

# Isabella Maria Weber

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Economics  
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University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA 01002

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### Academic Appointments

- 9/2019 - Assistant Professor of Economics,  
Present Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Research Leader for China, Political Economy Research Institute (PERI)
- 2017-2019 Lecturer in Economics (tenured)  
Goldsmiths, University of London

### Education

- 2019 Ph.D. in Economics, The New School for Social Research  
Thesis title: Essays on Theories of Money and International Trade
- 2018 Ph.D. in Development Studies, University of Cambridge, Peterhouse  
Thesis title: China's Escape from the 'Big-Bang': The 1980s Price Reform Debate in Historical Perspective
- 2015 M.A. in Economics, The New School for Social Research
- 2012 B.A. in Political Science (with Economics minor), Free University Berlin  
Language training, Peking University, Centre for Chinese Language, 2010-2011

### Areas of Interest/Specialisation

Political Economy of China, Global Development and Trade, History of Economic Thought, Value and Monetary Theory

### Honors and Awards

- 2019 International Convention of Asia Scholars' Ground-breaking Subject Matter Accolade
- 2018 Warren Samuels Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in the History of Economic Thought and Methodology
- 2018 Goldsmiths International Engagement Fund Award
- 2018 Goldsmiths Research and Enterprise Committee Award
- 2015 Vice Chancellor's Award, Cambridge Trust
- 2010-2012 Social Science Research Training Award, German National Academic Foundation

### Publications

#### Monograph

Weber, I.M. (2021): *How China Escaped Shock Therapy: The Market Reform Debate*. London, New York: Routledge ([forthcoming in May](#)).

#### Peer-reviewed journal articles

I.M. Weber (2021): "Markets and Socialism in China: von Mises in China's Market Reform Debate," forthcoming at *Journal of the History of Ideas*.

Shaikh, A. and I.M. Weber (2020): "The U.S.-China Trade Imbalance and the Theory of Free Trade: Debunking the Currency Manipulation Argument," *International Review of Applied Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02692171.2020.1814221>.

Chinese translation: 《中美贸易失衡与自由贸易理论: 对汇率操纵论的批判》中国社会科学内部文稿 2020 年第 5 期。

Weber, I.M. (2020): “Origins of China’s Contested Relation with Neoliberalism: Economics, the World Bank, and Milton Friedman at the Dawn of Reform.” *Global Perspectives* 1(1), 12271. <https://doi.org/10.1525/gp.2020.12271>.

Weber, I.M. (2020): “Das westdeutsche und das chinesische »Wirtschaftswunder«: Der Wettstreit um die Interpretation von Ludwig Erhards Wirtschaftspolitik in Chinas Preisreformdebatte der 1980er-Jahre,” *Jahrbücher Historische Kommunismusforschung*, 2020, 55-69.

Semieniuk, G. and I.M. Weber (2020): “Inequality in Energy Consumption: Statistical Equilibrium or a Question of Accounting Conventions?” *The European Physical Journal Special Topics*, 229, 1705-1714, <https://doi.org/10.1140/epjst/e2020-900125-5>

Weber, I.M. (2019): “On the necessity of money in an exchange-constituted economy: the cases of Smith and Marx,” *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 42(6), 1459-1483, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cje/bez038>

Weber, I.M. and G. Semieniuk (2019): “China and American Radical Political Economists: From Great Hopes to Disillusionment,” *Research in the History of Economic Thought and Methodology*, 37A, 31-63, <https://doi.org/10.1108/S0743-41542019000037A005> (Winner of the Warren Samuels Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in the History of Economic Thought and Methodology, Chinese translation forthcoming)

Velupillai, K.V. and I.M. Weber (2016): “Reflections on B P Adarkar’s ‘Years of High Theory’ (1934-1941)”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 51(14), April 2.

#### **Book chapters**

Weber, I.M.: “China’s Bureaucratic Tradition of Price Regulation through Market Participation: Guanxi and the Contrast with Ancient Greek Economic Thought,” Schefold, B., and I. Amelung (Eds.), *Chinese and European Economic Thought*, London and Oxon: Routledge (forthcoming).

Weber, I.M.: “Ordoliberal Roots of Shock Therapy: The German ‘Economic Miracle’ in China’s 1980s Reform Debate,” Slobodian, Q. and D. Plehwe (Eds.), *Market Prophets from the Margins: Neoliberals East and South*, New York: Zone Books (forthcoming).

Weber, I.M.: “The Political Economy of Inflation in China’s Reforms: The Economic Context of Tiananmen,” Priscilla Roberts (Ed.), *Texas to Tiananmen: Chinese Economic Statecraft in Reform’s First Decade, 1978-1989*, London: Palgrave MacMillan (forthcoming).

Weber, I.M. (2018): “China and Neoliberalism: Moving Beyond the China Is/Is Not Neoliberal Dichotomy,” Cooper, M., D. Cahill, and M. Konings (Eds.), *SAGE Handbook of Neoliberalism*, London: Sage Publications, pp. 219-233.

#### **Book review**

Weber, I.M. (2019): Book Review of *Unlikely Partners: Western Economists, Chinese Reformers and the Making of Global China* by J. Gewirtz, *The China Quarterly*, 237, March 2019, pp. 257–285.

