Our Mission

The Stanford Center on China’s Economy and Institutions is Stanford’s home for empirical, multidisciplinary research on China’s economy. We aim to foster path-breaking research, create transformative student experiences, and advance public understanding of China’s economy and its impact on the world.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter from the Directors</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Research</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Opportunities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and Engagement</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance and Organization</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the News</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Overview</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Team</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year three for SCCEI was a breakthrough year in terms of research output and policy impact, as well as organizational growth. SCCEI faculty published more than 50 papers, many in the world’s top economic, political science, sociology and public health journals. The Impact Program touched tens of thousands of businesses and policy makers and has solidified collaborations with leading policy think tanks. Our Center’s professors are teaching in Stanford and in China; launching field research programs; and have joined a Track II Diplomacy effort to advise policymakers in the US and China on how to preserve the benefits of scholarly collaboration. In this letter, we want to take a moment to share with you in a bit more detail some of the highlights of the past year.

One of the most exciting aspects of the past year was that in early and mid-2023, many SCCEI researchers were able to go back to China and launch their research programs for the first time in more than 3-1/2 years. Scott Rozelle spent more than 8 weeks this past summer visiting seven different field sites in which his team is currently conducting research. SCCEI affiliates from Stanford’s School of Medicine and our Research Scholars, Drs. Huan Wang and Yue Ma, are carrying out their projects in Henan, Sichuan, and Jilin Provinces. Although things are not entirely back to normal and there remain issues to resolve, it has been wonderful to be able to return to China and begin once again conducting critical research in the field.

Back on the Farm, our scholars have continued executing path-breaking research on China and its economy. In a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Hongbin Li and his two coauthors employed hand-collected twins data to analyze whether and by how much income brings happiness in fast-growing China. Answer: income affects happiness much more than previously estimated. Jennifer Pan, SCCEI’s newest core faculty member, has published her research on information flow in China in journals including Research & Politics and Political Communication. Scott Rozelle and his team published a paper on the long term impacts of an early childhood intervention, finding long-lasting and positive effects on children’s development indicators years after the conclusion of the program.

SCCEI’s Impact Program has also continued to grow and mature. This year, SCCEI China Briefs, our biweekly digest of academia’s data-rich, policy-relevant research on China, published its 40th installment. The series highlights research on China’s property crisis, censorship, trade, private sector developments, and a wide range of other critical topics shaping China’s socioeconomic landscape and its global interactions. In 2022-23 US government audiences for SCCEI impact publications grew substantially. The brief series now reaches leaders and subject matter experts at 30 executive branch offices,
from the National Institutes of Health to the National Security Council. These new additions join thousands of readers on campus and at peer institutions as well as well-known figures in the China-watching space at leading think tanks, and many prominent business associations.

Finally, we continue to build up our teaching and mentorship programming, as part of our mission to train the next generation of China scholars. This past year, over 120 Stanford students took our course, Econ 131, The Chinese Economy. Students from the past two years are making us proud: some are going to graduate school and pursuing research on China; others have begun to volunteer for activities in poor and needy areas in China and other countries; finally some are headed into government positions. Here at Stanford we held nearly 20 graduate student seminars last year, featuring research from all over campus. Thanks in part to our practical advising and student awards, several graduate students were able to make it to China for fieldwork this summer. Clearly, there is interest in what is happening in China, as well as how China’s role in the world affects us and others around the globe. Our Visiting Scholars program is growing. This last year we hosted nearly 20 visitors from University of Pennsylvania, Peking University, Zhejiang University, and a number of other top schools inside China. Our scholars audit courses, collaborate on research, and learn about life in the US.

As you read this letter, as well as the annual report to which it is attached, we are quickly approaching 2024. US and China tensions continue to be high, but despite the uncertainty of the environment within which we are working and studying, this year has been a year of unprecedented growth for SCCEI. We took stock of the organization of the Center, and instituted a series of fundamental structural changes to make running the Center and its activities more efficient and transparent. We have expanded our research portfolio, worked with numerous students at Stanford and beyond, and built new connections with both faculty and policymakers. As a team, we feel the momentum, and are excited for what lies ahead. Of course, all of the achievements that we have described here could never have been accomplished without the support and hard work of our affiliated faculty, generous supporters, and amazing, dedicated staff. We want to express our deepest appreciation to each and every one of you for your support. Our success is made possible by these collaborations.

