijing, October 17
2008. University of Michigan, Department of Sociology, December 11
2008. Indiana University, School of Law, International Law Society, November 21

- 2008. Invited Discussant at Senior Scholar Seminar on the Role of Empirical Research in Criminal Justice Policy Change, Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, October 6-7
- 2008. Washington University in St. Louis, School of Law, March 28
- 2007. Yale Law School, November 26
- 2007. Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, two talks for “China Semester,” November 16
- 2006. Nanjing University, Department of Sociology, Sociological Seminar, No. 70, November 15
- 2006. Invited Discussant at Workshop on Globalization of Women’s Rights, Wellesley College, July 30-August 2
- 2006. University of Illinois, College of Law, February 3
- 2005. University of Pittsburgh, Asian Studies Center, November 14
- 2005. University of Pittsburgh, Department of Sociology, November 14
- 2005. Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, June 11
- 2005. The University of Chicago, East Asia Workshop, May 31
- 2005. Northwestern University, Department of Sociology, April 7
- 2005. University at Buffalo (SUNY), Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, March 4
- 2004. University of Michigan, Center for Chinese Studies, Noon Lecture Series, November 9
- 2002. Harvard University Law School, East Asian Legal Studies Series, December 16
- 2002. MIT Sloan School, Economic Sociology Seminar, December 19

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2009. paper for International Conference on Relational Sociology, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China, October 4-5
- 2009. “What Do Chinese Lawyers Want?” for Conference on “China’s Emerging Middle Class: Beyond Economic Transformation,” the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, September 22-23
- 2009. “Chinese Lawyers since 2000: Findings from Two Surveys,” for Conference on “The ‘Law and Society’ Movement in the 21st Century China: An Interdisciplinary & Transnational Dialogue on Reconstruction of Legal Order,” the KoGuan Law School, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, September 13
- 2009. “Gender Inequality in the Chinese Legal Profession,” for the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Denver, May 28-31
- 2008. paper for Conference on Lawyers and the Construction of the Rule of Law: National and Transnational Processes, American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL, March 21-22
- 2007. paper for “Growing Pains: Tensions and Opportunity in China’s Transformation” workshop, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University, November 2
- 2007. paper for “Chinese Justice: Civil Dispute Resolution in Post-Reform China” workshop at Harvard University Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, October 12-14
- 2007. paper for “Conference on Dispute Resolution in China,” The William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai’i, Honolulu, HI, September 17-18

2007. "Climbing the Dispute Pagoda: Grievances and Appeals to the Official Justice System in Rural China," for the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 30-September 2
2006. "Deprivation, Discontent, and Disobedience in Rural China: Collective Learning in Southeast Henan," for Conference on "Reclaiming Chinese Society: Politics of Redistribution, Recognition and Representation," University of California-Berkeley, October 27-28
2006. "Lawful and Unlawful Strategies of Contention in China: Evidence from a Survey of Rights Consciousness," for Conference on "Popular Contention in China," University of California-Berkeley, October 6-8 (with Jennifer Choo)
2006. "Dear Lawyer Bao: Institutional Change, State Power, and Popular Resistance in China," for Law and Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, July 5-9 (Ethan Michelson)
2006. "Challenges and Coping Strategies in China's Criminal Defense Bar," for Law and Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, July 5-9 (Ethan Michelson)
2006. "Hooked, Unhooked, Still Hooked: Lawyers, Political Embeddedness, and Institutional Continuity in China's Transition from Socialism," for Conference on Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: China's Political Economy in Comparative and Theoretical Perspective, Bloomington, Indiana, May 19-20
2006. "Peasants' Burdens" and State Response: Explaining the Causes and Predicting the Consequences of State Concession to Popular Tax Resistance in Rural China," for the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, April 6-9.
2005. "Global Institutions, Local Meaning: Appropriation and Indigenization in the Chinese Legal System," for Workshop on Comparative Institutional Research, Peking University, October 14-16.
2005. "Justice from Above or Justice from Below? Social Limits to Petitioning the State in Rural China," Overseas Young Chinese Forum 7th Annual Meeting (The State of Rural China: Chinese Peasants, Agriculture and Rural Society in the Reform Era), Storrs, CT, May 27-30.
2004. "The Trials and Tribulations of Chinese Lawyers," for the 99th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, San Diego, August 14-17 (Ethan Michelson)
2004. "The Power of a Powerless Profession: Why and How Chinese Lawyers Screen Cases," for the Workshop on Working in China: New Ethnographies of Labor and the Chinese Workplace, Ann Arbor, MI, June 5 (Ethan Michelson)
2004. "How Much Does Law Matter in Rural China?" for Law and Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 27-30 (Ethan Michelson)
2004. "Chinese Lawyers and Their Competitors: State-Mediated Jurisdictional Conflicts," for Law and Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 27-30 (Sida Liu and Ethan Michelson)
2004. "Causes and Consequences of Grievances in Rural China," for Conference on Socioeconomic Rights in China Dickinson College, April 16-18 (Ethan Michelson)
2003. "Chinese Lawyers: Guanxi as a Substitute for Rights," for Human Rights in China: Progress, Problems, and Prospects, University of Chicago, April 19 (Ethan Michelson)
2002. "They Talk the Talk, But Can They Walk the Walk? Obstacles to Collective Action Among Chinese Lawyers," for Law and Society in China conference co-sponsored by the Institute for East Asian Studies, the Center for the Study of Law & Society, and

