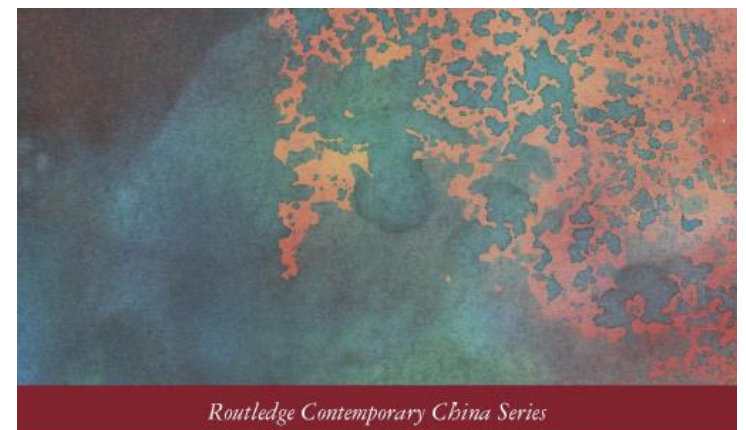


# The Land Question in China: Agrarian Capitalism, Industrious Revolution, and East Asian Development

## Abstract

My book questions the inevitability and practicability of full-scale, land-intensive capitalist agriculture in China, while analyzing the labor-intensive industrious revolution as an alternative rural development path. The book presents a critical account of the recent rise of agrarian capitalism as a force that would undermine hundreds of millions of people's livelihoods. It traces the roots of the industrious revolution in China back to the eighteenth century, drawing comparisons between contemporary rural development and economic prosperity in the mid-Qing dynasty. In the context of neoliberal restructuring, it argues that vigorous rural development with broad access to land offers a solution to mitigate precarious urban employment and population pressure, while the transfer of land from villagers to large producers and urban investors will exacerbate these problems. Comparisons with South Africa and the East Asian economies of Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan further illustrate this and help to develop a new interpretation of the industrious revolution and its contemporary relevance.



## THE LAND QUESTION IN CHINA

AGRARIAN CAPITALISM, INDUSTRIOUS REVOLUTION,  
AND EAST ASIAN DEVELOPMENT

Shaohua Zhan



**21 Dec 2018 Friday**  
**3:00pm-4:40pm GH405**  
**The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

3:00pm Reception  
3:15pm Welcome  
3:20pm Presentation, Q&A



### Speaker

## Dr. Shaohua Zhan

Assistant Professor  
School of Social Sciences  
Nanyang Technological University

**Shaohua Zhan** earned his Ph.D. degree in sociology from Johns Hopkins University and is an assistant professor at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He studies land politics, food security, and migration, with a focus on China. His works have appeared in *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, *World Development*, *Journal of Rural Studies*, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Geoforum*, *Globalizations*, *The China Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Modern China*, etc. His forthcoming book, titled *The Land Question in China: Agrarian Capitalism, Industrious Revolution, and East Asian Development* (Routledge, 2019), examines the contrasting development paths of industrious revolution and agrarian capitalism in rural China.



### Convener

## Dr. Yan Hairong

Associate Professor  
Department of Applied Social Sciences  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

**Don't miss it. Register to reserve a spot**

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