

# Institute of Social Development and Public Policy Beijing Normal University (ISDPP/BNU)

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# ❖ Introduction

- China's phenomenal economic performance has unleashed a concomitant rise in social problems that has increasingly drawn government's attention to the social aspects of national development. In combination, the emergence of novel social problems and renewed government interest have created a large and growing need for professionals with the knowledge and skills to understand key aspects of the nation's social development, and to formulate and implement a new generation of social policies. To meet this need, governments and international NGOs now turn increasingly to these social policy experts for insight into where and how to tackle problems and invest resources. As a result, universities and academic institutions have begun devoting substantial resources to social policy research. In China, however, there remains a widely-acknowledged dearth of both high quality social policy research and skilled personnel to meet the growing demand for leadership in the field of social policy.
- The Institute of Social Development and Public Policy (ISDPP) at Beijing Normal University (BNU) is keenly aware of this gap, and of the need for China to frame its developmental priorities in a wider and more socially inclusive manner. The Institute's core of highly-motivated faculty and research staff has already had a significant influence on China's social policy-making. Through the strength of its domestic networks and international partnerships, ISDPP has begun filling the gap between China's social policy needs and the knowledge and skills needed to address them. In the process, the Institute has become a leader in the field of social policy research, training, and education in China.

# Mission

- ISDPP was established as a center of rigorous academic inquiry that also trains practitioners and consults with government to apply the latest thinking in social policy design and implementation to the practice of public policy in China. At the Institute, social development is defined as "development that is equitable, inclusive, and sustainable, that is responsive and accountable, and which empowers the poor and marginalized to participate effectively." In China, social development takes place in the context of a transition from a centrally planned to market economy, and takes the form of transformation from a paternalistic state to a participative civil society. Effective and fair participation of citizens in the process is essential to ensure the formulation of effective social policies that lead both to equitable outcomes and to sustainable economic and social development while minimizing the tendency for economic development to divide societies into distinct sets of 'winners' and 'losers.'
- □ Specifically, as an organization committed to promoting China's social development, ISDPP, through its research, education, consulting, and training programs, seeks to:
  - Influence public policies to promote equitable and sustainable outcomes,
  - Empower citizens to participate effectively in the process of social change,
  - Boost domestic capacity by training and educating practitioners and future leaders in the field of social policy.
- To promote the study of issues in social development related to or arising from China's economic restructuring and to encourage the inclusion of knowledge and policy prescriptions emerging from

these studies in the formulation and administration of public policies in China, ISDPP seeks to:

- Strengthen the linkage between research in social policy and actual government policy making and administration in order to achieve a positive and lasting impact on China's social development,
- Apply sophisticated research techniques to understand China's most pressing social issues,
- Contribute to the international exchange of ideas and experience about public policy and social development,
- Devise and deploy scientifically based indicators of Chinese citizens' social, economic, and health care behavior.

# Areas of Research Focus

- Income support (e.g., anti-poverty programs, social insurance, employment support).
- Social services (e.g., social welfare institutions, community services and programs) and public goods provision (housing, health care, medical assistance).
- Health policy and behavioral health
- HIV/AIDs
- Homeownership, housing policy, and housing finance.
- Social capital and civil society.
- Families and communities.
- Target populations (e.g., the elderly, children, disabled persons, and the mentally ill).
- Gender and social development.
- Poverty and health.
- Migration

# ❖ Strategies

- 1. Building an effective organization: An effective structure in which skilled professionals work in a culture that facilitates productivity and a commitment of its members to organizational goals and values is the key to a thriving and successful organization. To ensure the success of the Institute in achieving its goals, ISDPP regards the establishment of these characteristics as of utmost importance, and continually upgrades its capacity to move in this direction. With extensive support from Beijing Normal University, ISDPP has been enabled to recruit tenured faculty, employ adjunct professors, and establish educational programs for Master's and Ph.D. degrees. While operating within the BNU structure, the Institute has considerable autonomy in setting priorities, developing courses of action, and carrying out plans. These responsibilities are addressed within a board-executive structure, in which the Board of Directors is the decision-making body and the Director functions as a chief executive, coordinating the work of staff members and ensuring that tasks are carried out and completed according to the highest standards.
- 2. Producing high quality research products: ISDPP attaches special importance to the quality of its research, and regards quality research as a critical pillar of the organization's sustainable development. Top-notch research products are the result of research designed to meet the highest standards of reliability and validity in social scientific research design. Such research is informative, revealing, and useful to the consumers of ISDPP's research output, including policy makers, other scholars and researchers, and parties interested in China's social development more broadly. To ensure that research activities lead to high quality output, ISDPP will:
  - Organize its financial and human resources with top priority given to enhancing research capacity.
  - Employ a team of experts trained in various disciplines to enhance the design and implementation of research projects, provide additional insight and perspective on research issues, and peer review all output,

