

JEFFREY WENG

Ph.D. Candidate
University of California, Berkeley
Department of Sociology
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Berkeley, CA 94720

Education

Ph.D. in Sociology (expected 2019), University of California, Berkeley.
Dissertation: *With One Voice: Unifying the Nation through Language Reform in Early Twentieth-Century China*
Dissertation committee: John Lie (chair), Mara Loveman, Wen-hsin Yeh, Pamela Crossley
Advancement to candidacy: August 2014
Qualifying examinations passed: May 2014

M.A. in Sociology (December 2013), University of California, Berkeley.
Thesis: “The Making of Modern Standard Chinese: A Critique of Bourdieu through the Lens of Language Reform and Nation-Building in Early Twentieth-Century China.”

B.A. in Political Science and International Studies (2008), Yale University

Research Interests

Global and transnational sociology, political sociology, nationalism, comparative historical sociology, sociology of language, social theory, Asia, China

Publications*Peer-Reviewed Article*

Weng, Jeffrey. 2018. “What is Mandarin? The Social Project of Language Standardization in Early Republican China,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 77(3): 611–633.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021911818000487> [The top Asian studies journal; acceptance rate 8%.]

Book Chapter

Lie, John and Jeffrey Weng. (Forthcoming.) “East Asia.” *Blackwell Companion to Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons. [8,000 words.]

Book Review

Weng, Jeffrey. 2017. “Review of ‘The Rural Modern: Reconstructing the Self and State in Republican China,’ by Kate Merkel-Hess.” *The China Review* 17(3).

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/44371805>

Revise and Resubmits

Weng, Jeffrey. “Stop the Presses! Character Simplification and the Publishing Industry in China Under the Nationalists, 1935–1936.” [Revise-and-resubmit to *Modern China*.]

Work in Progress

Weng, Jeffrey. “Who are You Calling Anomalous? Eurocentric Explanations of the Rise of National Standard Languages and the Chinese Case.”

Weng, Jeffrey. “The End of East Asian Cosmopolitanism: Language and Social Change in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, ca. 1870–1950.”

Weng, Jeffrey. “Spreading the Word: National Language Education in China in the 1920s and 1930s.”

Peer Reviewer

Sociology of Development

Conference Presentations

Weng, Jeffrey. 2019 (invited). “Stop the Presses! Character Simplification and the Publishing Industry in China Under the Nationalists, 1935–1936.” *Languages and Scripts in China: New Directions in Information and Communications History*. Workshop at Columbia University. New York, NY.

Weng, Jeffrey (panel organizer and presenter). 2019 (accepted). “Spreading the Word: National Language Education in China in the 1920s and 1930s.” *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*. Panel, “Finding the Nation’s Voice: Language Ideologies and the Remaking of Mandarin in Twentieth-Century Mainland China and Taiwan.” Denver, CO.

Weng, Jeffrey. 2018. “The Political Economy of Spelling: The Publishing Industry and Character Simplification in China under the Nationalists, 1935–1936.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Section on Comparative Historical Sociology, refereed roundtable. Philadelphia, PA.

Weng, Jeffrey. 2017. “The End of East Asian Linguistic Cosmopolitanism: Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, ca. 1850–1950.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Section on Asia and Asian America, refereed roundtable. Montreal, Canada.

Weng, Jeffrey. 2016. “What is Mandarin? The Invention of a National Standard Language in Early Republican China.” *East Asia as Method: Culture, Knowledge, Space*, Institute of East Asian Studies Haas Junior Scholars Program for Doctoral Candidates. Berkeley, CA.

Weng, Jeffrey. 2016. “Language, Class, and Nation: The Rise of a National Lingua Franca and the Problem of Equity.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Comparative-Historical Section, Refereed Roundtable. Seattle, WA.

Weng, Jeffrey. 2016. “What is Mandarin? Nationalism and Linguistic Modernity in Early Twentieth Century China.” *Colloquium Talk*. Nanjing University, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Nanjing, China.

- Weng, Jeffrey. 2016. “What is Mandarin? Evolving Notions of Language and Peoplehood in Early Twentieth-Century China.” *Language, Power and Identity in Asia: Creating and Crossing Language Boundaries*, Leiden University, International Institute for Asian Studies. Leiden, Netherlands.
- Weng, Jeffrey. 2015. “Linguistic Modernity: The Limits of Ideology and State Power in the Creation of Modern Standard Languages.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Theory Section regular session panel, “Theorizing Inequality.” Chicago, IL.
- Weng, Jeffrey. 2015. “Linguistic Modernity: The Limits of Ideology and State Power in the Creation of Modern Standard Languages.” *Junior Theorists Symposium*. Panel, “The State and Globalization.” Chicago, IL.
- Weng, Jeffrey. 2015. “Linguistic Modernity: The Limits of Ideology and State Power in the Creation of Modern Standard Languages.” *Social Science History Association Annual Meeting*. Panel, “Fields and Disciplines.” Baltimore, MD.
- Weng, Jeffrey. 2014. “Language and Nation-Building in Early Twentieth-Century China: A Critique of Bourdieu.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. Theory Section, refereed roundtable. San Francisco, CA.

