Message from the Director

Bloomington, Indiana sits under a cold, yet silky layer of snow. But we have kept warm by being active.

This Fall we fully launched the Initiative on Philanthropy in China with our partners in the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. In November we held our first conference, “Advancing China Philanthropy Research,” at Beijing Normal University. Our research team of American and Chinese scholars as well as representatives from the China Foundation Center, the China Philanthropy Research Institute, the China Development Report, MercyCorps, and Cummins Corporation shared their views on recent trends in philanthropic studies, China’s philanthropy sector, and each of our projects.

The RCCPB also hosted three colloquia in Indiana and Beijing on a diverse range of topics, including the early history of Chinese journalism, taking the Chinese government to court, and gridlock in global governance. Together with the East Asian Studies Center, we jointly hosted the China Town Hall, a program run by the National Committee on US-China Relations. In addition to hearing from former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, we enjoyed presentations from Dr. Wenqi Dong on the history of Chinese non-profit organizations and from IU Associate Professor and RCCPB Associate Director Gardner Bovingdon on how China’s border issues shape its relations with the US and others.

Central to staying warm is the addition of new energetic staff members, including Center Coordinator Roy Hooper, Research Assistant Yesola Kweon, and Program Officer Liu Xingshuo. We also are happy to welcome two new visiting scholars to Bloomington, Professor Deng Xinming of Wuhan University and doctoral student Tian Bowen from Huazhong University of Science & Technology. We also are excited to report that Professors Amanda Michaud (Economics) and Angela Bies (Philanthropy) are our latest Senior Associates.

This coming year will see continued research and publications in each of our four initiatives, a new periodical to provide our perspective on recent trends and events in Chinese politics and business, and expanded activities in Beijing and elsewhere in China.

Whether outside your window is cold, hot, snowing, rainy, or dry, we wish you and your families a safe and healthy holiday season and prosperous 2014.

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RCCPB
indiana.edu/~rccpb/
The RCCPB and IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy led the successful “Advancing China Philanthropy Research” Conference in Beijing on November 12, 2013.

Angela Bies, Director of International Programs and Associate Professor of Philanthropic Studies at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, opened the conference with an overview of global philanthropy research. Her talk was followed by RCCPB Director Scott Kennedy’s discussion of how China’s political economy influences the philanthropic sector. Shawn Shieh of the China Development Brief ended the first session by introducing recent philanthropic trends in China.

The next segment of the conference saw the individual Philanthropy Initiative scholars introducing their own projects. Their research will explore a wide range of topics including corporate social responsibility, Chinese NGO activities, philanthropy funding patterns and organizational structure for non-profit groups. The conference closed with a discussion of the Initiative’s own future philanthropic activity. The Initiative scholars plan to meet again in Beijing for Summer 2014 and during November 2014 in Indianapolis.

Corporate Board Update

Benjamin Shobert is the founder and managing director of Rubicon Strategy Group and a member of the RCCPB Corporate Advisory Board. His article on a Chinese social entrepreneurship project to facilitate volunteer care for the elderly was recently featured in Slate.

Click here to be linked to the article.

Corporate Advisory Board

Thomas D. Gorman
Hu Shuli
Matt Orrego
Scott Palmer
Benjamin Shobert
David Wolf
Faming Zhang

Newsletter Editor
Roy Hooper
RCCPB Senior Associate Profile: Amanda Michaud

Amanda Michaud is one of the RCCPB’s newest senior associates. An assistant professor in the Economics Department, her research interests include macroeconomics, credit markets, and mortgage markets.

Q: How did you first become interested in China?

As an economist, China is interesting on its own. The country’s large size and unique economic expansion make it an interesting case.

Q: What does your current research focus on?

My current project focuses on Chinese housing: rapid migration and concerns about speculation in the housing markets have fed concerns that a bubble in forming in Chinese real estate. You hear about the building of empty cities with large amounts of unoccupied housing. In fact, there is a lack of data on the housing being built in China and the rates at which it is being occupied. As a theorist, it’s hard to say if there is a bubble. These properties may be being built as an investment, but it may just be a cost-effective time to build for Chinese developers.

So I am working with a geographer at Indiana State University, Qihao Weng, to analyze aerial images of Chinese construction projects in the area around Hangzhou. The size of the construction is measured and we then use light emission data to predict occupancy rates. Shortly, we will be sending teams to do a validation study to evaluate our predictions.

Q: What will be the focus of your next project?

The next project involves looking into capital account controls from a strategic prospective. Motivated by China’s large and persistent current account surplus, my inquiry starts from the point that pursuing these surpluses can be beneficial. However, because this behavior can crowd out markets, there are international agreements limiting what sorts of policies can be used. From this prospective, I am working on a strategic theory illustrating how domestic Chinese policies avoid these regulations but still impact the global economy.