- Establish a networked e-library and build databases to facilitate access of staff to national and international research literature and data.
- Cooperate with government and communities for better application of theories to the realities of China, and improve access for field studies,
- Publish research results in nationally and internationally influential journals.
- 3. Building partnerships with governments: Partnership with government is essential for the success of ISDPP. Because the Institute's research is intended to make an impact on government policymaking, policy makers must be engaged in the design and execution of the projects. ISDPP recognizes that empowering people and articulating their voices must occur in a context that recognizes consensus and mutual understanding between government and citizens, and that such cooperation is necessary to bring about meaningful change in social policies. Partnership with government also helps improve the quality of research, education and training programs of ISDPP because of government's unique experience and data access. Improved access to government information and data helps ISDPP better combine theory and practice in its teaching and professional development activities, and better expose trainees to real world challenges.
- 4. Emphasizing problem-based learning in educational programs: ISDPP feels that education and training designed to promote social development are best conducted in the context of a problem-solving approach wherein theories are checked against the reality on the ground and practical solutions emerge. This is particularly important in that theories formulated and tested in a Western context are often not readily applicable to China. Students or trainees of ISDPP with frequent opportunities to participate in the work of government and communities can better combine theory and practice, develop their ability to analyze policies and solve problems, and become motivated to acquire new knowledge and skills.
- 5. Accessing and disseminating information through multiple channels: Access to and dissemination of information and research results are two important goals of any institution seeking to influence policy making and training public policy professionals. To this end, ISDPP will:
  - Build a multipurpose information center
  - Publish research results
  - Conduct social policy seminars
  - Publish newsletters
  - Engage in research-based consultancy
- 6. **Promoting international collaboration:** To increase its research and teaching capacity, ISDPP will actively seek to cooperate with international academic institutions and other organizations in various activities, including:
  - Research projects
  - Training programs
  - Degree programs
  - Exchange visits
  - Co-sponsorship of conferences

# ❖ Major Funders

- The Ministry of Education of China
- The Ministry of Civil Affairs of China
- The Beijing Normal University
- The Ford Foundation
- The National Social Sciences Foundation of China

- The National Science Foundation of China
- The World Bank
- The Asian Development Bank
- The European Commission
- The Department for International Development of UK
- Other International Foundations

# Current Degree Programs

ISDPP offers three master and two PhD programs: Masters and PhD programs in social security and social welfare; masters and PhD programs in social medicine and health policy; and masters in social policy.

# Research Teams

- Anti-Poverty Theory and Policy Studies: Institute Director and Team Leader Professor Zhang Xiulan. Dr. Zhang received her PhD in Social Welfare from University of California at Berkeley. Her areas of research and expertise include health statistics, health care and service delivery, cross-cultural comparisons of aging, long-term care, social assistance program management, and social welfare provisions.
- Nonprofits & Development of Civil Society: Team Leader Professor Gu Xin. Dr. Gu
  received his PhD in letters from Leiden University, The Netherlands. His areas of
  research and expertise include social welfare policy, comparative welfare regimes, labor
  policy, civil society and the third sector, associational governance, and state-society
  relations.
- Research Center for Child Protection Policy: Team Leader Professor Shang Xiaoyuan. Dr. Shang received her PhD from the Institute of Developmental Studies at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom. Her areas of research and expertise include civil society, social assistance, human rights and child protection policy.
- Center for Poverty and Health Studies: Team Leader Professor Xu Yuebin
  Dr. Xu received his PhD from the University of Hong Kong in social welfare and social
  administration. His areas of research and expertise include social welfare, social service
  management, families and communities.
- Migration Study Center Team Leader Professor Xiaojiang Hu
   Dr. Hu received her PhD degree from the Harvard University in Sociology. Her areas of
   research and expertise include economic sociology, network analysis, exchanges of
   cultural and social capital, and the social aspects of public health
- Housing Policy Team Leader Professor Mark Duda
   Dr. Duda received his PhD from the Clark University in Economic Geography. His areas
   of research and expertise include Chinese and US housing finance, housing markets,
   and housing policy, as well as social science research design and methodology.

