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# NEWSLETTER

*of the Association of Chinese Political Studies*

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## Editor's Note

The Association of Chinese Political Studies welcomes Gregory J. Moore as its new president. Greg takes over from Jessica C. Teets who did an outstanding job with her organization of two conferences – one in Hangzhou, China in June 2019 and one online in October 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. Greg's ideas about building on Jessica's legacy are contained in his incoming president statement, which mentions a couple of possibilities for future conferences and is written with a historical perspective that only a person with a long association with ACPS could have.

Also contained in this newsletter is a message by Jessica that summarizes the activities of the latest ACPS annual conference, highlights the importance of the organization as an international bridge-building vehicle, notes the relationships developed with other professional organizations, and outlines issues the ACPS Board is dealing with. Underlying the development of the association are the scholarly accomplishments of its broad membership, the backbone of the organization. As occurred last newsletter, this edition shines the light on two of its members.

## Message from the President

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as president of ACPS for 2020-2022, and I look forward very much to serving in this capacity for the next two years. I attended my first ACPS conference in Las Vegas in 1997 while a PhD student from the University of Denver. The meeting was mostly in Chinese in those days and I remember meeting many lao pengyou and making new friends there and in subsequent ACPS meetings/events, forging many friendships and professional relationships that have stood the test of time. ACPS has played a great networking and career advancement role in my own career as a political science and Sinologist and I am looking forward to helping others benefit from ACPS as I have done in my career.

I start by thanking Jessica Teets for her great service (and fine example for me) as ACPS president the last two years. Her professionalism and deep commitment to this organization has been moving, and this was true even before her term as ACPS president, speaking here especially of her service with ACPS' *Journal of Chinese Political Studies*. Thanks are also due to Sujian Guo for his dedication and continued hard work on the journal, making it one of China Studies' leading journals today. I also want to thank the ACPS Board for their work the last two years and for their agreement to continue to serve going forward. We couldn't keep the ship afloat without them.

Covid will continue to present us with some challenges and we may need to continue to make some adjustments to the work of the organization and any plans for the management of future meetings/events/initiatives in coming months, but the importance of Chinese political studies and the importance of a US-based but global organization

## Editor's Note Continued

Activities are taking place in an extremely difficult environment. On the political-economic side, United States-China relations have deteriorated to their worst state in around half a century with a major trade war being initiated by the Trump administration in response to unfair trading practices which Beijing is accused of and a decoupling to some extent in the technology and investment fields. Those developments have had spin-off effects on cultural and academic exchanges, which in some ways have been matters of concern in their own right as Washington has tried to crack down on China's "influence-seeking" activities. On the health side, the Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on international travel and contributed further – and in a major way – to an erosion of trust between Washington and Beijing. In a different environment, it is possible that the pandemic could be leveraged for new cooperation between the two governments in the spirit of "Never let a crisis go to waste", which in this case, could be interpreted in a more positive way.

Attention now is focused on the presidential transition in the United States. In a *Foreign Affairs* article in March/April 2020, Joe Biden stated that "The United States does need to get tough with China." In the harsh world of international politics, that may be true. At the same time, it is also true that the United States needs to cooperate with China on matters of international governance as Biden indicated an interest in doing "on issues where our interests converge." Guiding U.S. policy should be Ezra Vogel's observation and recommendation, made as one of the keynote speakers at the ACPS online conference, that it is wrong to say that engagement has not worked, and that the Biden administration should set up a China strategic group at the White House. That makes the work of China scholars, in and outside of ACPS, all the more important, because it has the potential to get the most important bilateral relationship in the world back on track.

James F. Paradise

## President's Message Continued

dedicated thereto is more important than ever, particularly as we consider the poor state of China-US relations at the moment. I would hope that we can continue to keep the organization's high standards over the coming two years, despite restraints placed on us by Covid. The Board and I are still in discussions about what we might do regarding what would normally be our early summer conference in China, which would normally be held this May or June. It does not appear realistic to hold it in face-to-face form this summer (when it would normally be held) given Covid restrictions, but we will try to see if there is a way to hold a face-to-face meeting in China or Greater China in 2021. I have presented to the board the idea of holding the next ACPS annual meeting in Denver in the fall of 2022, perhaps co-hosted by my present institution, Colorado Christian University, and the University of Denver. I've spoken to my old friend and mentor Zhao Suisheng and he is amenable to the idea as is CCU. Stay tuned for more information about that down the road.

I look forward to working with you to push forward the important work of the Association of Chinese Political Studies in 2020-2022, and thank you in advance for your support and welcome your thoughts ([gregoryjohnmoore@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryjohnmoore@gmail.com) or [gmoore@ccu.edu](mailto:gmoore@ccu.edu)). Best wishes and thanks,

Greg Moore



## Summary of Recent Activities

Dear ACPS members,

The 2020 ACPS annual conference was a great success. We held it online and that format allowed us to offer additional programming to our normal research panels. In addition to six research panels, we offered four workshops on fieldwork strategies, machine learning, experimental research design, and survey design. We hosted three mentoring groups comprised of beginning scholars, junior scholars, and senior scholars matched by research area. Finally, we provided three keynote speeches by Jessica Chen Weiss on Sino-US relations after Covid, Taylor Fravel on maritime politics in the South China Sea, and Ezra Vogel on Dengist Thought in Xi's China. The conference was hosted by Middlebury College, and even though we were not able to gather together on campus, the Middlebury Institute's Translation & Interpretation graduate program provided simultaneous interpretation of most events in several languages in addition to Chinese. Each event garnered approximately 30 participants (in addition to the panelists or presenters), including many new members.