Colloquium Series: John Givens

On November 1, 2013, John Givens, Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the Center for Asian Democracy at the University of Louisville, shared his findings on how Chinese lawyers sue the state as part of the RCCPB’s Fall 2013 Colloquium series. The title of the Givens’ colloquium was “Suing Dragons? Taking the Chinese State to Court”.

According to Givens, the lawyers that regularly sue the Chinese state are usually the same lawyers defending it on other cases. Although “human rights lawyers” receive the lion’s share of media attention; in fact, they account for a small percentage of the total number of cases brought against units of the Chinese government.

Most of the lawsuits brought against the Chinese state, like demolition compensation cases, fall under the category of administrative law. The lawyers that successfully pursue these cases with frequency have the political capital to shield themselves from retribution. These lawyers protect themselves and make success more likely by employing a number of strategies like suing across local or provincial boundaries, simultaneously suing several governmental units, and leveraging media pressure.

Colloquium Series Video

To see video highlights from the Fall 2013 Colloquium series and past events, please visit the news section of the RCCPB website.
Interview with Li Wan of Cummins (China) Investment Co., Ltd. on Corporate Social Responsibility

Li Wan is Director for Government Affairs and Corporate Responsibility at Cummins (China) Investment Co., Ltd. She was recently invited to speak to the attendees of the RCCPB and Lilly Family School of Philanthropy joint conference “Advancing Philanthropy in China” about corporate social responsibility and philanthropy in China. Cummins is recognized for its active corporate responsibility efforts worldwide, and Li Wan agreed to share some of her expertise on the Chinese environment in particular:

Q: What does corporate social responsibility look like in China today?

A: The landscape for government affairs and corporate social responsibility has been evolving quickly in China. A better environment is developing and expectations towards companies have been rising. There are substantial differences between understandings of corporate responsibility in the US and China. In China, the government often seeks to leverage corporate social responsibility efforts as a vehicle for improving social conditions. The government has moved fast to regulate companies, trying to measure contributions by Chinese companies. However, this understanding of corporate social responsibility has not yet fully reached multinational companies operating in China.

Q: How does this make corporate social responsibility distinct in China?

A: Although this is perhaps not unique to China, the focus tends to be on measuring the contribution of monetary rather than personal engagement. In the past, the definition of corporate responsibility has been narrow, focusing on disaster response and social contributions. Companies have often taken a secondary role, allowing other organizations to carry out campaigns. Higher expectations for corporate responsibility are changing this pattern.

Q: What do you see as some general trends for corporate social responsibility in China?

A: There will be an increasing number of domestic and international organizations that operate in country. A priority will be increasing transparency in the sector - applying multinational standards for the operation of organizations. Corporate responsibility will increasingly be tied with sustainability efforts to improve the impact of programs.

Corporate responsibility efforts will also be broader than before. For example, disaster response will remain important, but a new focus is emerging on post-response recovery efforts. Environment focused programs will boom. Organizations will find that results will improve if the skills available in the community are engaged to promote recovery.

Q: Is there anything that you would like to share about Cummins’ social responsibility interests?

A: Cummins is very interested in educational programs, particularly for rural, migrant or otherwise underserved populations. For some career choices, traditional formal education is not the best way to find success and training for some of the people. With our offices located in many parts of China, we are always trying to figure out how to best engage our communities and help to achieve an impact on our neighborhood and community. The government has resources globally that it can leverage and I hope that multinational expertise can be used to broaden educational choices.

RCCPB Staff Opening

The RCCPB is now accepting applications for a Webmaster to begin in January. The Webmaster will maintain and update the Center’s website, manage its contact database, support email communications, and assist with basic graphic design tasks. Candidate should have experience using Adobe Dreamweaver and CSS to maintain and create websites; an understanding of Microsoft Access; good interpersonal and organizational skills; as well as Chinese language reading and speaking skills. Please apply via the Jobs@IU website.
China Town Hall

The RCCPB, East Asian Studies Center, and Chinese Flagship Center collaborated to host the annual National Committee on United States-China Relations’ China Town Hall Event.

The evening began with visiting scholar Dong Wenqi’s presentation on “The Historical Development and Current Status of Chinese Non-Profit Organizations.” Dong discussed the philosophical underpinnings of civil society in China, the current state of the non-profit Chinese sector, and the future of non-profit organizations in China. RCCPB Associate Director Gardner Bovingdon then delivered a lecture titled “China, the International Community, and the Problems of Borders.” His presentation explored China’s various border disputes with neighboring countries and their implications for Chinese domestic and foreign policy.