#### Major Recent Projects

#### **Social Protection**

Title: Engaging Families in Social Protection

Project Period: 5/01/03-4/30/04

Principal Investigators: Dr. Zhang Xiulan and Dr. Xu Yuebin

Funding Agency: The Ford Foundation

**Description:** Based on an integrated rural and urban large scale survey, the project will look into the coping patterns in social protection in both rural and urban China.

Title: State Role in Social Protection
Project Period: 01/01/03-12/31/03
Principal Investigators: Dr. Zhang Xiulan
Funding Agency: The Ford Foundation

**Description:** A Seminar with participants from domestic and international experts, as well as central and local government officials to discuss what is the State role in social protection

programs.

Title: Current Policy Challenge in Social Relief System in Rural China

Project Period: 07/01/03-12/31/03 Principal Investigators: Dr. Zhang Xiulan Funding Agency: Ministry of Civil Affairs

Description: A policy research on current Social Relief Systems: challenges in financing, and

delivery of the current Social Relief system given the rural tax reform.

Title: Current Policy Challenge for Poor Families in Rural China

Project Period: 07/01/04-06/30/05 Principal Investigators: Dr. Xu Yuebin Funding Agency: Ministry of Civil Affairs

Description: A nationwide household survey on rural Te-kun households and the policy

recommendations for a social relief programs to these households. .

Title: China Social Assistance System Reform

Project Period: 01/01/02-12/31/04

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Shang Xiaoyuan **Funding Agency:** Ministry of Civil Affairs

**Description:** A policy study on the directions of China's social assistance reform.

Title: Policy Analysis on Social Safety Net and Social Protection System

Project Period: 1/01/05-12/31/07

Principal Investigators: Drs. Zhang Xiulan/Xu Yuebin/Gu Xin/Shang Xiaoyuan/Song Xinming

Funding Agency: The Ministry of Education

**Description:** To analyze and predict the risks of aging and changes in population structure, technology and natural disaster, and income gaps on the society; to monitor, evaluate and simulate the relevant public policies via systematic analysis and research measures; to establish a national research base with an innovative research team, a digital simulation laboratory, a documentation center, a social risk index system, a social risk survey system, a policy experimentation site, and an international exchange center.

Title: Rural Social Protection Household Survey

Project Period: 1/01/05-6/30/05

Principal Investigators: Drs. Xu Yuebin/Zhang Xiulan

Funding Agency: The World Bank

**Description:** A household survey on rural social protection and informal social support in Fujian,

Guangxi, Zhejiang and Gansu Provinces.

**Title:** China Social Safety Net **Project Period:** 1/01/04-12/31/07

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Zhang Xiulan **Funding Agency:** The Ministry of Education

Description: A comprehensive study on the establishment of China social safety net.

Title: Systemization of Developmental Social Assistance

Project Period: 08/01/05-06/30/06

Principal Investigators: Dr. Gu Xin

Funding Agency: China Development Foundation

Title: Comparative Social Assistance System

Project Period: 07/01/07-07/31/06 Principal Investigators: Dr. Gu Xin

Funding Agency: China Social Science Foundation

Title: The Legal Framework and Cost Estimate of China Social Assistance Law

Project Period: 06/01/06-12/31/06

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Zhang Xiulan **Funding Agency:** Ministry of Civil Affairs

**Title:** Social Protection and Family Policy **Project Period:** 05/01/04-04/30/05 **Principal Investigators:** Dr. Xu Yuebin **Funding Agency:** Ministry of Civil Affairs

Title: A Longitudinal Study on Social Assistance Households

Project Period: 07/01/05-12/31/07 Principal Investigators: Dr. Xu Yuebin Funding Agency: The Ford Foundation

Title: The 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Planning of China Social Welfare and Social Assistance System

Project Period: 08/01/06-12/31/06

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Zhang Xiulan **Funding Agency:** Ministry of Civil Affairs

#### Children

Title: Caring for the Rural Orphanages: A Policy Study

Project Period: 12/01/04-12/31/05

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Shang Xiaoyuan **Funding Agency:** Ministry of Civil Affairs

**Description:** Based on surveys and document review, an accurate estimate of the number of rural orphanages will be made and a policy review will be conducted. Recommendations of social

assistance policy on these orphanages will be made.

