

KE LI

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
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Employment

- 2024– Associate Professor
Department of Political Science, John Jay College
- 2018–2019 Luce/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow in China Studies
American Council of Learned Societies
- 2017–2024 Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science, John Jay College
- 2015–2017 Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology, Framingham State University

Education

- 2015 Joint Ph.D., Sociology and Criminal Justice
Indiana University, Bloomington
- 2007 M.A., Criminal Justice
Indiana University, Bloomington
- 2000 B.A., Law
Nanjing University, China

Research Interests

Law and society, sociology of knowledge, and science and technology studies

Expert opinions, knowledge practices and moves, and judicial politics

Ethnography, historiography, and China

Publications

Book

- 2022 *Marriage Unbound: State Law, Power, and Inequality in Contemporary China*, Stanford University Press.

- Herbert Jacob Book Prize for the best book on law and society
Law and Society Association
- Victoria Schuck Award for the best book on women and politics
American Political Science Association
- C. Herman Pritchett Award for the best book on law and courts
Law and Courts Section, American Political Science Association
- Distinguished Book Award
Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association
- Distinguished Book Award
Asian Law and Society Association

Reviewed in the *Asian Journal of Law and Society*; *Contemporary Sociology*; *Gender & Society*; *Nan Nü: Men, Women, and Gender in China*; *Pacific Affairs*; *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*; *Social Forces*; *The China Journal*; and *The Economist*.

Journal articles

- 2021 “Gendering a New Marker of Adulthood: Home Ownership in Southwest China,” *Sociological Forum* 36(3): 668-688 (with Danielle Kane).
- 2021 “Fertility Cultures and Childbearing Desire After the Two-Child Policy: Evidence from Southwest China,” *Journal of Family Studies* 29(2):1-19 (with Danielle Kane).
- 2020 “Land Dispossession and Women’s Rights Contention in Rural China,” *China Law and Society Review* 5:33-65.
- 2016 “Relational Embeddedness and Socially Motivated Case Screening in the Practice of Law in Rural China,” *Law & Society Review* 50(4): 920-952.
- 2015 “‘What He Did Was Lawful’: Divorce Litigation and Gender Inequality in China,” *Law & Policy* 37(3): 153-179.
- Graduate Student Paper Award
Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association
 - Honorable Mention for Lindesmith Graduate Student Paper Award
Law and Society Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems

Book chapters

- 2017 “Invisible Victims and Anonymous Communities: U.S. Media Portrayals of Chinese International Students Involved in Homicide.” Pp.139-156 in *Asian/Americans, Education, and Crime: The Model Minority as Victim and Perpetrator*, edited by Daisy Ball and Nicholas D. Hartlep, Landham, MD: Lexington Books.
- 2016 “Wedding Marriage to the Nation-State in Modern China: Legal Consequences for Divorce, Property, and Women’s Rights.” Pp.147-169 in *Domestic Tensions, National Anxieties: Global Perspectives on Marriage, Crisis, and Nation*, edited by Kristin Celello and Hanan Kholoussy, New York: Oxford University Press (with Sara L. Friedman).

Other publications

- 2024 “重启青春期：从寻找边界到跨越边界，” 时间社 THiS.
<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/xyUJmmvDlq9AX9nLgUAkmQ>
- 2023 Review of *Violent Intimacy: Family Harmony, State Stability, and Intimate Partner Violence in Post-Socialist China*, by Tiantian Zheng. *The China Quarterly* 254:530-532.

- 2022 “Women’s Rights Taking Center Stage in China,” *East Asia Forum*.
<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2022/07/01/womens-rights-taking-centre-stage-in-china/>
- 2022 Review of *Divorce in China: Institutional Constraints and Gendered Outcomes*, by Xin He. *The China Journal* 86(1): 182-184.
- 2021 “监护权争夺战：新的立法能改变“紫丝带妈妈”的命运吗？”学人说。
<https://new.qq.com/rain/a/20211211A019IW00>
- 2021 “The Effects of Power on Ethnographic Research.” Pp. 210-212 in *Making Sense of Social Science Research: A Student- and Practitioner-Centered Approach*, edited by Pengfei Zhao, Karen Ross, Peiwei Li, and Barbara Dennis, Sage Publication.
- 2019 Review of *Embedded Courts: Judicial Decision-Making in China*, by Kwai Hang Ng and Xin He. *Contemporary Sociology* 48(2):198-200.
- 2010 “Motherhood in Kansas” and “Motherhood in Wisconsin” in *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*, edited by Andrea O'Reilly and J. Geoffrey Golson, New York, SAGE Publication.