Fellowships and Grants

- Metro New York Leaders Fellowship, 2018–2019
- Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2017–2018
- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, 2016–2017
- Finalist, Harvard Academy Scholars Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies (10 finalists chosen from 1,139 applicants), 2016
- Dr. C.F. Koo and Cecilia Koo Fellowship for Outstanding Graduate Student in East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley Institute of East Asian Studies, 2017
- Long-Ling Hsiao Chu and Chao Chi Chu Fellowship in Chinese Studies, UC Berkeley Center for Chinese Studies, 2017
- UC Berkeley Center for Chinese Studies Dissertation Fellowship, 2016–2017
- Helen Gan and Richard Aston Fellowship, 2015–2016
- UC Berkeley Institute of East Asian Studies Haas Junior Scholars Program for Doctoral Candidates, 2015–2016
- China Times Cultural Foundation Young Scholars Award, 2015
- Leo Lowenthal Fellowship, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology, 2015
- Republic of China East Asian Fellowship, UC Berkeley Center for Chinese Studies, 2015
- Taiwanese-American Foundation of Boston University Fellowship, 2015
- UC Berkeley Center for Chinese Studies Summer Research Grant, 2014
- UC Berkeley Department of Sociology Small Research Grant, 2013–2014
- Institute for Humane Studies, Bernard Marcus Fellowship, 2013–2014
- UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Grant, 2013
- Institute for Humane Studies, Baxter Fellowship, 2012–2013
- Yale-China Association Teaching Fellowship, 2008–2010

Research and Teaching

- Research assistant to Stanley Lubman, UC Berkeley School of Law (2012–2013): Research in

Chinese legal studies; translation of Chinese materials into English

Graduate student assistant to Faculty Working Group, “Borders, Flows, and Networks: Actors, Knowledge, and Publics in East Asia,” Penelope Edwards, John Lie, Aihwa Ong (convenors), UC Berkeley Institute of East Asian Studies (fall 2013): Assisted with research and record-keeping to facilitate faculty discussions on current research projects in sociology, political science, anthropology, history, English, and ethnic studies

Graduate Student Researcher (research assistant) to John Lie (summer 2013): Conducted archival research at the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, to investigate the inception of Korean-language instruction in the United States in 1941–1942

Graduate student instructor (teaching assistant): “Evaluation of Evidence” (Methods), Professor Daniel Schneider (fall 2018); “Politics and Social Change” (Political Sociology), Dr. Tiffany Page (fall 2014); “Modern Social Theory,” Professor John Lie (fall 2013); “Introduction to Sociology,” Professor Ann Swidler (fall 2012), Professor Thomas Gold (spring 2013), Dr. Jill Bakehorn (spring 2014)

Reader (grading assistant): “Sociology of Culture,” Dr. Jill Bakehorn (spring 2015); “Sociology of Work,” Dr. Linus Huang (spring 2012); “Sociology of Sports,” Dr. Linus Huang (fall 2011)

Professional Experience

Co-convener, Haas Junior Scholars Program for Doctoral Candidates, Institute of East Asian Studies (IEAS), University of California, Berkeley (2015–2016): IEAS-funded biweekly doctoral candidates’ writing workshop and conference, “East Asia as Method” (October 7–8, 2016), with 22 presenters (selected from more than 150 applicants), 6 discussants, and 2 invited extramural faculty keynote speakers

Yale-China Teaching Fellow, Hunan University, China (2008–2010): Designed and taught undergraduate courses in history, literature, and English language

Yale-China Service Intern, The Zigen Fund, Beijing and Guizhou, China (2007): Translated and updated bilingual (Chinese/English) publicity materials; designed curriculum and taught classes for Zigen’s training program for teachers of English

Research and Translation Intern, Shanghai Yudan, Shanghai, China (2009): Translated (into Chinese) British LGBT antidiscrimination legislation; participated in Yudan’s scholarly conference on “Sexual Orientation in the Law and Society,” August 2009

Taiwan Tech Trek Intern, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) (2006): Produced detailed report on revising the English-language version of the Ministry’s website; worked with the Chief of the E-Diplomacy Unit of the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs; First Place in the Humanities Award for presentation on internship work at the Taiwan Tech Trek Academic Conference

Languages

Mandarin Chinese (advanced fluency); Spanish (advanced)

Other Skills

Church organist (regular substitute in local churches)

Chorister (more than 20 years' experience as a singer and pianist)

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association
Association for Asian Studies
Yale-China Association

References

John Lie (dissertation chair)
C.K. Cho Professor
Department of Sociology
University of California, Berkeley
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Pamela Crossley
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