

## Conference Program

### The Economics and Politics of Inequality in China

Graduate students' workshop: Wednesday 4th February 2026

Conference: Thursday and Friday 5-6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

The University of Manchester

Organized by: Peter Gries and Xiaobing Wang, University of Manchester; Shi Li and Peng Zhan, Zhejiang University; Lina Song, Nottingham University

Supported by: Manchester China Institute; China Household Income Survey Project (CHIPs); Hallsworth Conference Fund; Department of Economics, University of Manchester; Institute for Common Prosperity and Development, Zhejiang University

### Wednesday 4th February 2026

Location - Samuel Alexander Building\_A115

8.50 Welcome & opening remarks

9:00-9:50 Keynote Speech

Speaker: Branko Milanovic (City University of New York)

Title: Chinese urban top group transformation between 1988 and 2023

Chair: Xiaobing Wang (University of Manchester)

9:50 – 10:50 Session 1

|                        |                                                 |                                                                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Xiaochun Sun & Yi Pang | University College London & University of Leeds | Inequality of Opportunity under Current Chinese License Plate Policy |
| Xiaoruo Feng           | Peking University                               | Residential Segregation in Chinese Cities                            |

10:50 -11:20 Tea/coffee break

11:20-12:50 Session 2

Chair: Xiaobing Wang (University of Manchester)

|             |                                               |                                                                                                          |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Qingyu Chen | Department of Economics, University of Oxford | A Tale of Two Chinas: Trade Policy Uncertainty, Spatial Reallocation, and Uneven Structural Change       |
| Jiayi Hu    | Leeds University Business School              | Does China's Intellectual property pilot and demonstration city influence firm's innovation performance? |
| Feiyu Wang  | University of Sheffield                       | From Talent to Technology: Talent Introduction Policies and Corporate AI Innovation                      |

12:50 – 14:00 Lunch and tea/coffee break [British Style Lunch: Sandwich & fruits]

14:00 – 15:30 Session 3

Chair: Chunbing Xing (Renmin University of China)

|            |                           |                                                                                                                  |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Zitong Liu | Beijing Normal University | A Micro-level Evaluation and Measurement of Employment Quality in China: Evidence from CHIP 2013, 2018, and 2023 |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Boyan Liu | Tsinghua University      | Welfare Loss, Behavioral Gain: The Long-Term Impact of Pension Integration |
| Yu Zhou   | University of Manchester | Anti-corruption and Mistargeting in Rural Dibao: Evidence from China       |

15:30 – 15:50 Tea/coffee break

15:50 – 17:20 Session 4

Chair: Chunbing Xing (Renmin University of China)

|             |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kemeng Li   | School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University & Department of Sociology, University of Warwick | Selective Inclusion: The Stratifying Effects of Administrative Burdens in China's Public Rental Housing System |
| Jia Ni      | University of Glasgow                                                                                                      | From Land Sales to Housing Prices in China: The Role of Local Government                                       |
| Tianhua Zou | Renmin University of China                                                                                                 | Soft Landing of the Giant: Informal Local Adaptations in China's Clean Heating Transition                      |

17:20 – 18:10 Keynote Speech

Speaker: Sylvie Démurger (ENS de Lyon)

Title: From Savings to Assets: The Evolution of the Wealth Effect in Urban China

Chair: Chunbing Xing (Renmin University of China)

**18:20 – 21: 00 Informal dinner, BrewDog**

British pub style, with burgers, fries, wings, etc.

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Location - Samuel Alexander Building\_A215

9:00-9:50 Keynote Speech

Speaker: Shi Li (Zhejiang University)

Title: The Wealth Distribution in China: 1995-2023

Chair: Xiaobing Wang (University of Manchester)

9:50 – 10:50 Session 1

Chair: Xiaobing Wang (University of Manchester)

|                           |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Zhexun Mo                 | Stone Center on Socio Economic Inequality, Graduate Center, City University of New York | Ideological Shifts and Wealth Dynamics: Unraveling the Century-Long Accumulation of Chinese National Wealth, 1911-2020                                |
| Kuo-chun Yeh & Ya-chi Lin | National Taiwan University & National Sun Yat-sen University                            | Re-examining the Impact of Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) between the Chinese Mainland and Taiwan on Inequality of Income and Wealth |

