

Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path

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Peilin Li, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China

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Shouguang Xie, President, Social Sciences Academic Press

Academic Advisors

Fang Cai, Peiyong Gao, Lin Li, Qiang Li, Huaide Ma, Jiahua Pan, Changhong Pei, Ye Qi, Lei Wang, Ming Wang, Yuyan Zhang, Yongnian Zheng, Hong Zhou

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Peilin Li · M. K. Gorshkov
Editors

Life Expectations of the People

A Comparative Sociological Analysis
of China and Russia



 Springer

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Editors

Peilin Li
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Beijing, China

M. K. Gorshkov
Russian Academy of Sciences
Beijing, China

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Series Preface

Since China's reform and opening began in 1978, the country has come a long way on the path of Socialism with Chinese characteristics, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. Over 30 years of reform, efforts and sustained spectacular economic growth have turned China into the world's second largest economy and wrought many profound changes in the Chinese society. These historically significant developments have been garnering increasing attention from scholars, governments, and the general public alike around the world since the 1990s, when the newest wave of China studies began to gather steam. Some of the hottest topics have included the so-called China miracle, Chinese phenomenon, Chinese experience, Chinese path, and the Chinese model. Homegrown researchers have soon followed suit. Already hugely productive, this vibrant field is putting out a large number of books each year, with Social Sciences Academic Press alone having published hundreds of titles on a wide range of subjects.

Because most of these books have been written and published in Chinese, however, readership has been limited outside China—even among many who study China—for whom English is still the lingua franca. This language barrier has been an impediment to efforts by academia, business communities, and policy-makers in other countries to form a thorough understanding of contemporary China, of what is distinct about China's past and present may mean not only for her future but also for the future of the world. The need to remove such an impediment is both real and urgent, and the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* is my answer to the call.

This series features some of the most notable achievements from the last 20 years by scholars in China in a variety of research topics related to reform and opening. They include both theoretical explorations and empirical studies and cover economy, society, politics, law, culture, and ecology, the six areas in which reform and opening policies have had the deepest impact and farthest-reaching consequences for the country. Authors for the series have also tried to articulate their visions of the "Chinese Dream" and how the country can realize it in these fields and beyond.

All of the editors and authors for the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* are both longtime students of reform and opening and

recognized authorities in their respective academic fields. Their credentials and expertise lend credibility to these books, each of which having been subject to a rigorous peer review process for inclusion in the series. As part of the Reform and Development Program under the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and Television of the People's Republic of China, the series is published by Springer, a Germany-based academic publisher of international repute, and distributed overseas. I am confident that it will help fill a lacuna in studies of China in the era of reform and opening.

Shouguang Xie

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Editors and Contributors

About the Editors

Peilin Li is an academic member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). He now serves as vice-president of CASS. Prior to his current position, he was the director of the Institute of Sociology at CASS and served as the president of Chinese Sociological Association. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Paris (Pantheon-Sorbonne) in 1987. He has published and edited many articles, books, and essay collections, in Chinese, English, and French, on social stratification and mobility (particularly on Chinese domestic migrant workers) and economic sociology (particularly on Chinese State-Owned Enterprises). He has also hosted several large projects, including the “Chinese general social survey,” one of largest and earliest national sociological surveys conducted since 2006.

M. K. Gorshkov is the director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. He is one of the most prominent modern Russian sociologists, renowned for his investigations in social philosophy, the sociology of mass consciousness and public opinion, methodology and methods of sociological research, sociology of youth, sociology of identity, sociology of social inequalities, sociology of Russian everyday life, etc. He earned his Full Doctorate degree in Philosophical Sciences in 1989 and was elected Academician (Full Member) of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 2011.

Contributors

Yan Cui, Ph.D. is an assistant professor at the CASS Institute of Sociology and specializes in social development research and social research methods. Major publications include *Research on the Motivation of Citizens' Environmental Organization Participation* and *the General Public's Urban Attributes During the Process of Urbanization*.

