



## International Conference on The Legacy of Sent-down Youth in Contemporary China

(Sponsored/organized/facilitated by the UC-Fudan Center on Contemporary China  
& Institute of Humanities Research, UC Santa Cruz)

April 27 - April 29, 2014

This workshop aims to explore the contemporary legacies of the sent-down youth movement that accompanied the Cultural Revolution, during which approximately 15 million urban youth were sent to live on state farms and in rural villages for up to ten years. This is a timely moment for such a workshop, as an increasing number of scholars in China are engaged in research on this subject, a result of the virtual cottage industry of individual memoirs, collections of letters, diaries, and photographs that have been published. The extent of Chinese research is also related to the increasing availability of archival materials, particularly local collections of materials from the former “offices of sent-down youth.”

Although all of the workshop participants have conducted research on historical aspects of the movement, they share a concern with the legacies of that movement for contemporary China: the large percentage of the current political leadership (including President Xi Jinping) that were sent-down youth; the implications of economic relationships established in the context of the sent-down youth movement for contemporary economic development. These present-day legacies of the sent-down youth movement will be the focus on the proposed workshop. Participants include historians, sociologists, and political scientists.

### Conference Agenda

Location: Humanities 1, University of California, Santa Cruz.

**April 27** | 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Reception and Dinner for Workshop Participants

**April 28** | 9 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Day Conference

9 - 9:15 a.m.

**Opening remarks by Emily Honig, Department of History, UC Santa Cruz**

9:15 – 12:15 p.m.

**Panel I**

Chair: **Benjamin Reed**, Department of Politics, UC Santa Cruz

**Sun Peidong** | Department of History, Fudan University

“Don’t Bother if You Are Not the One: The Sent-down Youth Generation and the Parental Match-making Corner in Shanghai”

**Xie Chunhe** | Center for Research on Sent-down Youth, Heihe College, Heilongjiang

“The Quest for Social Identity of Sent-down Youth in the Post-Cultural Revolution Era”

**Emily Honig and Xiaojian Zhao** | Department of History, UC Santa Cruz and  
Department of Asian American Studies, UC Santa Barbara

“Calling the Phoenix Back to its Nest: Economic Legacies of Sent-down Youth in Contemporary China”

Discussant: **Kevin O’Brien**, Department of Politics, UC Berkeley



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12:15 – 2 p.m.

**Lunch**

2 – 5 p.m.

**Panel II**

Chair: **Christopher Connery**, Department of Literature, UC Santa Cruz

**Tan Shen** | Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

**Jin Guangyao** | Department of History, Fudan University

“Former Sent-down Youth in Post-Cultural Revolution China: Literature and Scholarship.”

**Lin Shengbao** | Department of History, Fudan University

“An Analysis of Sent-down Youth Oral Histories”

Discussant: **Thomas Gold**, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley

6 – 8 p.m.

**Dinner at Stevenson College Provost House**

**April 29** | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Roundtable Discussion for Workshop Participants Only