

**Chinese Attitudes toward Inequality and Distributive Injustice:
Changes at the Societal and Individual Level
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Funds are sought for a national survey to be conducted in China in 2009 to explore the patterns of change over time in citizen attitudes toward inequality and distributive injustice issues. The project builds upon a comparable survey the PI directed in China in 2004. That survey yielded some unexpected findings—in particular, that the average Chinese citizen was not all that angry about current inequalities, and that the groups that were the most angry were not usually those worst off in the reform era—farmers, migrants, residents of Western provinces, etc. However, the 2004 survey represents a snapshot in time, making it impossible to answer important questions that can be analyzed once the 2009 survey results are in hand: 1) Over time, have Chinese generally, and various subgroups of Chinese citizens specifically, become more angry about distributive injustice (or for that matter, less angry)? 2) At the individual level, what role do changes in residences, jobs, access to health care, treatment by officials, and other contingencies and experiences play in altering distributive injustice attitudes? As a byproduct, the data from two, high-quality representative national surveys will make it possible to answer many other questions, such as how have family income inequality, the role of property as a source of income, and coverage by health insurance plans changed in China over the past five years?

The 2009 survey will have a longitudinal component, with as many as possible of the 2004 respondents re-interviewed in 2009 as a basis for examining changes over time in distributive injustice attitudes at the individual level. In addition, the same GPS-assisted spatial probability sampling methods used in 2004 will be used again to yield a new, nationally representative sample of Chinese adults aged 18-70, which we estimate will yield a total sample of close to 4500 cases. By replicating many of the same questions used in 2004 in the new survey, we will be in a position to examine changes over time in distributive injustice attitudes and other key outcomes at the societal level, as well as within important population sub-groups (farmers, women, the elderly, ethnic minorities, etc.). The combination of a panel and repeated cross-sectional design made possible by the new survey will provide unusually powerful tools to enable us to examine patterns of continuity and change over time at both the individual and societal levels. The research team for this project is a multi-disciplinary, international team that has changed little since this program of research was launched in 1999. In addition to the PI, it consists of William Hsiao (economics, HSPH), Albert Park (economics, Oxford), Pierre Landry (political science, Yale), Wang Feng (sociology, U California-Irvine), Jieming Chen (sociology, Texas A&M-Kingsville), Chunping Han (June 2008 PhD in sociology, Harvard), and one graduate student RA to be designated later. Our lead PRC collaborator, as in our earlier surveys, is Shen Mingming (political science PhD, Univ. of Michigan, Director of the Research Center on Contemporary China, Beida). The 2009 interviews will be conducted by RCCC staff and trained interviewers, with supervision and consultation from the US participants.