L. M. Drobizheva is a doctor of History and the professor and head of the Center for Interethnic Relations Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. She is also a professor at the National Research University Higher School of Economics and a member of the Russian President's Council on International Relations. Her main areas of research include the theory and methodology of ethnic sociology, inter-ethnic relations, ethnic identity, policy and social practice in a multicultural society. She is one of the most heavily cited Russian scholars. Selected publications include: *Social Inequality of Ethnic Groups: Image and Reality* (2002); *The Social Problems of Interethnic Relations in Post-Soviet Russia* (2003); and *Ethnicity in the Socio-Political Space of the Russian Federation: The Experience of 20 Years* (2013).

Lei Fan, Ph.D. is an associate professor at the CASS Institute of Sociology and specializes in social development research and social research methods. Major publications include *The Division of Labor in the Current Chinese Labor Market During the Process of Urbanization* and *The Political Attitude of the Post-80s Generation*.

I. A. Khaliy is the head of the department for research on social and cultural development in Russian regions at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. She holds a doctorate in Sociology and has more than 170 scientific publications, including several individual and collective monographs such as: *Modern Social Movements: Innovative Potential of Russian Transformations in traditional Social Milieu*; *Self-portrait of a Local Community*; and *Institutionalization of Environmental Policy*. Now, she is a leader of three scientific research projects: "The ratio of traditions and innovations in the minds and livelihoods of local communities," "The role of civil society structures in the development of social processes of modern Russia," and "Regional and local management: feedback of state power bodies and communities."

P. M. Kozyreva Doctor of Sociology, is the first deputy director at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. She also serves as a director of the Center for Longitudinal Studies at the National Research University Higher School of Economics. She has conducted research on social stratification and related topics throughout her career. She is also a specialist on survey research methods. She directs one of the largest longitudinal surveys in Russia—"The Russia Longitudinal Monitoring Survey of HSE" (RLMS-HSE), which has been conducted since 1994. Selected publications include: *Ethnicity and Trust: Evidence from Russia, American Political Science Review*, 2005 (in co-authorship with D. Bahry, M. Kosolapov and R. Wilson); *Trust and Its Recourses in Modern Russian Society*, monograph, 2011; "Interpersonal Trust in the Context of Social Capital Formation," *Sotsiologicheskie issledovaniia*, 2009, No. 1; "The Social Adaptation of the Russian Population in Post-Soviet Period," *Sociological Research*, 2012, Vol. 51, No. 5, September–October; *Recourses and Practices of Socio-Economic Adaptation of the Russian Population*, monograph, 2013 (in co-authorship with A. Smirnov and A. Nizamova); *Consumption and Lifestyles in Russia*, in *Handbook on Social Stratification in the*

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Yu. V. Latov is a leading researcher at the Academy of Management of the Interior Ministry of Russia and a leading researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. He is also a professor at the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics. He is a sociologist (Ph.D. in Sociology—2008) with a background in economics (Ph.D. in Economics—1993). His research and consulting practice concentrates on the shadow economy, comparative studies, sociology of education, civil society, and prevention of extremism. He is the author of over 350 articles and chapters in scientific monographs. He is a co-author of the monograph *Continuing Education as a Stimulus for Human Development and a Factor in Socio-Economic Inequality* (2014) and a author of the monograph *Economy Outside of the Law* (2001).

N. V. Latova is a senior researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the Institute of Sociology (2011) and is the author of more than 80 articles and chapters in scientific monographs. She also annually participates in scientific grants. Her professional interests include comparative studies, the sociology of education, economic sociology, and migration problems such as “brain drain.” She is co-author of the monograph, *Continuing Education as a Stimulus for Human Development and a Factor in Socio-Economic Inequality* (2014).

Yu. P. Lezhnina is an assistant professor at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) and a senior researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the Higher School of Economics (2010). Her main areas of interest include social policy, aging, socio-demographic modernization, and socio-cultural dynamics. She is the author of over 40 articles and chapters in scientific monographs. Her recent publications in English include: “The Family in Value Orientations,” published in *Russian Education and Society* (2011); “Socio-demographic Factors Determining the Risk of Poverty and Low-Income Poverty,” *Sociological Research* (2011); and “Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Poverty,” *Sociological Studies*, 2014, Issue 1.

