

Benjamin L. Read

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PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Academic Positions:

Professor, Politics Department, University of California, Santa Cruz (2019–present); previously,
Associate Professor (2012–2019) and Assistant Professor (2008–2012)
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa (2003–2008)

Education:

Ph.D. in Government, Harvard University (2003)
M.A. in Political Science, University of California, Berkeley (1997)
B.A. in Asian Studies; Concentration in International Relations, Cornell University (1993, magna cum laude)

Memberships:

American Political Science Association (1996–)
Association for Asian Studies (2000–)

SCHOLARSHIP

Books:

Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles, co-authored with Diana Kapiszewski and Lauren M. MacLean (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Strategies for Social Inquiry series, 2015)
Roots of the State: Neighborhood Organization and Social Networks in Beijing and Taipei (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012)
Local Organizations and Urban Governance in East and Southeast Asia: Straddling State and Society, edited by Benjamin L. Read with Robert Pekkanen (Abingdon, U.K.: Routledge, 2009)

Articles and Chapters, Refereed:

“Problems and Possibilities of Comparison Across Regime Types: Examples Involving China,” in Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith, eds., *Rethinking Comparison* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming in 2021).
“Neighborhood Politics in Taipei: Democracy at the Most Local Level,” in Ashley Esarey and Ryan Dunch, eds., *Taiwan in Dynamic Transition: Nation-Building, Globalization, and Democracy* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2020), pp. 95–120
“Problems and Possibilities of Comparison Across Regime Types,” *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Spring 2018), pp. 33–38
“Serial Interviews: When and Why to Talk to Someone More than Once,” *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, Vol. 17, No. 1, published online June 26, 2018

- “Reconceptualizing Field Research in Political Science” (Diana Kapiszewski, Lauren M. MacLean, and Benjamin L. Read), in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics* (<http://politics.oxfordre.com>), published online April 2018
- “Village Dispute Mediation, 2002–2010: An Enduring Institution amid Rural Change” (Benjamin L. Read and Ethan Michelson), *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (November 2018), pp. 433–452
- “Theoretical Approaches to Neighborhood Governance: Searching for Lost Treasure and Comparative Frameworks,” in Ngai-Ming Yip, ed., *Neighborhood Governance in Urban China* (Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2014), pp. 25–39
- “Public Attitudes toward Official Justice in Beijing and Rural China” (Ethan Michelson and Benjamin L. Read), in Margaret Y. K. Woo and Mary E. Gallagher, eds., *Chinese Justice: Civil Dispute Resolution in Contemporary China* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), pp. 169–203
- “More than an Interview, Less than Sedaka: Studying Subtle and Hidden Politics with Site-Intensive Methods,” in *Contemporary Chinese Politics: New Sources, Methods, and Field Strategies*, edited by Allen Carlson, Mary E. Gallagher, Kenneth Lieberthal and Melanie Manion (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 145–161
- Chinese-language version: “访谈与民族志之间——用深入实地方法研究精妙和隐形的政治,” 寇艾伦 高敏 李侃如 墨宁主编, 当代中国政治研究: 新材料、新方法和实地调查的新途径 (Beijing: Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Press, 2014)
- “State-Linked Associational Life: Illuminating Blind Spots of Existing Paradigms,” in *Local Organizations and Urban Governance in East and Southeast Asia: Straddling State and Society*, edited by Benjamin L. Read with Robert Pekkanen (Abingdon, U.K.: Routledge, 2009), pp. 1–26
- Updated version reprinted in *The Nature of the Nonprofit Sector*, 3rd ed., edited by J. Steven Ott and Lisa A. Dicke (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2015), pp. 378–396. This version was co-authored with Robert Pekkanen and titled “Organizations that Straddle the State-Society Divide: Illuminating Blind Spots of Existing Paradigms.”
 - Reprinted in *The Nature of the Nonprofit Sector*, 2nd ed., edited by J. Steven Ott and Lisa A. Dicke (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2012), pp. 385–401
- “The Multiple Uses of Local Networks: State Cultivation of Neighborhood Social Capital in China and Taiwan,” in *Local Organizations and Urban Governance in East and Southeast Asia: Straddling State and Society*, edited by Benjamin L. Read with Robert Pekkanen (Abingdon, U.K.: Routledge, 2009), pp. 121–157
- “Mediating the Mediation Debate: Conflict Resolution and the Local State in China” (Benjamin L. Read and Ethan Michelson), *Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 52, No. 5 (October 2008), pp. 737–764
- “Assessing Variation in Civil Society Organizations: China’s Homeowner Associations in Comparative Perspective,” *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 41, Issue 9 (September 2008), pp. 1240–1265
- “Property Rights and Homeowner Activism in New Neighborhoods,” in Li Zhang and Aihwa Ong, eds., *Privatizing China: Socialism from Afar* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2008), pp. 41–56
- “The State’s Evolving Relationship with Urban Society: China’s Neighborhood Organizations in Comparative Perspective” (Benjamin L. Read and Chun-Ming Chen) in John R. Logan, ed., *Urban China in Transition* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008), pp. 315–335
- “Inadvertent Political Reform via Private Associations: Assessing Homeowners’ Groups in New Neighborhoods,” in Elizabeth J. Perry and Merle Goldman, eds., *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007), pp. 149–173