Sincerely,

Hongbin Li  
Co-Director, Stanford Center on China’s Economy and Institutions

Scott Rozelle  
Co-Director, Stanford Center on China’s Economy and Institutions
SCCEI stimulates data-driven research and fosters an environment where diverse perspectives and disciplines related to the study of China’s economy can thrive. Our network of faculty affiliates spans a full range of fields and schools across campus, from the Graduate School of Business to the School of Medicine, Humanities and Sciences, the School of Engineering, the Law School, and more. All are brought together by a commitment to data-driven research on issues related to China’s economy.

Faculty Research Funding

SCCEI supports innovative faculty research in the form of financial support. We recognize that it is increasingly difficult for researchers to access funding for China research, and aim to fill that gap via competitive faculty research grants. This year SCCEI provided over $100,000 in financial support to faculty from schools across Stanford, all of whom are using innovative datasets to explore issues related to China’s economy.

Practical Support for Faculty

In keeping with SCCEI’s mission to serve as a research platform for faculty on campus who work with China and are carrying out high quality empirical research, SCCEI also provides in-house administrative and managerial support to its faculty and affiliates. Our network of trained research staff work closely with faculty to provide China-specific research support on an as-needed basis. This includes help with IRB protocol development for China-based projects, facilitating overseas research agreements, and advising on international project administration.
Research Spotlight: Impacting Early Childhood Development Through Data-Driven Research

In November 2022, China’s Ministry of Health unveiled a new policy underscoring the critical importance of early childhood development (ECD) for children 0-3 years old. In April, the national government launched a pilot ECD initiative in 30 provinces and 191 countries. This policy was founded, in no small part, on findings from over a decade of research led by Scott Rozelle and his research team, the Rural Education Action Program (REAP). Their work has shown that more than 40% of China’s rural children are at risk of experiencing developmental delays due to historical urban-centric policies. Over the years, REAP has piloted a series of targeted interventions aimed at optimizing child development before the critical age of 3, after which delays can become irreversible. REAP’s interventions have provided parental training and mental health support to thousands of rural caregivers across a number of provinces, as well as launched large-scale investigations into maternal and child health, caregiver well-being, and rural and peri-urban home language environments. REAP, a program under SCCEI, designs all projects with the goal of adoption and upscaling by China’s government. Currently, the team is working with the National Experts Committee to hold an international ECD workshop that will be focused on educating China’s policymakers in the international experience of scaling up ECD programs to the national level. REAP’s dedicated work on early childhood development is a prime example of their continued success in China’s policy space, and a model for other research teams.

Visiting Scholars Program

This year, we are proud to have relaunched our Visiting Scholars Program, whereby we accept scholars and researchers from top universities and institutions around the world, focused on China’s economy and institutions. The goal of the program is to foster new and existing partnerships between our faculty affiliates and their students or faculty counterparts at other universities. The program builds the capacity of our students and partners outside of Stanford, and also enriches our own community by expanding access to new ideas, projects, and datasets.

Academic Seminars

Each quarter we invite faculty from Stanford and around the world to present their empirical research on China’s economy to our academic community in an intimate, collaborative workshop setting. All of our seminar speakers are among the top in their fields, research contemporary issues related to China, and base their analyses on high-quality data.

This year, we are pleased to have fully returned to in-person academic seminars, which foster the vibrant exchange of ideas and opportunities. Our seminar series this year spanned the full academic calendar, with topics ranging from business to anthropology, from ophthalmology to politics. These events are the building blocks of a strong academic network; we are thrilled to be able to return to real-life interactions with our academic community.
Over the past year the SCCEI Impact program has covered a lot of ground. From direct engagement in Washington to expanding our publications, joint events, and audiences, we have continued to raise the profile of data-driven scholarship on China to inform important debates on China and US-China relations.

