

## 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 - **Roscoe Building 3.3**

8.50 Welcome & opening remarks

9:00 – 11:00 Session 1

Xiaochun Sun & Yi Pang	University College London & University of Leeds	Inequality of Opportunity under Current Chinese License Plate Policy
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
Qingyu Chen	Department of Economics, University of Oxford	A Tale of Two Chinas: Trade Policy Uncertainty, Spatial Reallocation, and Uneven Structural Change

11:00 -11:20 Tea/coffee break

11:20-13:00 Session 2

**11:20-12:10 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)

**12:10-13:00 Keynote Speech**

Speaker: Sabina Alkire (University of Oxford)

Title: How the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Can Illuminate the Overlap of Poverty and Climate Hazards.

Chair: Xiaobing Wang (University of Manchester)

13:00 – 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
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 – 16:00 Tea/coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 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

**17:00 – 17:50 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)

**18:00 – 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