

# Income and Wealth Inequality in China

Prof Yu Xie, Bert G. Kertstetter '66 University Professor of Sociology and Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Director, Center on Contemporary China, Princeton University



In this presentation, Professor Xie documents a rapid increase in income inequality in China's recent past, capitalizing on newly available survey data collected by several Chinese university survey organizations. He argues that China's current high income inequality is mainly driven by structural factors that have been sustained by the Chinese political system, the main structural determinants being the rural-urban divide and the regional variation in economic wellbeing. He further proposes the following propositions: (1) inequality in China has been severely impacted by certain collective mechanisms, such as regions and work units; (2) traditional Chinese political ideology has promoted merit-based inequality, with merit being perceived as functional in improving the collective welfare for the masses; and (3) many Chinese people today regard inequality as an inevitable consequence of economic development.

Date: 16 November 2015, Mon

Time: 12nn - 1.30pm

Venue: FASS Research Division

Seminar Room AS7 06-42

Light lunch is provided

Seminar chaired by  
Provost's Chair Prof Wei-Jun Jean  
Yeung, Director, CFPR

All are welcome!

Register at

<http://goo.gl/forms/E92V9d8sN5>

by 9 November 2015.

## About the Speaker

Prof Yu Xie is Bert G. Kerstetter '66 University Professor of Sociology and has a faculty appointment at the Princeton Institute of International and Regional Studies, Princeton University. He is also a Visiting Chair Professor of the Center for Social Research, Peking University. His main areas of interest are social stratification, demography, statistical methods, Chinese studies, and sociology of science. His recently published works include: *Marriage and Cohabitation* (University of Chicago Press 2007) with Arland Thornton and William Axinn, *Statistical Methods for Categorical Data Analysis* with Daniel Powers (Emerald 2008, second edition), and *Is American Science in Decline?* (Harvard University Press, 2012) with Alexandra Killewald.