Engagement in Washington and Beijing

In July, SCCEI Co-Director Scott Rozelle joined a Track II Diplomacy dialogue organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Peking University. The months-long dialogue focuses on preserving scholarly exchanges between academics in the two countries. Despite growing political tensions, the US and China share one of the most productive academic collaborations in the world, with scholars from both countries jointly producing tens of thousands of high-quality research papers per year. The Track II Diplomacy initiative, to conclude in fall 2023, seeks to chart common ground and advise policy makers in both countries on how to preserve the benefits of scholarly collaboration that accrue to both countries and the world at large.

Last spring, Rozelle also testified before the Economic and Security Review Commission, which advises Congress and the White House on China policy, on the strengths and weaknesses of China’s education system.
SCCEI China Briefs

This year the SCCEI China Briefs, our biweekly digest of data-rich, policy relevant research on China, delved into an array of critical topics shaping China’s socio-economic landscape and its global interactions. Highlights included:

- The features of China’s property slowdown
- The effectiveness of China’s STEM talent recruitment programs
- CCP sway over corporate governance
- The flow of information and censorship in China’s social media

A Growing Audience

The audience for SCCEI impact programming continues to grow in breadth and depth. In 2022-23 the China Brief series saw notable growth among readers in the federal government. The brief series now reaches leaders and subject matter experts at 15 divisions within the departments of State, Commerce, Treasury, and Defense, rounding out our readership at 30 executive branch offices, from the National Institutes of Health to the National Security Council.

After an active push in January to increase readership within Congress, senior staffers from the Senate Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Intelligence Committees, and 11 House committees subscribed to our China Briefs, including chiefs of staff for the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on China.

These new additions join thousands of our readers on campus and at peer institutions, as well as well-known figures in the China-watching space at leading think tanks and many prominent business associations.

Expert Panels and Reports

This year SCCEI also produced multiple joint events and reports with the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Asia Society Policy Institute’s Center for China Analysis. In keeping with our mission to elevate the profile of data-driven academic scholarship on China, this programming regularly reaches audiences in the tens of thousands. Topics covered in 2022-23 included:

- China’s Industrial Policy
- US-China Tensions and US Science
- Can China’s Firms Be Truly Private?
- Doing Fieldwork in China: Evolution and Prospects
Student Engagement and Education

Student engagement and education together form one of SCCEI’s main strategic pillars: we prepare the next generation of China experts by building a community of graduate students working on or in China. We provide practical support in the form of travel funding, fieldwork support, presentation opportunities, and networking with other China experts across campus. This year we focused on expanding our student programming to include events, funding, and new learning opportunities for burgeoning young scholars.

Postdoctoral Research Scholars

SCCEI works with and supports postdoctoral scholars on campus who are studying issues related to China’s economy. This year, we allocated nearly $30,000 in funding to postdocs working on cutting-edge research on China’s environmental policies and academic censorship. Our postdoctoral scholars work directly with faculty to further their research investigations and are offered opportunities to audit courses, strengthen their quantitative and regional expertise, present their work in seminars, and take advantage of the rich and multitudinous resources offered both by SCCEI and by Stanford University.
Teaching & Mentoring

With an ever-connected and globalized world, it is important that the next generation is prepared to work with and understand the rising economic global players. SCCEI encourages more teaching on China, particularly through an economic lens. Our faculty and faculty affiliates all have strong teaching experiences and a proven record of offering high quality courses on issues related to the economics of China. In winter 2023, SCCEI co-directors Hongbin Li and Scott Rozelle taught their popular undergraduate course, The Chinese Economy. Our faculty also offer courses on global education, as well as censorship and propaganda.

Our bi-weekly Young Researcher Workshops also offer young China scholars an opportunity to engage directly with interdisciplinary faculty and peers from across campus to discuss and receive feedback on their research. Each workshop features a different graduate student or postdoc presenting their latest empirical findings on issues related to China’s economy. This year’s topics have included college major selection as an obstacle to socioeconomic mobility, the effect of a cooling-off period on marriage outcomes, and factors contributing to government corruption. Faculty and senior scholars provide comments and feedback for improvement. This event series helps to build and strengthen Stanford’s community of young researchers working on China.

