

MGCS 5001/SHSS 3001
Understanding China, 1700-2000: A Data-Analytic Approach

Professor James Z. Lee et al

Course Description

This course summarizes new directions in Chinese history and social science produced by the creation and analysis of big historical datasets based on newly opened Chinese archival holdings in a framework of three Parts. Part One focuses on ‘Who are we?’ as seen through comparative population behavior - mortality, marriage, and reproduction – and interactions with economic conditions and human values. Parts Two and Three focus on comparative inequality and opportunity addressing two related questions ‘Who rises to the top?’ and ‘Who gets what?’.

The ‘Flipped Classroom’ and Assignments

Our course takes advantage of a flipped classroom. Students are required to watch class lectures outside the classroom before meetings and to use in-class time instead for active learning through group and individual class discussions, group oral presentation and written assignments focusing on the same set of questions assigned weekly. All class assignments in are by groups. There are no individual assignments.

Class Schedule

NO. THEME

L1	Introduction and Conceptual Discussion
L2	Who Are We
L3	Who Survives
L4	Who Reproduces
L5	Who Marries
L6	Who Cares
L7	Education and Social Mobility in the Qing
L8	Education and Social Mobility in the Republican China
L9	Education and Social Mobility in the People’s Republic of China
L10	Comparative Inequality and Opportunity Past and Present
L11	Wealth Accumulation and Distribution in the Past
L12	Wealth Accumulation and Distribution at the Time of Land Reform and Rural Reconstruction
L13	Wealth Accumulation and Distribution in the Present

Grading

PPT presentations (35 %), Writing exercises (35 %), Discussion (15 %), Group teamwork (15 %)

Major Readings

Lee and Wang. 1999. *One Quarter of Humanity: Malthusian Mythology and Chinese Realities, 1700-2000*. Harvard University Press.

Bengtsson, Campbell, and Lee. 2004. *Life under Pressure: Mortality and Living Standards in Europe and Asia, 1700-1900*. MIT Press.

Tsuya, Wang, Alter, and Lee et al. 2010. *Prudence and Pressure: Reproduction and Human Agency in Europe and Asia, 1700-1900*. MIT Press.

Lundh and Kurosu .2014. *Similarity in Difference: Marriage in Europe and Asia, 1700-1900*. MIT Press.

HO, Ping-ti. 1964. *The Ladder of Success in Imperial China; Aspects of Social Mobility, 1368-1911*. Columbia University Press.

梁晨, 张浩, 李兰, 阮丹青, 康文林, 李中清. 2013. 《无声的革命: 北京大学, 苏州大学学生社会来源研究, 1949-2002》. 北京三联出版社.