In her broadcasted remarks, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stressed the importance of the US-China relationship and discussed the means by which the two countries can constructively engage. The subsequent question-and-answer session covered a span of topics, ranging from the “China Dream” to the growing role of China in the Middle East. Following the telecast, Gardner Bovingdon delivered closing remarks. He cautioned that scholars of international policy issues should critically examine notions of American values and American indispensability in the international system. Lastly, Bovingdon praised former Secretary of State Albright’s candid discussion and deep understanding of the wide range of relevant policy issues.

Greetings from the Editor

Hello friends of the RCCPB. I am excited to have begun work during the Fall 2013 semester as the first full-time Center Coordinator for the Center. As an alumnus of Indiana University, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to return to Bloomington and work with such an exciting organization.

While an undergraduate at IU Bloomington, I studied Chinese, International Studies, and Arabic. I also had the opportunity to spend time developing my knowledge of Chinese language and culture through studying at Capital University of Business and Economics in Beijing and at Nanjing University. In January, I will begin pursuing my MBA with the IU Kelley School of Business Evening MBA program.

I am deeply grateful to RCCPB Director Scott Kennedy for giving me the opportunity to help grow the Center and meet its goal of providing thought leadership on issues relating to Chinese politics and business.

- Roy Hooper, Center Coordinator

Colloquium Series: Timothy Weston

As part of the RCCPB Fall 2013 Colloquium series, Timothy Weston, who is Associate Professor of History and Associate Director of the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado, delivered a lecture titled “The Reporter in Life and Death in Early Republican China.” Weston explained the role of journalists in China as they transformed from crude writers into intellectual reporters and heroic martyrs of state repression.

New ideas about journalists and the news began to arise in China following the overthrow of the imperial system in 1911. While Chinese “journalists” existed before this period, the idea of the journalist as a professional and neutral reporter was comparatively new. The idea that newsprint should be created with social scientific methods of interviewing and an emphasis on objectivity emerged with the elevation of republican and liberal ideals by intellectuals of the period.

RCCPB Staff Update

Roy Hooper is the Center Coordinator for the RCCPB. He works to manage day-to-day operations for the Center.

Yesola Kweon is a Research Assistant for the Center. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in political science.

Liu Xingshuo is the Center’s new Program Officer. She is currently pursuing her JD with the IU Maurer School of Law.
Philanthropy in China
Course
RCCPB Director Scott Kennedy and IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy Director of International Programs Angela Bies will be jointly teaching the country’s only class on China’s emerging philanthropic sector during the Spring 2014 semester. Topics will include global philanthropy trends, Chinese philanthropy in historical perspective, China’s contemporary civil society, transnational philanthropy in China, the regulatory environment, foundations and NGOs, corporate philanthropy, and corporate social responsibility.

These issues will be addressed through broad overviews and case studies using scholarly studies, industry reports, primary materials, and documentaries. There are no prerequisites for this course, but students are encouraged to have had a previous course on philanthropy, modern Chinese history, or contemporary Chinese society. Graduate students and advanced undergraduates are welcome to enroll in this course.

Students enrolled in the course are eligible to participate in a paid internship program in China for the 2014 summer. Students will be placed with a Chinese NGO or foundation for 6-8 weeks. Interns’ travel and living costs will be fully covered, and they will also receive a stipend.

The course and internship program are part of IU’s Initiative on Philanthropy in China, which is being carried out by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and the Research Center for Chinese Politics & Business.

About the RCCPB
The IU Research Center for Chinese Politics and Business (RCCPB) was founded in February 2007. Together with our partners and affiliated faculty, we seek to understand how China’s regulatory environment and political system shape the behavior of and chances for success of Chinese and foreign businesses; how economic conditions and corporate behavior shape Chinese regulatory framework and political institutions; and how China’s international economic engagement affects China itself, her trading partners, and international institutions like the WTO. The Center breaks down traditional boundaries by bringing together scholars from multiple disciplines and by building bridges between universities, stakeholders, and policymakers in the United States, China, and elsewhere.

Keep in Touch with the RCCPB
The RCCPB regularly holds colloquiums on Indiana University’s Bloomington campus and group meetings attended by guest scholars and the center’s senior associates. We also provide training programs such as media workshops. We are planning conferences to be held in the next three years. We publish conference papers and our senior associates’ manuscripts through the working paper series. To keep informed about center events and publications, send us an email: rccpb@indiana.edu.

Support the RCCPB
We invite tax-deductible contributions in support of the center’s vision and programs. We accept personal and corporate donations, individual or matching, for the center in general and for each of the center’s four research initiatives: China and Global Governance, US-China Business Cooperation, Economic Regulation and Lawmaking in China, and Philanthropy in China. You can donate online by simply clicking one of the links below or mail a check to the RCCPB’s offices. For more information on how to tailor support to fit your interests and the center’s needs, please contact center director Scott Kennedy at kennedys@indiana.edu.

General Support for the Research Center for Chinese Politics & Business
Initiative on China and Global Governance
Initiative on US-China Business Cooperation

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