Graduate Student Research Funding

In spring of 2023, we launched our inaugural call for student research proposals, offering support to Stanford graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to fund research on contemporary issues related to China’s economy.

After extensive review and a competitive selection process, SCCEI awarded over $65,000 in support to ten graduate students from across campus to pursue their intended research projects. The students are conducting research on topics spanning several disciplines, including economics, sociology, and political science.

“Rural China provides a unique context with variation in family structures, with some new parents living with the paternal grandparents and some with the maternal grandparents. My project studies why information can fail to spread within a household. I will be interviewing households in rural China to understand how they learn new information such as how to best care for infants, how they communicate with one another in the household, and how they make decisions together, especially when there is disagreement.”

Sally Zhang, Ph.D. Economics

“I’m excited to pursue research on the Chinese court system, with a focus on the access to justice issues in debt collection lawsuits and the interplay between law and technology.”

Leo Li, Doctor of the Science of Law (JSD) Candidate

“China has experienced rapid economic growth over the past few decades, but it has also seen a significant increase in education and income inequality. This is why my research investigates whether students from disadvantaged backgrounds face greater informational barriers when making educational choices in China.”

Xinyao Qiu, Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Our events are motivated by SCCEI’s mission to advance public understanding of China’s economy and its impact on the world. Events provide a venue for researchers, students, policymakers, and private-sector leaders from around the world to exchange ideas, collaborate, and learn from one another, often leading to new research activities and policy impact. This year, SCCEI hosted over 50 events engaging with all of our various audience segments from students, to researchers, to policy makers, and more.

Stanford Asia Economic Forum

In January 2023, SCCEI co-hosted the inaugural Stanford Asia Economic Forum in Singapore, in partnership with the Stanford Graduate School of Business, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), and the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. This event brought together scholars, business leaders, and other change-makers in the US and Asia to promote dialogue and encourage collaboration. Over 400 people gathered in Singapore to hear from several distinguished scholars and business leaders including:

- Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Former President of Stanford University;
- Jenny Martinez, Former Dean of Stanford Law School; Provost of Stanford University;
- Arun Majumdar, Chester Naramore Dean of Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability;
- Vivian Balakrishnan, Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- Forrest Li, Chairman and CEO, Sea Limited
Academic Seminars & Workshops
This year, we hosted 36 academic events featuring both seasoned scholars and young researchers just beginning their career studying China. Some of the series we hosted this year included:

- **SCCEI's Academic Seminar Series** invites faculty from around the world to present their empirical research on campus in a collaborative workshop setting.
- **The Closed-door Lecture Series**, led by SCCEI Senior Research Scholars Guoguang Wu and Chenggang Xu, provides a space for Stanford China-researchers to build a deeper understanding of the fundamental principles underlying China's political economy.
- **Our Young Researcher Workshops** bring together students and scholars around campus who are working on issues related to China’s economy and institutions and provide them with a platform to present new research, get feedback, exchange ideas, and make connections.

Public Lectures & Events
Every year we organize large-scale public lectures that bring China experts and academic thought leaders together with our SCCEI community to share their work, research, and experience. This year our two largest events featured:

- **Susan Shirk**, Chair of the 21st Century China Center and research professor at the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy, joined us at Stanford in September 2022 and spoke on “Overreach and Overreaction: The Downward Spiral in the U.S.-China Relations”
- **Zhenan Bao**, K.K. Lee Professor of Chemical Engineering and former department chair of Chemical Engineering at Stanford University, shared how she became who she is today, her thoughts on Stanford's culture of innovation, and her passion for mentoring the next generation of innovators.