Title: The Cost-Benefit Analysis of Foster Care

Project Period: 03/01/04-02/28/05

Principal Investigators: Dr. Shang Xiaoyuan Funding Agency: Ministry of Civil Affairs

**Title:** A Policy Analysis on Rural Orphans **Project Period:** 03/01/04-02/28/05

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Shang Xiaoyuan **Funding Agency:** Ministry of Civil Affairs

Title: Situation Analysis of Orphans of Natural Disaster

Project Period: 03/01/05-09/30/05

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Shang Xiaoyuan **Funding Agency:** Ministry of Civil Affairs

#### **Social Policy**

**Title:** Social Policy Information Center **Project Period:** 01/01/03-12/31/06

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Zhang Xiulan **Funding Agency:** Beijing Normal University

**Description:** Establish a social policy information center to provide data and technological

support for ISDPP research and teaching.

Title: Developmental Social Policy: International Experience and China Study

Project Period: 12/01/05-12/31/08
Principal Investigators: Dr. Gu Xin
Funding Agency: Ministry of Education

Title: Capacity Building of Social Policy Research and Education in China

Project Period: 7/01/02-6/30/06

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Zhang Xiulan **Funding Agency:** The Ford Foundation

Description: Institutional development to promote social policy research education and research

in China.

Title: Social Welfare Reform Strategy in Beijing

Project Period: 10/01/06-09/30/07

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Zhang Xiulan **Funding Agency:** Beijing Civil Affairs Bureau

Description: A comprehensive study on social welfare reform in Beijing.

Title: Public Policy for Social Service Provision

Project Period: 06/01/06-05/31/09

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Tao Chuanjin **Funding Agency:** China Science Foundation

**Description:** How public policy can promote social service provision.

#### **Medical Financial Assistance/Medical Aid**

Title: Rural Medical Assistance Program: Financing and Monitoring Framework

Project Period: 12/01/04-12/31/05
Principal Investigators: Dr. Xu Yuebin
Funding Agency: Ministry of Health

Description: Establish a financing and monitoring framework on current China rural Medicaid

programs.

Title: A Comparative Study of Rural Medical Financial Assistance in China

**Project Period:** 12/01/04-12/31/05

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Song Xinming **Funding Agency:** Ministry of Health

**Description:** Compare different rural Medicaid schemes and offer policy recommendations.

Title: On the Pathways of Falling into Poverty Due to Illness in Rural China

Project Period: 12/01/04-12/31/05
Principal Investigators: Dr. Zhang Xiulan
Funding Agency: Ministry of Health

**Description:** A national survey on major illness and rural poverty, combined with qualitative interviews and document reviews will be conducted to understand the relationship between

poverty and illness.

Title: Protecting the Rural Poor Against the Economic Consequences of Major Illness

Project Period: 3/01/05-2/28/09

Principal Investigators: Drs. Gu Xin/Xu Yuebin/Zhang Xiulan/Zhang Huan

Funding Agency: The European Commission

**Description:** Empirical study of the linkage between poverty and major illness and policy research on social mitigation measures.

**Title:** Urban Medicaid Schemes **Project Period:** 1/01/05-12/31/05

Principal Investigators: Drs. Zhang Xiulan/Xu Yuebin

Funding Agency: The Ministry of Civil Affairs

Description: Comparison of urban Medicaid schemes, financial sustainability, monitoring and

evaluation system, and mechanism of purchases of services.