10:50 -11:20 Tea/coffee break

11:20-12:50 Session 2

Chair: Xiaobing Wang (University of Manchester)

|               |                                            |                                                                                                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Zhijun Sun    | Beijing Normal University                  | The Impact of China's Compulsory Education Equalization Reform on Individual Educational Attainment and Income |
| Chunbing Xing | Renmin University of China                 | From Iron Rice Bowl to College Dream: Dynamic Returns to Secondary Education Tracks in China                   |
| Yanjun Tao    | Zhejiang University of Finance & Economics | Consumption Inequality in China and the United States: A Comparative Analysis Utilizing CHIP and PSID          |

12:50 – 14:00 Lunch and tea/coffee break [Indian Style Lunch: Samosas etc. & fruits]

14:00 – 15:30 Session 3

Chair: Sylvie Démurger (ENS de Lyon)

|             |                                                                    |                                                                                                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hui Xu      | Beijing Normal University                                          | Educational Mobility Across Three Generations in China: Evidence from CHIP 1988-2023                     |
| Zhejin Zhao | Harbin Institute of Technology, Shenzhen                           | From Lion Rock to Locked Gates: The Decline of Upward Mobility in Hong Kong                              |
| Mo Yang     | Institute of Rural Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences | Public Education Expenditure and Intergenerational Upward Mobility: A Heterogeneity Analysis Perspective |

15:30 – 16:00 Tea/coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 Session 4

Chair: Sylvie Démurger (ENS de Lyon)

|            |                     |                                                                    |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Xinjie Shi | Zhejiang University | Land Tenure Reform and Subjective Well-being: A Gender Perspective |
| Peng Zhan  | Zhejiang University | The cohort analysis of income inequality in China                  |

17:00-17:50 Keynote Speech

Speaker: Björn Gustafsson (University of Gothenburg)

Title: The evolution of rural inequality and space in China from 1988 to 2023

Chair: Sylvie Démurger (ENS de Lyon)

**18:00 – 21: 00 Formal dinner, Manchester Museum**

Pre-Dinner drinks, The Fossils Gallery, beneath Stan a life-sized Tyrannosaurus rex.

Dinner, The Living Worlds Gallery, amongst a display of natural history collections in a historic architectural space

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Location - Ellen Wilkinson Building\_A2.7

9:00-9:50 Keynote Speech

Speaker: Lina Song (Nottingham University)

Title: The Impact of Children's Gender and Age on Household Investment Holdings: Evidence from Chinese Household Panel Survey

Chair: Xiaobing Wang (University of Manchester)

9:50 – 10:50 Session 1

|               |                                                                    |                                                                     |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pinghan Liang | Sun Yat-sen University                                             | Public Toilets, Rural Health and Family Income: Evidence from China |
| Sui Yang      | Institute of Rural Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences | China's Social Welfare and Income Redistribution                    |

10:50 -11:20 Tea/coffee break

11:20-12:50 Session 2

Chair: Pinghan Liang (Sun Yat-sen University)

|               |                                              |                                                                                                                |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shanshan Wu   | Capital University of Economics and Business | Education, Occupational Rank and Wage inequality                                                               |
| Lei Wang      | Tsinghua University                          | Institutional Transformation and Support for Government Redistribution: Evidence from China's Hukou Transition |
| Xiaobing Wang | University of Manchester                     | Time-intensive Consumption and The China Puzzle                                                                |

12:50 – 14:00 Lunch and tea/coffee break [Chinese Style Lunch: Rice+veg etc. & fruits]

14:00 – 15:30 Session 3

Chair: Hui Xu (Beijing Normal University)

|               |                           |                                                                                                     |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indranil Duta | University of Manchester  | Vulnerability in Rural China: A Quantile Regression Approach                                        |
| Yangyang Shen | Beijing Normal University | Intergenerational Co-residence as a Buffer: Evidence on Overtime Work among Chinese Urban Employees |
| Xianjie Chen  | Zhejiang University       | Digital Government Construction and Residents' Subjective Well-being                                |

15:30 – 16:00 Tea/coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 Session 4

Chair: Shi Li (Zhejiang University)

|             |                                              |                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jiping Chen | Capital University of Economics and Business | Recent Changes in Income Inequality in China: 2018~2023                                                                                            |
| Licheng Xu  | Beijing Normal University                    | Labor migration, migrant remittances and the impact on the financial decisions of rural households in China——Empirical evidence based on CHIP 2023 |

17:00-17:50 Keynote Speech

Speaker: Sicular Terry (Western University)

Title: Measuring the Urban-Rural Income Gap during Rapid Urbanization: China, 2002-2023

Chair: Shi Li (Zhejiang University)

## **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

10:00 -13:00 Site visit to Quarry Bank Mill