- “Democratizing the Neighborhood? New Private Housing and Homeowner Self-Organization in Urban China,” *The China Journal*, Issue 49 (January 2003), pp. 31–59
- Reprinted in Jonathan Unger, ed., *Associations and the Chinese State: Contested Spaces* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2008), pp. 216–252
- “Revitalizing the State’s Urban ‘Nerve Tips’,” *The China Quarterly* No. 163 (September 2000), pp. 806–820
- Reprinted in Andrew Kipnis, Luigi Tomba, and Jonathan Unger (eds.), *Contemporary Chinese Society and Politics*, Vol. 3 (London and New York: Routledge, 2009), pp. 33–48

Articles, Other:

- “China–Taiwan Comparisons: Still Promising Though Not ‘Ideal’,” Harvard Workshop on Chinese Politics, February 23, 2018. Available at http://cnpoliticsworkinggroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ben-Read_China-Taiwan-Comparisons.pdf
- “Political and Social Reform in China: Alive and Walking” (George J. Gilboy and Benjamin L. Read), *The Washington Quarterly* Vol. 31, No. 3 (Summer 2008), pp. 143–164
- “Rethinking the Civic Properties of State-Linked Associations,” *Democracy & Society* [Center for Democracy and Civil Society, Georgetown University] Vol. 4, Issue 1 (Fall 2006), pp. 12–14
- “Introduction” and “Site-Intensive Methods: Fenno and Scott in Search of a Coalition” in a symposium titled “Field Research: How Rich? How Thick? How Participatory?” *Qualitative Methods* [newsletter of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Qualitative Methods] Vol. 4, No. 2 (Fall 2006), pp. 9–13
- “Fieldwork: Learning How to Get the Information You Need,” *Contemporary China Newsletter* [Dangdai Zhongguo Yanjiu, Center for Contemporary China, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan] No. 7 (October 31, 2006), pp. 22–26

Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations (most recent ten years):

- “The Rising Tide of Women Elected to Local Office in Taiwan, and How it Matters,” Tulane University, February 15, 2019
- “China–Taiwan Comparisons: Still Promising Though Not ‘Ideal’,” memo written for Chinese Politics Workshop, Harvard University, December 15, 2017
- “The Conceptual Dimension of Comparison: Examples from Research across the China-Taiwan Divide,” Rethinking Comparison in the Social Sciences, City College of New York, October 21, 2017
- “Village Dispute Mediation, 2002–2010: An Enduring Institution amid Rural Change,” annual meeting, American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September 2, 2017
- “台灣都會區的地方政治,” [Local Politics in Taiwan’s Cities], International Chinese Language Program, National Taiwan University, Taipei, July 29, 2016 and August 9, 2017
- “Studying Urban State–Society Intermediaries Through Serial Interviews,” annual meeting, American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, August 29, 2016
- “State–Society Relations” and “Degrees of Immersion in Political Science Fieldwork,” at “From Empirical Research to Theorization,” training program in Guangzhou hosted by the Sun Yat-sen University School of Government and the Harvard–Yenching Institute, June 17, 2016
- “Urban Taiwan’s State-Structured Neighborhood Governance: Deepening Democracy, Partisan Civic Engagement, Inverted Class Bias,” annual meeting, Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, ^[1]_{SEP} April 2, 2016
- “Studying Urban State-Society Intermediaries Through Serial Interviews,” Methodological Innovation in Urban Political Research in the Developing World, American University, October 29, 2015