I have been honored to serve as President of the association for the last two years, and enjoyed seeing many of you at our conference hosted by Zhejiang University, and then again at this last conference hosted by Middlebury College. This association offers an important bridge between international scholars studying China and scholars in China, and these relationships and communication matter now more than ever. I am proud that in addition to maintaining an open and collaborative association, that we also have invested in creating a mentorship network. Research shows how important mentoring is in career development, and ACPS intends to continue this mentoring network. We also secured guaranteed ACPS panels at APSA, ISA, and AAS, and APSA will host a panel at future ACPS conferences. I hope that the legacy of my term might be to continue to strengthen our network, concentrate on improving the rigor of our members' research, and increase the impact of the association through social media and other outreach efforts.

I welcome our new President, Greg Moore, and the next Board (2020-2022) consisting of:

- Chen Jing – Membership Director
- Yumin Sheng - Treasurer
- Nele Noesselt – Research Director
- Xi Chen – Publicity Director
- James Paradise – Editor, ACPS newsletter

The Board will tackle migrating to a new website, planning our next annual conference (hopefully in person), elections for open Board spots including the president-elect, and continuing outreach so that our new members become lifelong members. We are lucky to have a strong board providing collective leadership over ACPS. This group has served the organization very well, and it was a pleasure to serve alongside you. Thank you!

I look forward to seeing you all at the next conference,

Jessica

Jessica C. Teets (赵娜)  
Associate Professor, Political Science Department,  
Middlebury College  
Associate Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Chinese Political Science* (JCPS)  
Non-Resident Senior Fellow, China Policy Institute



## Screenshots from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Association of Chinese Political Studies (ACPS) Annual Meeting and International Symposium



*Ezra Vogel*



*Jack Zhang*



*Karl Yan*



*Taylor Fravel*



*John Berninghausen*



*Xi Chen*

### In Memoriam

ACPS was sad to learn of the death of Ezra Vogel on December 20, 2020. Only a couple months earlier, the longtime Harvard professor gave one of the keynote speeches at the ACPS annual conference in which he observed that Deng Xiaoping “would think Xi [Jinping] has moved too strongly too quickly to assert China’s prominence” and stated that the Biden administration will need to bring more expertise to bear on its policies towards China. In his introduction, John Berninghausen, Professor Emeritus in Chinese language and literature at Middlebury College, stated that Vogel was “never trapped in too narrow a disciplinary approach,” was the “embodiment of an area studies person” and was a public intellectual who spoke with both academic and non-academic people. With his numerous publications, such as *Japan as Number One: Lessons for America*, *One Step Ahead in China: Guangdong under Reform*, *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China*, and *China and Japan: Facing History*, Vogel made major contributions to Japan and China studies. May his influence as a person who tried to understand the nuances of international relations, who was interested in reconciliation studies, and who immersed himself in the societies he studied long live on. (JFP)



*Jessica Chen Weiss*

## Member Profiles

Dr. Lynn White



Lynn received his PhD at Berkeley and taught four decades at Princeton. Fifty former students have tenured jobs teaching Asian politics. His books cover stages of political evolution: *Careers in Shanghai* concerns revolutionary consolidation during the 1950s. *Policies of Chaos* shows effects of earlier control policies on Cultural Revolution violence. *Unstately Power* is a two-tome book on local reforms after 1969 (vol. 1 won the AAS Levenson Prize). *Political Booms* compares local-political changes in Jiangnan, Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines. *Philippine Politics* explains causes of economic-political stagnancy there. *Democratization in Hong Kong - and China?* weighs factors that help or hinder popular sovereignty. *Rural Roots of Reform before China's Conservative Change* shows that post-1969 countryside industrial development created prosperity, inflation, losses of Party power, and reactionary centralist politics under Xi. Lynn's articles have appeared in the *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *China Quarterly*, *Asian Survey*, *China Information*, and elsewhere. Lynn looks at politics outside the state, at their effects on state structure, and at both **unintended situations** and **leaders' intentions** (referring to local and medial leaders, not just central ones). He is now studying ethics in political mobilizations.

Dr. Elise Pizzi



Elise Pizzi is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa. Her research primarily focuses on issues related to development in rural areas. She has published work on public goods provision, ethnic politics, domestic migration, and natural resources management. She is currently working on research related to the role of migration in rural development and the selection of migration destinations. Outside of China, Professor Pizzi's research has explored the intersection of natural resources, ethnic politics, and conflict and the relationship between environmental migration and violent conflict. Another recent focus has been on the causes and consequences of environmental migration, especially the variation in government response to natural disasters. Her research has been published in *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Asian Survey*, and others. She conducts most of her fieldwork in Guizhou province. She enjoys soccer and hiking and eats Kaili sour fish soup whenever she possibly can.

**Comments, suggestions or contributions can be directed to James F. Paradise, newsletter editor, at [paradise@ucla.edu](mailto:paradise@ucla.edu) or Gregory J. Moore, ACPS President.**