Chunling Li is a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) Institute of Sociology and the director of the Department of Youth Studies and Social Problems at the Institute. She is also a professor in the CASS Department of Sociology. Her primary research interests are social stratification, sociology of education and youth studies. Her published books include: *Attitudes, Experiences and Social Transformation: A Sociological Study of “Post-1980” Youth; Rising*

Middle Classes in China; Gender Stratification and the Labor Market; Formation of the Middle Class in Comparative Perspective: Process, Influence, and Socioeconomic Consequences; Theories of Social Stratification; Cleavage or Fragmentation: A Empirical Analysis of Social Stratification in Contemporary China; Social Mobility in Urban China; Youth and Social Change: A Comparative Study Between China and Russia.

Wei Li is a research associate at the CASS Institute of Sociology and the director of the Department of Social Development. His main research field is sociology of development, social research methods, and social surveys.

S. V. Mareeva is a senior researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology and an assistant professor at the National Research University Higher School of Economics. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the Institute of Sociology (2009). Her main areas of interest include social stratification, middle-class dynamics, socio-cultural modernization, and cultural dynamics. She is the author of over 50 articles and chapters in scientific monographs. She is a co-author of the monograph on the *Russian Middle Class* (2009). Her recent publications in English include the chapter “Understanding Health” in the monograph *Health and Health Care in the New Russia* (London, 2009); the chapter “The Middle Class in Russian Society: Homogeneity or Heterogeneity?” in the *Handbook on Social Stratification in the BRIC Countries: Change and Perspective*, Editors: Peilin Li (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China), M. K. Gorshkov (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia), Celi Scalón (Brazilian Sociological Society, Brazil), K. L. Sharma (Jaipur National University, India), World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd. (2013); “Values and Opinions of the Middle Class of the Desired Vector of Development of the Country,” *Sociological Studies*, 2015, Issue 1.

A. E. Nizamova is currently a senior researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. She is also a deputy director of the Center for Longitudinal Studies at the National Research University Higher School of Economics. She graduated from the economic faculty of Moscow State University, Department of Political Economy and did her post-graduate studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology, where she received her Ph.D. Candidacy in Sociology in 2011. Her main research focus lies in the area of population material well-being in Russia, households’ economic inequality and social adaptation. Her latest publications include: “The Peculiarities of Adaptation of Specialists to the Realities of a Transforming Society,” *Sociological Studies*, 2011, Issue 1; “The Evaluation of Professionals’ Adaptation to the Conditions of a Transforming Society,” *Bulletin of the Russian Peoples’ Friendship University*, Series: Sociology, 2012, Issue 1); “Consumption and Lifestyles in Russia,” in the *Handbook on Social Stratification in the BRIC Countries: Change and Perspective*, Editors: Peilin Li (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China), M. K. Gorshkov (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia), Celi Scalón (Brazilian Sociological Society, Brazil), K. L. Sharma (Jaipur National

University, India), World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd. 2013 (in co-authorship with P. Kozyreva and A. Smirnov).

A. I. Smirnov Doctor of Sociology, is a senior researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology in Moscow. His major interests include political sociology, social factors of Russian society consolidation (including institutional changes in the army, family, etc.), and dynamics of socio-economic conditions of the Russian population. His publications are wide ranging, and include: “Factors Forming Trust in the Russian Army,” *Sociological Studies*, 2009, Issue 2; “Labyrinths of Democracy in Russia,” Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, 2007, (in co-authorship with Kozyreva P.); “Consumption and Lifestyles in Russia,” in the *Handbook on Social Stratification in the BRIC Countries: Change and Perspective*, Editors: Peilin Li (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China), M. K. Gorshkov (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia), Celi Scalon (Brazilian Sociological Society, Brazil), K. L. Sharma (Jaipur National University, India), World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd. 2013 (in co-authorship with P. Kozyreva and A. Nizamova).