#### **Selected work in progress**

Weber, I.M., G. Semieniuk, T. Westland and J. Liang (2021). “What You Exported Matters: Persistence in Productive Capabilities across Two Eras of Globalization.” (Available as *Rebuilding Macroeconomics Working Paper* 40).

Weber, I.M. and T. Westland: “Export Specialization and the Late Divergence in the Agricultural Periphery: Testing the Lewis Open Economy Hypothesis.”

Weber, I.M.: “The Neutrality of Money and the Theory of International Trade: Thornton and Ricardo.”

Weber, I.M.: “Long-Run Inequality in Export Diversification: A Smithian Interpretation.”

Weber, I.M., and Qi Hao: “The Planned Market: What does the COVID-19 crisis reveal about China’s economic system?”

### ***Selected other writing and public engagement***

Upcoming podcasts: Theory, Politics, Other; Cambridge Development Podcast; Gravel Institute “Mao, Marx and Friedman in Beijing: The Economics of China’s Reforms,” *Le Grand Continent*, invited. “What You Exported Matters: The Long Shadow of Colonialism on International Trade,” *Phenomenal World*, forthcoming.

“Interview on How China Escaped Shock Therapy,” *Jacobin*, with Daniel Zamora, forthcoming.

“Could the US and Chinese Economies Really Decouple?” *The Guardian*, September 11, 2020.

“China is not the enemy, neoliberalism is,” *Jacobin* (with Qi Hao and Li Zhongjin) May 30, 2020.

“Escaping Shock Therapy: On the Development of the Chinese Economic Model”, *IPPR* 26(1), 99-106, 2019. Italian translation: *Pandora Rivista*, June 2019. German translation: *Zeitschrift Luxemburg*, December 2019.

BBC World TV News, Expert Interview, Outlook for Chinese economy, March 2019

BBC Business Live, Expert Interview, China-US trade relations, November 2018

### **Grants and Fellowships**

- 2019-20 ESRC Rebuilding Macroeconomics Research Grant, “What Drives Specialisation? A Century of Global Export Patterns”, (Principal Investigator), \$80,780 (GBP60,452)
- 2017-2020 China National Social Science Foundation Major Research Grant, (named researcher), PI: Prof. Cheng Lin, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
- 2016 Fudan University, Research Institute for China’s Economy, visiting research grant
- 2016-2017 Suzy Paine Fund, Department of Economics, University of Cambridge, fieldwork grant
- 2016-2017 The Universities’ China Committee London, fieldwork grant
- 2016 Young Scholars Initiative Conference Award by the Institute for New Economic Thinking and the European Society for the History of Economic Thought
- 2016-2017 Visiting Scholarship, Tsinghua University, School for Public Policy and Management
- 2016 Peterhouse, University of Cambridge, Greta Burkill Grant
- 2016 Cambridge Political Economy Society, fieldwork grant
- 2015 The New School for Social Research, conference travel grant
- 2013-2019 The Dean’s Merit Scholarship, The New School for Social Research
- 2013-2015 European Recovery Program (ERP) Fellowship, German Federal Ministry of Economy and German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes)
- 2010-2011 German National China Scholarship Program, German National Academic Foundation
- 2007-2015 German National Academic Foundation Prize Scholarship
- 2007-2015 Villigst National Prize Scholarship

### **Invited Talks**

2021 (including scheduled): 25<sup>th</sup> FMM Conference, Berlin, Keynote address; Deutsche Bank Endowment Lecture, University of Frankfurt; Oxford China Centre; Jesus China Centre Cambridge; Cambridge Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Science and Humanities; Australian National University Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs; Lau China Institute, KCL; Institute of Innovation and Public Purpose, UCL; Berkeley Centre for Chinese Studies; The University of Hong Kong Conference on Global Capitalism and the World of Socialism; National Institute of Economic and Social Research, UK; Rosa Luxemburg Foundation; Institute for Socio-Economics University of Duisburg-Essen; YSI INET; Workshop on China’s Socialist Market Economy, Jacobs University Bremen; History and Development Workshop, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2020: UC Irvine, Long China Institute; University of Florence, Department of Economics; Mont Pelerin Society General Meeting 2020 Oslo (cancelled); University of Cologne, Department of Asia Studies; Deutsche Bank Endowment Lecture, University of Frankfurt (postponed); Critical China Scholars Inaugural Workshop; Workshop in Chinese History of Economic Thought, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (cancelled); National Institute of Economic and Social Research, UK;

Department of Economics, George Mason University (cancelled); Economic and Social History Research Seminar, University of Edinburgh

2019: Leibniz Center for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF); Fairbank Centre, Harvard University; University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Economics, Asian Political Economy Conference; School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin; Institute of Advanced Studies Bad Homburg; China Centre, Jesus College, Cambridge

2018: Institute of Advanced Studies, Bad Homburg; Federal Foundation for the Study of Communist Dictatorship in East Germany, Berlin; Economic History Workshop, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics; Fudan University, Department of Philosophy, Shanghai; University of Cambridge, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH); Vienna Institute of International Economics; Institute for Human Science, Vienna; Post-Keynesian Economics Society Annual Workshop; Economics and Anthropology Workshop, Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF)