Community Associates Program
SCCEI launched a new program to increase engagement with our local community members in the surrounding Bay Area. This year we invited thought-leaders to engage in robust discussion with our community including:

- **Prashant Loyalka**, Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Education;
- **Scott Kennedy**, Senior Adviser and Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies;
- **Rose Luqiu**, Associate Professor of Communication at Hong Kong Baptist University, and former presenter, commentator, and executive news editor for the Phoenix Satellite Television in Hong Kong.
This year, SCCEI established a more robust governance structure and strategic plan. In spring of 2023, SCCEI formed a Faculty Steering Committee to provide guidance and shape the center’s focus. The new committee includes Grant Miller, Professor of Medicine, Jennifer Pan, Professor of Communication, and Xueguang Zhou, Professor of Sociology and Economic Development, in addition to our two co-directors, Hongbin Li and Scott Rozelle. The Faculty Steering Committee serves as the linchpin of SCCEI’s growth, actively contributing to critical decisions ranging from center governance and strategic direction to research focus, funding priorities, and more.

In parallel, we developed and implemented decision-making frameworks that span multiple facets of our operations, including budgeting, recruiting protocols, event organization, research funding protocols, visitor guidelines, and the governance of SCCEI China Briefs. These frameworks have enhanced operational efficiency and promoted transparency and accountability. With these structures now in place, SCCEI is primed for continued growth and excellence, reaffirming its commitment to advancing research in China’s economic and institutional landscape.
S CCEI faculty have produced an astounding amount of research that has caught the eye of journalists and media outlets publishing around the world. While SCCEI helps amplify faculty research through our SCCEI China Briefs and public events, external media mentions are another way our scholars amplify their research findings and impact change-makers in the political sphere, academic community, and beyond. Our scholars have been highlighted in over 60 articles, podcasts, and news features in the 2022-2023 academic year.

Here are examples of media mentions from the past year:

- Scott Rozelle’s research was featured in the Wall Street Journal article titled, “Beijing Urges Rural Officials to Hire Humans–Not Machines”
- Jennifer Pan was quoted in The Atlantic speaking on her research into authoritarian governments and their engagement with media outlets.
- Prashant Loyalka’s research helped answer the question, “Will China’s Unequal Education System be a Cure for the Country’s Economy?”
- Curtis Milhaupt’s research is featured in The Wall Street Journal article on “China’s New Way to Control its Biggest Companies: Golden Shares.”
- Chenggang Xu was quoted in Financial Times speaking on “China’s Blueprint for an Alternative World Order”
- Huan Wang joined in discussion on National Public Radio (npr) speaking on “Fears of a ‘Dark COVID Winter’ in Rural China Grow as the Holiday Rush Begins”
SCCEI is grateful to our generous supporters who make it possible for our team and affiliates to consistently innovate in research and training, and to help inform policies and practices related to China. Looking ahead, we intend to continue our support for faculty and student research and community engagement.

For more information about working with us to enhance China-related research initiatives at Stanford, please visit https://sccei.fsi.stanford.edu/giving.
Our Team

Directors
Hongbin Li
Scott Rozelle

Center Faculty
Prashant Loyalka
Jennifer Pan

Faculty Affiliates
Nicholas Bloom
Gretchen Daily
Gary Darmstadt
Charles Eesley
Karen Eggleston
Thomas Fingar
Lawrence Goulder
Eric Hanushek
Matthew Kohrman
Stephen Luby
Matteo Maggiori
Curtis Milhaupt
Grant Miller
Jean Oi
Joseph Piotroski
Rafael Schmitt
Daniel Schwartz
Xinshu She
Manpreet Singh
Andrew Walder
Kuang Xu
Yiqing Xu
Xueguang Zhou

Research Scholars
Yue Ma
Lingsheng Meng
Huan Wang
Guoguang Wu
Chenggang Xu

Postdoctoral Scholars
Yiming Cao
Xuechao Qian
Xueping Sun

Core Staff
Matthew Boswell
Jennifer Choo
Ronda Fenton
Garrett Grothe
Alexis Medina
Heather Rahimi
Tina Shi
Xinmin Zhao

Project Staff
Belinda Byrne
Claire Cousineau
Cindy Feng
Yian Guo
Tom Kennedy
Xiaoying Liao
Lucy Pappas
Andrew Rule