Title: Rural Medical Financial Aid Programs: A National Institutional Survey

Project Period: 07/01/05-12/31/05 Principal Investigators: Dr. Xu Yuebin Funding Agency: The World Bank

Title: The Role of Community Health Services in Urban Medical Financial Aid Programs

Project Period: 07/01/05-06/30/06

Principal Investigators: Professor Jin Chenggang

Funding Agency: The Ministry of Health

Title: Categorical Support Programs of Urban Poor

Project Period: 07/01/05-06/30/06 Principal Investigators: Dr. Zhang Huan Funding Agency: The Ministry of Health

Title: Health Provider Behavior Under Urban Medical Financial Aid Program

Project Period: 07/01/05-06/30/06
Principal Investigators: Dr. Gu Xin
Funding Agency: The Ministry of Health

Title: A Study of Urban Medical Financial Aid Schemes

Project Period: 07/01/05-06/30/06
Principal Investigators: Dr. Xu Yuebin
Funding Agency: The Ministry of Health

Title: A Projection of Health Care Demand of the Urban Poor

Project Period: 07/01/05-06/30/06

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Gao Mengtao **Funding Agency:** The Ministry of Health

# HIV/AIDs

Title: A Policy Study on HIV/AIDs Orphans

Project Period: 06/01/06-05/31/07 Principal Investigators: Dr. Xu Yuebin Funding Agency: Ministry of Civil Affairs

Title: A Gender Study on HIV/AIDs Assistance Program

Project Period: 07/01/06-12/31/06 Principal Investigators: Dr. Xu Yuebin

Funding Agency: The UNDP

**Title:** Assisting HIV/AIDs Orphans **Project Period:** 07/01/05-12/31/06

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Shang Xiaoyuan **Funding Agency:** Save the Children Foundation

Title: The Role of NGOs in HIV/AIDs Prevention

Project Period: 10/01/05-10/31/06

Principal Investigators: Dr. Tao Chuanjin

Funding Agency: China-UK HIV/AIDs Support Office

Title: Supporting Policy for HIV/AIDs Families

Project Period: 04/01/05-06/30/06
Principal Investigators: Dr. Xu Yuebin
Funding Agency: Ministry of Civil Affairs

Title: Capacity Building of County Program Implementation of Global Fund

Project Period: 02/01/06-07/31/06

Principal Investigators: Dr. Tao Chuanjin

Funding Agency: China HIV/AIDs Prevention Center

Title: A Policy Process Analysis of Social Assistance Policy to HIV/AIDs Families

Project Period: 05/01/06-12/31/07

Principal Investigators: Dr. Zhang Xiulan Funding Agency: Health Alliance of WHO

#### Other

Title: Social Security System Development Planning of Haidian District

Project Period: 03/01/05-08/30/05

Principal Investigators: Dr. Gao Mengtao

Funding Agency: Haidian Development and Reform Committee

Title: Supporting Mechanism for Community Participation

Project Period: 05/01/06-04/30/08

Principal Investigators: Dr. Tao Chuanjin

Funding Agency: Beijing Social Science Planning Office

Title: Situation Analysis of China Charity Development

Project Period: 03/01/05-09/30/05

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Shang Xiaoyuan **Funding Agency:** Ministry of Civil Affairs

Title: Urban Community Health Services: A Case Study

Project Period: 04/01/06-12/31/08

**Principal Investigators:** Professor Jin Chenggang

Funding Agency: Beijing Bureau of Health

Title: Globalization and China Civil Society Development

Project Period: 03/01/04-04/30/05

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Shang Xiaoyuan **Funding Agency:** State Planning Commission

Title: Social Harmony and Social Welfare Development

Project Period: 08/01/05-12/31/05 Principal Investigators: Dr. Xu Yuebin

Funding Agency: Beijing Bureau of Civil Affairs

Title: Current Challenges of Social Administration and Social Services in Beijing

**Project Period:** 08/01/05-12/31/05

Principal Investigators: Dr. Zhang Xiulan Funding Agency: Beijing Bureau of Civil Affairs

Title: Comparison of Informal Long Term Care Between US and China

Project Period: 7/01/03-6/30/04

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Zhang Xiulan **Funding Agency:** The Pacific Rim Foundation

**Description:** A household survey for the aged who need long term care in Beijing and Shanghai was conducted to understand the current informal long term care arrangement in Urban China. Based on the long term care survey in California, USA and the survey in Beijing and Shanghai, a comparison of long term care policies will be studied.

Title: Quality of Community Participation in China

Project Period: 5/01/02-4/30/04

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Zhang Xiulan and Dr. Xu Yuebin **Funding Agency:** The National Social Sciences Foundation

**Description:** A household survey on Community Participation in Beijing, Guangdong, Shenyang and Taiyuan to measure the quality of participation of community affairs. The focus of this study is to better understand the barriers to participate social groups and community activities.