2017: King's College London, Lau China Institute

2016: School of Management, Wuhan Textile University; Berlin Social Science Centre

2015: University of Cambridge, Department of Philosophy; Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on Economics (HPPE) seminar, Economic History Department, London School of Economics

### **Conference Presentations**

2021: International Trade and Finance Association (accepted); Society for the Advancement of Social Economics (accepted); CJE Conference (accepted); History of Economics Diversity Caucus Conference (accepted); Social Science History Association (panel submitted); Economic History Association (paper submitted); Association for Asian Studies, online

2020: Society for the Advancement of Social Economics, online; European Congress on World and Global intellectual History, Turku (cancelled); History of Economics Annual Conference, online; Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston (cancelled); Eastern Economic Association Annual Conference, Boston

2019: Development Studies Association Annual Conference

2018: British Association of China Studies Annual Conference, London; International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy Annual Conference, Pula; The History of Economic Thought Society 50th Anniversary Conference, Oxford

2016: 40th Anniversary Conference of the Cambridge Journal of Economics, Cambridge; Annual Conference of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought, Paris; Ricardo Conference, Royal Economic Society, Ricardo Society of Japan, School of Oriental and African Studies, London

2015: Institute for New Economic Thinking Young Scholars Initiative, Pisa; Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Taipei

2014: Eastern Economic Association Conference, Boston

### **Teaching**

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Economics

Econ 204 Intermediate Macroeconomics (undergraduate)	Spring & Fall 2020, Spring 2021
Econ 306 History of Economic Thought (undergraduate)	Fall 2019, 2020
Econ 707 History of Economic Thought (Ph.D.-level)	Spring 2021

Goldsmiths, University of London, Institute of Management Studies  
 Economic History (undergraduate) Fall 2017, 2018  
 History of Economic Ideas (undergraduate) Spring 2018  
 Oxbridge-style supervisions for Introductory Economics 2017-18, 2018-19

University of Zurich, Department of History  
 Chinese History of Economics Thought (executive masters) Spring 2018

University of Cambridge, Department of Economics  
 Tutor, History and Philosophy of Economics (undergraduate) Lent 2017

The New School for Social Research, Department of Economics  
 Teaching Assistant, Advanced Macroeconomics I (Ph.D.-level) Fall 2014

### **Advising**

Harvard University, History Department  
 Zylar Wang, Ph.D. field exam adviser, History of Economic Thought Fall 2019-present

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Economics  
 Raven Hetzler, pre-dissertation advisor  
 Cosku Mihci, pre-dissertation advisor  
 Evan Wasner, pre-dissertation advisor  
 Jesús Lara Jáuregui, pre-dissertation advisor

King's College London, Lau China Institute  
 External Ph.D. Examiner 2019

Goldsmiths  
 Catrina Schwendener, economic anthropology, secondary supervisor 2017-2019

### **Service**

#### ***University***

Organizer, virtual Political Economy Workshop, 2020-2021  
 PERI China Political Economy group, since 2020  
 Working Paper Series Coordinator, 2020-2021  
 Member of Executive Committee, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2019-2020  
 Head of Outreach, Institute of Management Studies, Goldsmiths, 2018-2019  
 Member of Management Team, Institute of Management Studies, Goldsmiths, 2018-2019  
 President, Cambridge Society for Social and Economic Development, 2016-2017

#### ***Review Service***

Cambridge Journal of Economics, China Economic History Review (中国经济史研究), Competition and Change, Economic Systems, History of Political Economy, International Review of Applied Economics, Journal of Contemporary China, Journal of Economic Issues, New Political Economy, Review of Evolutionary Political Economy, Review of International Political Economy, Review of Radical Political Economics, SAGE, Structural Change and Economic Dynamics

#### ***Profession***

Co-organizer, The History of Economic Thought Annual Conference, Goldsmiths, 2019  
 Organizer, Workshop "Ordoliberalism and the German Economic Model," Goldsmiths, Political Economy Research Centre, 2019  
 Panel Co-Convener, "30 years after 1989: Re-assessing models of market transition," Development Studies Association Annual Conference, Open University, London, 2019  
 The Universities' China Committee London, scholarship committee member, 2018-2019

Co-Organizer, Post-Keynesian Economics Society Annual Workshop, Goldsmiths, 2018  
Panel Convener, "Great industrialization debates at critical historical and contemporary junctures,"  
Development Studies Association Annual Conference, Oxford, 2016  
Co-Convener, China Political Economy Seminar, Cambridge, 2016-2017  
Panel Convener, Marxian Economics, Re-Thinking Economics Conference, New York, 2014  
Co-Organizer, Colloquium on the History of Worldly Philosophy at The New School for Social Research,  
22 February 2014

**Organisational Membership**

Economic History Association; Society for the Advancement of Social Economics; History of  
Economics Society; Association of Asian Studies; Eastern Economic Association; Union for Radical  
Political Economics; The British Association for China Studies; Development Studies Association