N. E. Tikhonova Doctor of Sociology, is a professor at the National Research University Higher School of Economics and a chief researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. She is a recognized specialist in cultural dynamics, social stratification, and social policy. She is the author of about 400 scientific works, three individual monographs, and four co-authored monographs, including three monographs published in Great Britain between 2000 and 2009. Her main publications in English include: *Work and Welfare in the New Russia* (London, 2000, in co-authorship); *Poverty and Social Exclusion in the New Russia* (London, 2004, in co-authorship) *Health and Health Care in the New Russia* (London, 2008, in co-authorship). Her publications in Russian include: *Middle Class: Theory and Reality* (2009, in co-authorship), and *The Social Structure of Russia: Theory and Reality* (2014).

I. O. Tyurina is a leading researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology. She specializes in the fields of economic sociology, the modern Russian labor market, employment and unemployment across different population groups, external labor migration, foreign-born labor force participation in the labor market of post-reform Russia, Internet as a mediator of communicative space and Russian youth. In 1999, she earned a Ph.D. in Sociology with a specialization in sociology of management. She was awarded the title of Associate Professor in 2006 and is actively engaged in education. She is a member of the International Sociological Association and the European Sociological Association. She is the author of more than 40 articles, essays, and reviews, published in Russian and English, on the post-reform labor market, external and internal labor migration, the communicative space of the Internet, and the information society in Russia.

Junxiu Wang is a research fellow at the CASS Institute of Sociology and the director of the Department of Social Psychology at the Institute. His research interests

focus on the social mentality of the Chinese people, risk perception and risk society, social space and autosociety. His recent publications include: *The Theory of Social Mentality: A Macro Social Psychology* (Wang, 2015); *Research on Social Mentality in Contemporary China* (Yang and Wang, 2013); *Annual Report on the Auto Society in China* (2011) (Wang, 2011); *Annual Report on Auto Society in China* (2012–2013) (Wang, 2013); *Annual Report on Social Mentality in China* (2011) (Wang and Yang, 2011); *Annual Report on Social Mentality in China* (2012–2013) (Wang and Yang, 2013); *Annual report on Social Mentality in China* (2014) (Wang and Yang, 2014).

Yiyin Yang is a research fellow at the CASS Institute of Sociology. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology (social psychology) from the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (1998). As the Head of the Center for Social Psychology Studies of the Institute of Sociology, she also served as president of the Chinese Association of Social Psychology (2010–2014). Her current research focuses on cultural social psychology that mediates the Chinese concept of self and “we-ness.” She is also interested in the dynamic of social change from the perspective of social mentality, such as values, psychological modernity, cultural identity, and citizenship in Chinese contemporary society. She has published and translated papers and books in these fields and has hosted several large projects.

Yi Zhang is a research fellow at the CASS Institute of Sociology and deputy director of the Institute of Sociology. He is the chief-editor of *Youth Study*, and the Executive Chief Editor of *The Journal of Chinese Sociology*. He is also the vice-president of the Chinese Social Psychology Society, vice-secretary-general of the Chinese Association of Sociology, and vice-president of the Beijing Association of Sociology. In recent years, his research has been focused on the fields of class structure, population sociology, family sociology, and so on. He published works include the following: *Familialized State-Owned Enterprises*; *The Political Attitude of the Middle Class in Present China*; *Research on Class Conflict Consciousness in Chinese Cities*; *The Attainment of Chinese Social Status: Class Inheritance and Intergenerational Mobility*; *The Attainment of Social Class Status and Education as Affected by Family Background*; and *The Floating Population and Family Risks of Migrant Workers*.

Di Zhu is an Associate Professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. She got her Ph.D. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Manchester, and B.A. degree from Fudan University. Her research interests include the sociology of consumption and social stratification. Her main publications include: *Taste and Material Aspiration: Consumption Patterns of the Middle Class in Contemporary China* (book) in 2013, and *Endeavor to Shape the Olive-Pattern of Distribution Structure—Based on Analysis of the China Social Survey 2006–2013* (2015).

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