Working papers

- The Roles of Experts in Judicial Decision-Making in China
- “Bringing the State Back In: Dispute Resolution and State-(Re)Making in the People’s Republic of China,” *Research Handbook on Civil Justice*, Elgar Handbooks in Law and Society Series, edited by Anne Bloom, David Engel, and Richard Jolly
- “The Limits of Authoritarian Legality: The Rise and Fall of Legal Workers in China,” *The Oxford Handbook on Law and Authoritarianism*, edited by Mark Tushnet, Cora Chan, Madhav Khosla, and Benjamin Liebman

Fellowships & Grants

External

- 2023–2025 Public Intellectuals Program (PIP) Fellow
 National Committee on US-China Relations
- 2018 Luce/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship in China Studies (\$50,000)
 American Council of Learned Societies
- 2015 Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (\$7,910)
 American Sociological Association (with Danielle Kane)
- 2012 Young Scholar Award (\$5,000)
 China Times Cultural Foundation
- 2011 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (\$15,000)

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange

2011 International Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$11,455)
Social Science Research Council

2010 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$12,000)
National Science Foundation (Law and Social Sciences Program)

2008 China and Inner Asia Council Small Grant (\$2,000)
Association for Asian Studies

Internal

2024 Faculty Scholarly Excellence Award, John Jay College

2024 Faculty Fellow for China at CUNY Initiative (\$1,000)
Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, CUNY Graduate Center

2023 Seed Grant (\$2,500), John Jay College

2023 PSC-CUNY Research Award (\$6,000), CUNY Research Foundation

2022 Seed Grant (\$1,479.93), John Jay College

2022 Kickstart Grant (\$5,000), John Jay College

2020 PSC-CUNY Research Award (\$5,999.99), CUNY Research Foundation

2020 Faculty Fellowship Publication Program, City University of New York

2019 PSC-CUNY Research Award (\$5,999.09), CUNY Research Foundation

2018 PSC-CUNY Research Award(\$11,771.00), CUNY Research Foundation

2018 Scholar Incentive Leave Award (\$18,777), John Jay College

2017 Funded Research Development Seminar (\$1,500), John Jay College

2015 Research Grant (\$1,500), Framingham State University

2014 Atherton Bean Research Fellowship (\$8,000)
Department of Sociology, Indiana University

2013 Lindesmith-Mullins Fellowship for Excellence in Research (\$8,000)
Department of Sociology, Indiana University

2009 Advanced Departmental Fellowship (\$7,500)
Department of Sociology, Indiana University

Teaching

LWS200 Introduction to Law and Society

LWS225 Introduction to Research Methods in Law and Society

LWS385 Legal Disruption Project

LWS425 Colloquium for Research in Law and Society

Invited Talks

2024

“Chinese Domestic Law,” NCUSCR-Schwarzman Scholars Alumni Seminar, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations

“The Limits of Authoritarian Legality: The Rise and Fall of Legal Workers in China,” American Bar Foundation

“Marriage Unbound: State Law, Power, and Inequality in Contemporary China”

- School of Law, Fordham University
- Asian American/Asian Research Institute, CUNY

“Ethnographic Research in China,” Long US-China Institute, University of California, Irvine, & Council on East Asian Studies, Yale Macmillan Center

2023

“Gender Relationships and Politics Against the Backdrop of Demographic Decline in China,” China at CUNY Initiative Student Workshop, CUNY Graduate Center

“Bringing the State Back In: Dispute Resolution and State-(Re)making in the People’s Republic of China,” Harvard Law School

