A Message from the Directors

When we launched CICER in October 2015, we were excited about the opportunity to build new collaborative research capacity at Cornell. By bringing together scholars from Cornell and elsewhere, CICER conducts cutting-edge research to understand the most critical economic and social issues in China and their global impact. By using research findings to engage and educate policymakers as well as future leaders, CICER aims to promote evidence-based policy-making in China. The institute is now gaining recognition as a preeminent hub for rigorous and impactful research.

CICER’s sixteen faculty affiliates come from seven departments and four colleges across Cornell University. We continue to enhance project collaboration and establish new collaborative relationships with top institutions as well as successful businesses and government organizations in China. Through partnerships, we were able to gain access to several unique big datasets, which are instrumental for conducting rigorous empirical analysis. This year, CICER researchers engaged in many research projects (see page 7) in collaboration with researchers from top institutions such as Beijing University, Harvard, NYU, UPenn, and UCSD. We offered fifteen graduate students and five undergraduates the opportunity to engage in research projects. We organized bi-weekly lunch presentations for the students and co-sponsored eight seminars, one conference, one symposium and one book talk. The development of our research work has greatly benefited from the top scholars and experts who were invited to visit CICER and meet with faculty and students.

2017 marks the first year of CICER Summer Program on Economics and Business, after two years of preparatory work. The cohort of participants, including 54 undergraduate students and 20 graduate students from more than ten prestigious universities in China, is slated to arrive at Cornell on July 12. The goal of the program is to help ambitious Chinese college students gain in-depth understanding on the most important economic and business opportunities and challenges facing China, the U.S., and the world, through a series of lectures, seminars and workshops on selected topics. In addition to generating revenue, the summer program will help attract top college students from China to apply to Cornell graduate school. We envision that the continual collaborations with Chinese universities through the summer program and other partnership opportunities should further enhance the visibility of CICER and Cornell University at large.

As CICER continues to grow, we recognize the need to hire administrative staff. In February, we officially brought Will Tay on board to be the Program Coordinator for CICER.

2016-2017 academic year has been a fruitful year. Looking ahead to 2017-2018, CICER is in a stronger position to achieve more in all three pillars of activities: research, education and policy engagement. Thank you for your valuable support.

Panle Jia Barwick
Shanjun Li

Co-directors of CICER
ABOUT CICER

As the two largest economies in the world, the U.S. and China depend on each other now more than ever and have common interests in addressing major global challenges. As “an institution where any person can find instruction in any study”, Cornell University has educated generations of Chinese leaders who have shaped modern China, including such notable figures as Hu Shih (Class of 1912) and Mao Yisheng (Class of 1917). Through education and research, Cornell has made significant contributions to the social and economic development of modern China.

Cornell is an intellectual powerhouse where the breadth and depth of research expertise on China economic research is exceptional. Cornell researchers are working on all facets of the Chinese economy, including rural development and industrial growth, financial and real estate markets, consumer demand and market reform, international finance and trade, and environmental and energy challenges.

Cornell Institute for China Economic Research (CICER) is sponsored by the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs. CICER has strong scientific research strength and serves as a hub of Cornell expertise on China’s economic and social issues. It currently has sixteen world-renowned experts from seven different departments across four colleges.

VISION

We strive to become a world’s leading education and research hub for economic research on China.

MISSION

By bringing together scholars from Cornell and elsewhere, CICER conducts cutting-edge economic research to understand the most important economic and social issues in China and their global impact. By engaging policymakers and educating future leaders, CICER seeks to promote evidence-based governance in China while enhancing international collaboration.
CICER Directors

Panle Jia Barwick
Associate Professor, Department of Economics

Shanjun Li
Associate Professor
Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management

Faculty Affiliates

Nancy Chau
Professor, Dyson School

Yongmiao Hong
Ernest S. Liu Professor, Economics

Ravi Kanbur
T. H. Lee Professor, Dyson School

Andrew Karolyi
Alumni Professor, Johnson School

Crocker Liu
Robert A. Beck Professor, Hotel School

Peng Liu
Associate Professor, Hotel School

Thomas P. Lyons
Professor, Economics

Christopher Marquis
Samuel C. Johnson Professor, Johnson School

Victor Nee
Frank and Rosa Rhodes Professor, Sociology

David Ng
Professor, Dyson School

Eswar Prasad
Nandlal P. Tolani Senior Professor, Dyson School

Oliver Gao
Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Calum Turvey
W. I. Myers Professor, Dyson School

Jeremy Wallace
Associate Professor, Government

External Faculty Affiliates

Yanyan Liu
Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute

Jing Wu
Associate Professor of Real Estate, Tsinghua University

Xiaobo Zhang
Professor of Economics, Peking University

Yifan Zhang
Associate Professor of Economics, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Students

Graduates: Jialie Chen; Thomas Eisenberg; Rhiannon Jerch; Yuanning Liang; Yiding Ma; Avralt-Od Purevjav; Jing Qian; Deyu Rao; Yating Ru; Matthew Thirkettle; Jianwei Xing; Judy Xiong; Lin Yang; Nahim Zahur; Yang Zhang

Undergraduates: Huan He; Yibo Sun; Ziqian Tao; Binglin Wang; Julia Wang
CICER organizes activities in the following three areas:

**Research:**

- CICER brings together top researchers from Cornell and around the world to study the most important economic and social issues facing China and their impacts on the global economic system.

**Policy Engagement:**

- CICER engages in dialogue with policymakers and research communities worldwide to promote evidence-based governance and enhance international collaboration.