**Title:** Social Capital in Urban China **Project Period:** 10/01/02-9/30/03

Principal Investigators: Dr. Zhang Xiulan and Dr. Xu Yuebin

Funding Agency: Beijing Normal University

**Description:** A household survey based on the World Bank Social Capital Assessment Tool (SCAT) was adapted and conducted in three communities of Beijing. The focus of this study is to profile current social capital in urban communities.

**Title:** Value Orientations in Current Chinese Universities

Project Period: 01/01/03-12/31/08

Principal Investigators: Dr. Zhang Xiulan

Funding Agency: National Institute of Health, US

**Description:** A survey on current university students' value orientation in Beijing was conducted, and was compared with the value orientations in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Chinese-American college students in California was made.

Title: State Role in Promoting Social Justice

Project Period: 12/01/04-03/31/05 Principal Investigators: Dr. Gu Xin

Funding Agency: Stanford University (funded by National Institute of Health, US)

**Description:** A Seminar with participants from domestic and international experts, as well as central and local government officials to discuss the State role in promoting social justice.

# ❖ Fulltime Faculty Profile

❖ Zhang Xiulan obtained her Ph.D degree in social welfare from the University of California at Berkeley, in the USA. She is a Professor and Director of the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy, Beijing Normal University, where she teaches public organizational theories, public finance, social problems and social policy in China, as well as research methods. Dr. Zhang holds a visiting professorship at the Institute for Health & Aging at the University of California at San Francisco. Currently she is the national lead expert in social assistance; is a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Civil Affairs; is the Director of Social Safety Net Research Base and is one of the New Century Leading Social Scientists of the Ministry of Education. She is on the Advisory Board of the International Journal of Social Welfare and on the editorial board of several journals in social policy and public administration in China. In the past five years, she has published more than 40 academic papers, has made 16 presentations at national and international conferences, and has written more than 10 research reports to Chinese government and to major Foundations. She has also conducted more than 20 research projects in the areas of social protection, social safety net, social welfare, community participation, urban and rural medical aid programs, long term care, poverty and illness, etc. Her papers have

- appeared in Public Health Report, Health Care Financing Review, Journal of Community Health, Social Sciences in China, Xinhua Digest and others. She has consulted to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, UNICEF, DFID, the Ford Foundation, the Department of Justice of the USA, and other agencies.
- Gu Xin obtained his Ph.D degree in political science from Leiden University, the Netherlands. He is a Professor at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy, Beijing Normal University, where he teaches comparative social policy. After obtaining a Ph.D degree in political science from Leiden University in 1997, he assumed post-doctoral fellowships at Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley. His publications have appeared in many international journals such as Economy and Society, Development and Change, The Journal of Asian Studies, and The China Quarterly. His main research interests include health policy, social assistance, nonprofit organizations, public management and developmental studies.
- Shang Xiaoyuan obtained her Ph.D degree in development studies from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex. She is a Professor at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy, Beijing Normal University, where she teaches social welfare regimes. Professor Shang has published several journal articles and book chapters in both English and Chinese on civil society, social welfare, children protection, and China's social safety net. Her papers have appeared in Social Services Review, Journal of Social Policy, Social Sciences in China, Social Policy & Society and others. She has consulted to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the World Bank, DFID, UNICEF, UNDP and other agencies. In the past five years, Dr. Shang has conducted more than 10 research projects in the areas of child welfare, social assistance, disaster relief and social protection. Her current research interests include the role of the state and families in welfare provision to vulnerable children, child protection in China, experiences of, and social support for, families of children with disabilities, and China's reform of the systems of social security and public employment services
- ❖ Xu Yuebin obtained his Ph.D degree in social policy and social administration from the University of Hong Kong. He is a Professor and the director of the Center for Poverty and Health Studies at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy, Beijing Normal University. Before joining Beijing Normal University, he was the chair of the department of social administration at the Civil Affairs College of the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Papers written by Professor Xu have appeared in Social Development Issues, Social Policy and Administration, Social Sciences in China, and others. Dr. Xu is the principal investigator of several projects in social protection, rural social safety net, financing and monitoring frameworks of rural medical assistance program, etc.
- ❖ Li Zhanwu obtained his Ph.D degree in economics from the Dundee University, UK. He is a Professor at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy, Beijing Normal University. Professor Li has worked for the State Development and Reform Commission and the State Planning Commission before joining in the faculty. His areas of research include reform of the public service units, employment, public policy and public services. His research results have been adopted by the State Council and by the State Development and Reform Commission of China. He has published more than 100 articles in leading journals and newspapers.
- ❖ Tao Chuanjin obtained his Ph.D degree in sociology from the Renmin University. He assumed post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Chicago and Tsinghua University. His research interests are civil society, social organizations, HIV/AIDs and local governance.
- ❖ Dr. Huang Jianguo received his Ph.D degree in economics from Tokyo University. He is an assistant professor at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy. His areas of research and expertise include energy security, sustainable development, and innovation management.
- ❖ Dr. Gao Mengtao received his Ph.D degree in economics from the China Social Sciences Academy. He is a research fellow at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy. His areas of research and expertise include gender and health, health economics, poverty and health, and rural cooperative medical insurance.
- ❖ Professor Jin Chenggang received his master's degree in public health from the University of New South Wales, Australia. He spent 12 years managing a World Bank financed project in the health sector where he gained a great deal of experience. Now his research areas are health education and health promotion, behavioral epidemiology, health economics, and the analysis of the impact of social programs and cost-effectiveness analysis of health programs.
- ❖ Dr. Zhang Huan received his Ph.D degree in public policy and management from Tshinghua

