**Reading Questions**

Tsai, Lily L. 2007. “Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China.” *American Political Science Review 101*(2): 355-372.

As you read Tsai, consider:

* Why is (local) public/governmental goods provision an important topic to study?
* Why is public goods provision a collective action problem? What is the problem of accountability? How can solidary groups contribute to “informal” accountability?
* What is the scope condition? Namely, by focusing on rural China, what is the larger set of comparable cases Tsai seeks to speak to?
* Is Tsai’s question/theory generalizable? Or is it specific to rural China? Why or why not? If yes, can you think of any other cases? Can you find a different case to test the observable implications of her theory? What is a case?
* Why did Tsai choose four types of solidary groups in the study?
* Do you agree with her measures of key explanatory and/or outcome variables?
* What did Tsai attempt to achieve in the section “Other Explanatory Factors?” Knowing her main goal in the section, what is the nature of her theoretical claims?