**Education:**

- CICER offers research opportunities for Cornell undergraduate and graduate students, hosts visiting scholars from China, and provides education opportunities for Chinese students and policymakers.
Faculty and students at CICER are using state-of-the-art economic methods and big data to study:

- **Rural Development and Industrial Growth**
  - Agricultural insurance and the economic well-being of farmers
  - Firm productivity and competitiveness
  - Urbanization and Industrialization

- **Financial and Real Estate Markets**
  - Macroeconomic policies and financial sector health
  - Chinese currency and its global impact
  - Land price dynamics and housing affordability

- **Consumer Demand and Market Reform**
  - Consumer spending and income inequality
  - Automobile industry and demand for electric vehicles
  - Local protectionism and market frictions

- **Environmental and Energy Challenges**
  - Pollution and the role of industry and transportation
  - Consequences of environmental degradation
  - Cost-benefit analysis and efficient policy design
Selected Ongoing Projects

- Local Protectionism, Market Structure, and Social Welfare: China’s Automobile Market
- The Marginal Cost of Traffic Congestion and Road Pricing: Evidence from a Natural Experiment
- Government Subsidy and the Demand for Electric Vehicles in China
- Air Pollution, Health Spending and Willingness to Pay for Clean Air
- Labor Unions, Product Market Competition and Social Welfare
- The Value of Time: Evidence from Subway Expansion in Beijing
- Traffic Congestion and Spending: Evidence from Credit Card Data
- Transportation Policies and Household Sorting
- The Dynamics of Quality Upgrade in China’s Automobile Market
- Industrial Policies and Shipbuilding Industry in China
- Anti-corruption and Economic Growth
- Infrastructure Building and Economic Integration
- Housing Price and Consumer Spending
- International Relation and Commerce: Evidence from Boycott in China
2016 Fall Events

**Joint CICER and Industrial Organization seminar**  
Date: September 21, 2016  
Speaker: Loren Brandt, University of Toronto  
*Topic: Barriers to Entry and Regional Economic Growth in China*

**Joint CICER and Industrial Organization seminar**  
Date: October 5, 2016  
Speaker: Wolfgang Keller, University of Colorado  
*Topic: Capital Markets and Colonial Institutions in China*

**Joint T.H. Lee Chair and CICER Conference: China Research Days**  
Date: October 27, 2016  
Graduate student mini conference hosted by Panle Jia Barwick, Ravi Kanbur and Shanjun Li  
Special guest: Xiaobo Zhang, Peking University  
Date: October 28, 2016  
Faculty Panel on Frontiers of Applied Economics Research on China  
Speakers: Jie Bai, Panle Jia Barwick, Ravi Kanbur, Shanjun Li, Yanyan Liu, Calum Turvey, Xiaobo Zhang

**Joint CICER, EAP and Industrial Organization seminar**  
Date: November 1, 2016  
Speaker: Ruixue Jia, University of California, San Diego  
*Topic: The Price of the East Asian Miracle: Generational Cultural Shift and Elderly Suicide*
2017 Spring Events

**Joint Industrial Organization and CICER seminar**
Date: February 23, 2017  
Speaker: Jie Bai, Harvard University  
*Topic: The Impact of Local Trade on Export Activities, Firm Performance, and Resource Misallocation*

**Book Talk: 'Gaining Currency: The Rise of the Renminbi'**  
Date: February 23, 2017  
Speaker: Eswar Prasad, Cornell University  
Sponsors: Mann Library, CICER, Industrial Organization, The Emerging Markets Institute

**Joint Labor Economics, Development Economics and CICER seminar**  
Date: April 19, 2017  
Speaker: Shing-Yi Wang, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
*Topic: Access to Migration for Rural Households*

**2017 Joint Cornell Contemporary China Initiative (CCCI) and CICER Student Symposium**  
Date: April 22, 2017  
Keynote speaker: Xiaobo Zhang, Peking University  
*Topic: The Economic and Social Consequences of Gender Imbalance in China*  
Student Panel 1: Policy and Power under the Chinese Communist Party  
Student Panel 2: Chinese Society in Transition and Distress

**CICER seminar**  
Date: April 24, 2017  
Speaker: Lingzhou Xue, Penn State University  
*Topic: High-Dimensional Statistics and Machine Learning*

**CICER seminar**  
Date: April 25, 2017  
Speaker: Xiaobo Zhang, Peking University  
*Topic: E-commerce Expands the Bandwidth of Entrepreneurship*

**Joint Industrial Organization, Public Economics and CICER seminar**  
Date: May 11, 2017  
Speaker: Panle Jia Barwick, Cornell University  
*Topic: Local Protectionism, Market Structure, and Social Welfare: China’s Automobile Market*
CICER offers an annual Summer Program on Economics and Business. The goal of the program is to help college students in China gain an in-depth understanding of the most important economic and business challenges facing China, the U.S. and the world, as well as acquiring knowledge of the academic environment, culture and social background of the U.S.

The three-week program offers courses by prominent professors in business and economics, workshops on graduate school applications, seminars on the U.S. job market and career choices, and extensive field trips to other Ivy-League universities, prominent think tanks, and international organizations in New York City and Washington DC. Students will have opportunities to interact with professionals in these organizations.

THE PROGRAM OFFERS:
- Courses and seminars on economics and business by Cornell professors
- Academic seminars featuring professors from leading universities and institutions
- Workshops on graduate school applications and career development
- Field trips to New York City and Washington DC, as well as interaction with professionals

SPEAKERS:
- Prof Matthew Backus (Columbia)
- Prof Panle Jia Barwick (Cornell)
- Prof Jerry Hausman (MIT)
- Prof Andrew Karolyi (Cornell)
- Prof Shanjun Li (Cornell)
- Prof David Ng (Cornell)
- Prof Michael Waldman (Cornell)

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