University. He is an assistant professor at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy. He teaches courses on social welfare economics and public management. His research interests focus on government relations and public policy in areas such as the environment, social assistance and education. He has recently studied urban medical assistance and environmental policy.

- ❖ Dr. Qu Zhiyong received his Ph.D degree in psychology from the Beijing Normal University. He is an assistant professor at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy. His areas of research and expertise include child protection, mental health, education, and program evaluation.
- ❖ Dr. Liu Fengqin received her Ph.D degree in social statistics from the Renmin University. She is an assistant professor at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy. She serves as the senior statistician at the institute, and her research interest is in the measurement of social development and social welfare.
- Dr. Wang Zhenyao received his Ph.D degree from the Beijing University in economics. He is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Social Development and Public Policy. His areas of research and expertise include public assistance systems, disaster relief policy, public policy and management. He is the current director of the national disaster relief control center.
- Dr. Zhang Ying received his Ph.D degree from Tshinghua University in economics. Her areas of interest include macroeconomic analysis, comparative institutional economics, especially international comparisons of competition policy and regulation, as well as public spending and economic development.
- Dr. Xiao Shuqiao received her Ph.D degree in Law from the University of Warwick, in the UK. Her areas of research and expertise include international law, human rights law, gender law, and gender and public policy.
- ❖ Dr. Wang Huan received his Ph.D degree in political science from New York University, in the USA. His research is focused on political order and group politics, public policy analysis, game theory and social choice and comparative institutions.
- Dr. Hu Xiaojiang received her Ph.D degree in sociology from the Harvard University, in the USA. Her areas of research and expertise include economic sociology, network analysis, exchanges of cultural and social capital, and the social aspects of public health.
- Dr. Gao Ying received her Ph.D degree in economics from the Beijing University. Her research is focused on macro-economic analysis, economic & social policy study within a CGE framework.
- Miguel Salazar has a MA degree in Asian History from the University of London and will get his Ph.D degree in Sociology from Harvard University. His work concentrates on the migration of professionals around the world, in particular the issues of transnational networks and identity changes. His interests include: the sociology of identity, the sociology of culture, knowledge transfers, network analysis, social psychology, cognitive science, and linguistics. He is currently working on a project about expatriate networks in global cities.
- Dr. Zeng Menghua received her Ph.D degree in international development and public policy, from the University of Florida in the USA. She has over 15 years of international development and program management experience in China, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, USA and Canada. Her wide ranging research and teaching interests include international development, comparative politics and government, international relations, public policy, public administration, project management, leadership and strategic planning, governance, and NGO development. In recent years, her work has been focused on poverty alleviation and development in China. Dr. Zeng is very experienced in policy analysis, strategic planning, program management and evaluation, communication/policy advocacy, and NGO governance.