- the Center for Chinese Studies, University of California at Berkeley, September 20–21. (Ethan Michelson)
2002. “When Organizations Subsume Law: Work Units and the Structure of Disputing in Urban China,” for the 97th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 16-19 (also presented at the North American Chinese Sociologists’ Association Mini-Conference, Chicago, August 15). (Ethan Michelson)
2002. “How Much Does Law Matter in Beijing?” for Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada, May 30–June 1. (Ethan Michelson)
2002. “Lawyers and Clients in China: The Power of a Powerless Profession,” for the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 4–7. (Ethan Michelson)
1999. “Patterns of Provision and Jurisdictional Territorialism: The Organization of Work in Urban China,” for the 94th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 6–10. (Ethan Michelson)
1998. “Economic Development, Social Control, and Disputing in China: The Changing Face of Chinese Corporatism,” for the 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, August 21–25. (with Gao Hongjun)
1997. “Chicago Lawyers and their Clients, 1975–95: A Client-Based Approach to the Social Transformation of the Bar,” for “The Management of Durable Relations: Theoretical and Empirical Models for Households and Organizations,” Zeist, The Netherlands, June 26–28. (Ethan Michelson, Edward O. Laumann, and John P. Heinz)
1997. “The Organization of Lawyers’ Work: Hemispheres, Tectonic Plate Movements, and Continental Drift,” for Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, May 29–June 1, St. Louis, Missouri. (John P. Heinz, Robert L. Nelson, Edward O. Laumann, and Ethan Michelson)
1997. “Corporatism and the Individual: Changing Dynamics of Disputing Under Rapid Social Change,” for Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, May 29–June 1, St. Louis, Missouri. (Ethan Michelson and Gao Hongjun)
1996. presentation at “Conducting Social Science Research in Southeast Asia” workshop jointly hosted by the Social Science Research Council and The University of San Carlos, Cebu City, Philippines, June 16–20. (Ethan Michelson)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Sociological Association

Sociology of Law Section, Nominations Committee, 2004

Sociology of Law Section, Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Chair, 2008

Sociology of Law Section, Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Chair, 2010

Manuscript reviews for:

American Sociological Review

American Journal of Sociology

Social Forces

Law & Society Review

The China Quarterly

The China Journal

Modern China

The China Review
Asian Survey
Law & Social Inquiry
Canadian Journal of Law & Society

Grant proposal reviews for:

National Science Foundation
Israeli Science Foundation
Hong Kong Research Grants Council

Academic Council, Overseas Young Chinese Forum (<http://www.oycf.org>), 2006–
Facilitator, Fellows Workshop, Social Science Research Council International Dissertation
Research Fellowship, Charleston, SC, March 2006

Screeener, Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship,
2006

American Journal of Sociology, manuscript review committee, 1996–1997

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association
Law & Society Association
Association for Asian Studies

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

2004 BBC World Service (television and radio)
2003 Knight Ridder Newspapers