- “Reconceptualizing Field Research,” 中国政治研究的视野与方法学术工作坊 [Workshop on Perspectives and Methods in the Study of Chinese Politics], Nanjing University, Nanjing, China, co-hosted by the Harvard-Yenching Institute, June 20, 2015
- “Studying State–Society Intermediaries Using Site-Intensive Methods,” Compensating for the State’s Inability to See: Methodological Insights from Urban Political Research, UC Berkeley, May 1, 2015
- “台灣 2014 年 11 月 29 日的九合一選舉,” [Taiwan’s Nine-in-One Elections of November 29, 2014] International Chinese Language Program, National Taiwan University, Taipei, November 26, 2014
- “美國的城市區域治理問題,” [The Problem of the Governance of Urban Regions in the United States], Conference on City Regions in Taiwan, Ming Chuan University, Taipei [keynote address, in Chinese], November 14, 2014
- “Neighborhood Politics in Urban Taiwan,” Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania, October 30, 2014
- “Urban Taiwan’s State-Structured Neighborhood Governance: Deepening Democracy, Partisan Civic Engagement, Inverted Class Bias,” annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., August 29, 2014
- “Village-level Mediation of Disputes: Evidence from Two Surveys,” conference on “Stability Maintenance and the Chinese State’s Response to Social Conflict,” UC San Diego, August 21, 2014
- “Chinese Politics Today: Five Questions,” Air War College, Montgomery, Alabama, April 7, 2014
- “Urban Taiwan’s State-Structured Neighborhood Governance: Deepening Democracy, Partisan Civic Engagement, Inverted Class Bias,” Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, January 21, 2014
- “Reconceptualizing Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles,” annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, August 30, 2013
- “Urban Taiwan’s State-Structured Neighborhood Governance: Deepening Democracy, Partisan Civic Engagement, Inverted Class Bias,” conference on “Taiwan in Dynamic Transition,” Department of East Asian Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, May 25, 2013
- “Chinese Politics Today: The Leadership Succession and Its Context,” Air War College, Montgomery, Alabama, March 29, 2013
- “Roots of the State,” East Asian Studies Program, Johns Hopkins University, November 12, 2012
- “Cultures of Ultra-Local Administration in Beijing and Taipei,” China’s Urban Political Cultures: A Comparative Perspective, workshop held at the Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard University, May 4–5, 2012
- “Roots of the State: Neighborhood Organization and Social Networks in Beijing and Taipei,” Center for Global, International and Regional Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz, February 6, 2012
- Book workshop for *Field Research in Political Science*, Department of Political Science, Indiana University, December 2, 2011
- “Neighborhood Governance in Urban Taiwan: Democratic Deepening in the Roots of the State,” Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies and Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard University, April 18, 2011
- “Site-Intensive Methods: Ethnography and Participant Observation in Political Science Research,” annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, September 4, 2010
- “Problems and Theories of Neighborhood Governance: Beijing and Taipei in Comparative Perspective,” Symposium on Homeowners Associations and the Reinvention of Grassroots Government in Urban China, City University of Hong Kong, August 17–18, 2010

- “Taiwan’s Urban Neighborhoods and the Conundrums of Ultra-Local Democracy,” Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, April 30, 2010
- “Administrative Grassroots Organizations: State-Fostered Neighborhood Groups in Beijing and Taipei,” Department of Political Science, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, February 22, 2010
- “The Alley-Level State: Residents and Neighborhood Organizations in Beijing and Taipei,” UCLA Center for Chinese Studies, April 27, 2009
- “The Multiple Uses of Local Networks: State Cultivation of Neighborhood Social Capital in China and Taiwan,” annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, March 20, 2009

Reviews:

- The China Journal*, review of Beibei Tang, *China’s Housing Middle Class: Changing Urban Life in Gated Communities* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2018), Vol. 82, Issue 1 (July 2019), 181-182
- The Wall Street Journal*, review of Bruce J. Dickson, *The Dictator’s Dilemma: The Chinese Communist Party’s Strategy for Survival* (Oxford, 2016), August 2, 2016
- The China Journal*, review of Luigi Tomba, *The Government Next Door: Neighborhood Politics in Urban China* (Ithaca: Cornell, 2014), #76 (July 2016), 124-126
- The Wall Street Journal*, review of Louisa Lim, *The People’s Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited* (Oxford, 2014) and Rowena Xiaoqing He, *Tiananmen Exiles: Voices of the Struggle for Democracy in China* (Palgrave, 2014), May 31, 2014
- The China Journal*, review of Thomas Heberer and Christian Göbel, *The Politics of Community Building in Urban China* (London: Routledge, 2011), 70 (July 2013), pp. 219-223
- Journal of East Asian Studies*, review of S. Frederick Starr, ed., *Xinjiang: China’s Muslim Borderland* (Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2004), Vol. 6, #2 (May–August 2006), pp. 315–318
- Journal of Politics*, review of Melanie Manion, *Corruption by Design: Building Clean Government in Mainland China and Hong Kong* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004), Vol. 67, #3 (August 2005), pp. 936–937
- Far Eastern Economic Review*, review of Robert Lawrence Kuhn, *The Man Who Changed China: The Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2004), Vol. 168, #2 (January/February 2005), pp. 70–72
- The China Journal*, review of Linda Wong and Norman Flynn, eds., *The Market in Chinese Social Policy* (Houndsmills, UK: Palgrave, 2001), #48 (July 2002), pp. 216–217
- Anonymous book manuscript or proposal reviews for Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Cornell University Press, Harvard University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Rowman & Littlefield, Temple University Press
- Anonymous article manuscript reviews for *American Journal of Political Science*, *Asian Survey*, *Built Environment*, *China Information*, *China Journal* (x6), *China Quarterly* (x7), *China Perspectives*, *China Review* (x2), *Comparative Political Studies* (x3), *Comparative Politics*, *Competition & Change*, *Historical Research*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Journal of Asian Studies* (x2), *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* (x2), *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Journal of Gender Studies*, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* (x2), *Pacific Affairs*, *Political Psychology*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *PS: Political Science and Politics* (x2), *Urban Affairs*, *Urban Geography*, and *Urban Studies*

Grants and Fellowships:

- Taiwan Fellowship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan), summer 2018, travel and living stipend
- Research Grant, Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (USA), 2015–17, \$29,400

Visiting Faculty Fellowship, Center for Democracy and the Third Sector, Georgetown University, 2005–06, \$50,000

Junior Scholar Grant, Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (USA), 2005–06, \$14,700

Shorenstein Fellowship, Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University, 2005–06, \$40,000 (declined)

At University of Iowa

Travel grant, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Fall 2006, \$3,500

Interdisciplinary Research Grant, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, June 2005 (with collaborator Ethan Michelson of Indiana University), \$12,000

Old Gold research funding, 2004–2005, \$6,000

Shambaugh conference grant, Department of Political Science, for fall 2005, \$14,500

Course development grant, International Programs, summer 2004, \$4,000

Faculty grant, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Iowa, 2003–2004, \$2,500

During Graduate School

Hauser Center Doctoral Fellowship (John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard, 2001–2002)

Graduate Student Small Grant, Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research, SUNY-Albany (Spring 2001), \$3,000

Committee on Scholarly Communication with China Research Grant (Fall 2000), \$9,845

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (1999–2000), \$27,610

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship (Harvard, 1997–1999)

Asia Center NCR Travel Grant (Harvard, Summer Pre-Dissertation Research in China, 1998)

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (UC-Berkeley, Summer Language Study in Taipei, 1996)

Graduate School Fellowship (UC-Berkeley, 1996–1997)

Institute of East Asian Studies Graduate Fellowship (UC-Berkeley, 1995–1996)

TEACHING

Courses Taught at the University of California, Santa Cruz:

Politics 60: Introduction to Comparative Politics (focusing on the developing world)

Politics 140d: Politics of East Asia

Politics 141: Politics of China

Politics 161: Foreign Relations of China

Politics 190t: Governance and Conflict in East Asia

Politics 200b: Social Forces and Political Change (core graduate seminar)

Politics 210: Problems of Democracy (elective graduate seminar)

Politics 261: Key Issues in Contemporary Chinese Politics (elective graduate seminar)

SERVICE

Professional Service:

- Co-editor (with Erin Aeran Chung and Mary Alice Haddad), Cambridge Elements series on East Asian Politics and Society, Cambridge University Press, 2019-
- Associate editor, Japanese Journal of Political Science, 2018-
- Discussant, “The ‘Xi Jinping Effect’ in China and Beyond,” online workshop, University of Alberta, University of Georgia, University of Denver, July 22, 2020
- Co-organizer, Mini-Conference on Chinese Politics, American Political Science Association annual meeting, 2018
- Co-taught a half-day course, “Designing and Conducting Field Research,” at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2015, 2016, and 2017
- Panel discussant: Association for Asian Studies (2009, 2010, 2013); American Political Science Association (2006, 2013, 2015x2, 2017); Midwest Political Science Association (2006); Western Political Science Association (2010); Southwest Multi-Methods Research Workshop (2015)
- Discussant, book manuscript workshop, Stanford University, May 19, 2017
- Instructor, “From Empirical Research to Theorization,” training program in Guangzhou hosted by the Sun Yat-sen University School of Government and the Harvard–Yenching Institute, June 12–21, 2016
- Instructor, “Qualitative Methods in the Study of Chinese Politics: History and Ethnography,” training program in Nanjing hosted by the Nanjing University School of Government and co-sponsored with the Harvard–Yenching Institute, June 16–21, 2015
- Discussant, book manuscript workshop, Georgetown University, June 5, 2015
- Panel chair, “The Legacy of Sent-down Youth in Contemporary China,” workshop sponsored by the UC-Fudan Center on Contemporary Chinese Studies, UC San Diego, and facilitated by the Institute of Humanities Research, UC Santa Cruz, April 28, 2014
- Program Co-chair, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research section, American Political Science Association 2013 annual meeting
- Discussant, “Power in the Making: Governing and ‘Being Governed’ in Contemporary China,” an international conference sponsored by the Contemporary China Studies Programme, Oxford University, March 30–April 1, 2012
- Chair, 2010 Sage Award committee (for best paper developing and/or applying qualitative research methods presented at the 2009 APSA meeting), APSA Qualitative and Multi-Method Research organized section
- Organized the Asian Politics Section of the Midwest Political Science Association 2006 annual conference
- Taught a half-day course on field research at an international conference sponsored by the Academic Fellowship Program of the Open Society Institute, Sinaia, Romania, Feb. 23, 2006

University of California, Santa Cruz:

- Chair, Politics Department, July 2020–
- Member, Committee on the Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC), Winter 2019
- Member, Undergraduate Committee, Politics Department, Winter 2019–Spring 2020
- External member of China search committee, History Department, 2018–2019
- Director of Graduate Studies, Politics Department, July 2015–June 2018
- Member, Committee on Faculty Welfare, UCSC Academic Senate, 2013–14 and 2014–15

Anonymous referee for proposals to the UC Pacific Rim Research Program, January 2013
Chair, Information Technology Advisory Committee, Division of Social Sciences, 2011–2012
Coordinator, department colloquium, Politics Department, 2009–2010
Member, Graduate Committee, Politics Department, 2008–2018
Board member and secretary, Ranch View Terrace faculty/staff housing homeowner association, 2009–2011

Public Lectures and Forums:

“Taiwan’s 9-in-1 Elections,” panel discussion, Foreign Policy Research Institute, December 3, 2014.
“China: The Ownership Society?” (with Ethan Michelson), Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, June 28, 2005

Previous University and Community Service:

Gave talks on my research at workshops of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, Aug. 4 and Sept. 8, 2007
Moot court judge, law school, Feb. 21, 2007
Provided Chinese-English interpretation at eleven public speaking appearances by International Writing Program guest writers Yu Hua, Mo Yan, Chen Danyan, Tang Ying, Zhang Xian, Lou Ye, Bi Feiyu, Ya Hsien, and Li Rui, and translated short plays and poems, 2003–2007
Moderated panel discussion on the Cultural Revolution, International Programs, Sept. 7, 2004
Established and organized cross-disciplinary China Studies Reading Group, starting in fall 2003
Presented at panel on teaching international students, meeting of Directors of Graduate Study, Nov. 19, 2003
Provided Chinese-English interpretation at talks by Chinese Politburo member Li Tieying, student leader Wang Dan, five other academic speakers, and conferences on Tibet and Shanghai, Harvard University, 1997–2003

MISCELLANEOUS

Other Work Experience:

Assistant Editor, Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, Harvard University (part-time, 2001)
▪ Translated and edited Mao Zedong texts for Stuart R. Schram’s ten-volume compilation, *Mao’s Road to Power: Revolutionary Writings, 1912–1949*
Researcher and Interpreter, Beijing Bureau, *The New York Times* (1993–1995, part-time)
English Language Instructor, *Foreign Affairs College*, Beijing (1993–1995)
Freelance Writer and Translator, Beijing (1993–1994)
Reporter Intern, *Milwaukee Sentinel* (Summer 1992)
Editor, *Cornell Political Forum*, Ithaca, New York (1993)
Reporter and Copy Editor, *Cornell Daily Sun*, Ithaca, New York (1989–1991)

Languages:

Native speaker of English
Fluent in written and spoken Chinese