“Women in China,” Columbia China Forum, Columbia University

“Marriage Unbound: State Law, Power, and Inequality in Contemporary China”

- School of Law, New York University
- Law School, George Washington University
- Gender Studies Program, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Oikos Working Group, New York University
- East Asian Studies Colloquium, University of California, Davis

2022

“Marriage Unbound: State Law, Power, and Inequality in Contemporary China”

- Center for Chinese Law and Policy, Durham University
- East Asian Studies, Dickinson College
- Equality Rights Project, University of Hong Kong
- Fujian Academy of Social Sciences
- Center for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria
- U.S.-Asia Law Institute, New York University
- Chinese Feminism

“Marriage, Law, and Inequality: Rural Women in China,” Council for Foreign Relations

2020

“The Judicialization of Marital and Family Disputes in the 21st-Century China”

- Center for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria
- Center for Chinese Legal Studies, Columbia University

“Disputation as a State Enterprise,” Comparative Politics Workshop, CUNY Graduate Center

2019 “Marriage Unbound: Divorce Litigation, Power, and Inequality in Contemporary China,” the Center for the Study of Law and Society, University of California, Berkeley

Recent Conference Presentations

- 2023 “Rule of Law in Xi Jinping’s China: The End of Reform?” Association for Asian Studies, Boston
- 2022 “Queer Parenting in China: Synthesizing Research and Advocacy,” Paul Tsai China Center, Yale Law School
- 2022 Northeast Corridor Chinese Law Workshop, the Law School of the George Washington University
- 2022 “Marriage Unbound: State Law, Power, and Inequality in Contemporary China,” CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences
- 2021 “Rural Women and Divorce Litigation: Exploring New Ways to Fuse Ethnography and Historiography in the Study of Chinese Family and Marriage,” Fudan University, China
- 2021 “Marriage Unbound: State Law, Power, and Inequality in Contemporary China,” Global Law & Politics Network Workshop, Department of Political Science, University of Washington
- 2021 New Directions in Law and Society Virtual Graduate Student and Junior Scholar Workshop, Center for Justice, Law, and Societies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 2021 “The Rise and Fall of Legal Workers in China,” Asian Law Works-in-Progress Session, American Society of International Law and American Society of Comparative Law
- 2021 “Disputation as a State Enterprise,” Association for Asian Studies, virtual conference
- 2021 “Issues and Non-issues in Legal Mobilization,” China Law Conference, University of Toronto School of Law
- 2020 “Disputation as a State Enterprise,” Law and Society Association, virtual conference
- 2020 “Disputation as a State Enterprise,” Northeast Corridor Chinese Law Workshop, the Law School of the George Washington University

Professional Services

- 2024 Member on the Committee for the Distinguished Book Award
Asian Law and Society Association
- Member on the Committee for the Distinguished Book Award
Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association
- 2023 Member on the Committee for the Distinguished Book Award
Asian Law and Society Association
- Reviewer for *Asian Journal of Law and Society*; *Asian Women*; *China Information*; *Contemporary Sociology*; *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Feminist Legal Studies*; *Gender & Society*; *Hong Kong Law Review*; *Law & Society Review*; *Law & Social Inquiry*; *Law & Policy*; *Sociological Studies*; *the China Law and Society Review*; *the China Quarterly*; *the China Journal*; *the History of the Family*; *Violence Against Women*; *University of California Press*

Departmental & University Services

- 2024–2025 Faculty Coordinator for the China at CUNY Initiative
Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, CUNY Graduate Center
- Law and Society Program Coordinator
Department of Political Science, John Jay College
- 2019–2023 Member of Departmental Curriculum Committee
Department of Political Science, John Jay College
- 2020–2021 Law and Society Program Coordinator
Department of Political Science, John Jay College
- 2019–2021 Member of Undergraduate Curriculum & Academic Standards Committee,
John Jay College

Professional Memberships

Law and Society Association
Asian Law and Society Association
American Sociological Association
American Political Science Association
Association for Asian Studies