

Cornell/IFPRI/WIDER

Conference on

Growing Inequality in China

Cornell University
401 Warren Hall

September 25-26

Since the start of the economic reform process in China a quarter of a century ago, there have been spectacular increases in per capita income and equally spectacular reductions in income poverty. However, inequality—interpersonal, interregional, in incomes and in social indicators—has increased dramatically, particularly in the last fifteen years. The object of this conference is to take stock of growing inequality in China, focusing on its causes, its consequences, and policy responses to it in the future.

Friday, September 24

Participants arrive

Saturday, September 25

8.15—8.45 Registration, Continental Breakfast

8.45—9.00 **Opening**

Ravi Kanbur (Cornell), Guanghua Wan (WIDER), Xiaobo Zhang (IFPRI)

9.00—10.15 **Session I: General Patterns**

9.00—9.25 Branko Milanovic (World Bank and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), “Half a World: Regional Inequality in Five Great Federations.”

9.25—9.50 Shaohua Chen* (World Bank) and Martin Ravallion (World Bank), “China’s (Uneven) Progress Against Poverty Since the Early 1980s.”

9.50—10.15 Discussion

10.15—10.45 **Break**

10.45—12.30 **Session II: Regional Inequality**

10.45—11.10 Guanghua Wan* (WIDER) and Yin Zhang (WIDER), “Why Do Poverty Rates Differ From Region to Region: The Case of Urban China.”

11.10—11.35 Simei Wen (South China Agricultural University), “Regional Inequality in Rapid Economic Development: Experience from Guangdong.”

11.40—12.05 David Roland-Holst (University of California, Berkeley), “Inequality in China: How Deep, How Wide, How Long?”

12.00—12.30 Discussion

12.30—2.00 **Lunch**

2.00—3.45 **Session III: Capital Markets, Credit and Inequality**

9.25—9.50 Xiaodong Wu (UNC Chapel Hill), “Will Foreign Capital Inflow Alleviate Income Inequality?”

2.25—2.50 Zhicheng Liang (CNRS—Université d’Auvergne), “Financial Development, Credit Access and Income Inequalities.”

2.50—3.05 Xiaobo Zhang* (IFPRI) and Kong-Yam Tan (World Bank), “Reform and the Transformation of Rents in China.”

3.05—3.45 Discussion

3.45—4.15 **Break**

4.15—5.30 **Session IV: Health Access**

4.15—4.40 Adam Wagstaff (World Bank), “Illness, Impoverishment and Consumption Shocks in China: The Roles of Insurance, Credit and Health Facilities.”

4.40—5.05 Yunni Yi* (University of York), Alan Maynard (University of York), Gordon Liu (Peking University), Xianjung Xong (Ministry of Labor and Social Security, China) and Feng Lin (Bureau of Social Medical Insurance, Zhenjing City), “Equity in Health Care Financing.”

5.05—5.30 Discussion

6.00 **Conference Dinner (by invitation)**

Sunday, September 26

9.00—10.45 Session V: Institutions, Market Development and Inequality

- 9.00—9.25 Yang Cao* (UNC Charlotte) and Victor Nee (Cornell), “Market Transition and the Firm: Institutional Change and Inequality in China.”
- 9.25—9.50 Zhiqiang Liu (SUNY Buffalo), “Institution and Inequality: the *Hukou* System in China.”
- 9.50—10.15 Ulrich Reuter (Nagoya University), “Regional Growth Disparities and Goods Market Fragmentation in China.”
- 10.15—10.45 Discussion

10.45—11.15 Break

11.15—12.30 Session VI: Inequality, Growth and Policy

- 11.15—11.40 Dwayne Benjamin (University of Toronto), Loren Brandt (University of Toronto) and John Giles* (Michigan State University), “The Dynamics of Inequality and Growth in Rural China: Does Higher Inequality Impede Growth?”
- 11.35—12.00 Ran Tao* (University of Oxford) and Mingxing Liu (Peking University), “Rural Taxation, Policy Burdens and Fiscal reform in China.”
- 12.05—12.30 Discussion

12.30—1.00 Next Steps and Closing

Note: For multiple authored papers, the name of the presenter is marked by a *.

8/27/04