

# Isabella Maria Weber

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Economics  
219 Gordon Hall, 418 North Pleasant Street  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA 01002

Phone: +1 413- 545-2536  
Email: imweber@umass.edu

### Academic Appointments and Affiliation

- 9/2019 - Present Assistant Professor of Economics,  
Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Research Leader China Studies, Political Economy Research Institute (PERI)
- 2018 - Present Affiliated Member  
China Centre, Jesus College, University of Cambridge
- 2017-2019 Lecturer in Economics (tenured)  
Goldsmiths, University of London

### Education

- 2019 Ph.D. in Economics, The New School for Social Research  
Dissertation title: Essays on Theories of Money and International Trade
- 2018 Ph.D. in Development Studies, University of Cambridge, Peterhouse  
Dissertation title: China's Escape from the 'Big-Bang': The 1980s Price Reform Debate  
in Historical Perspective
- 2016 M.Phil. in Economics, The New School for Social Research, GPA 4.0  
Qualifying exams: Microeconomics, Advanced Political Economy
- 2015 M.A. in Economics, The New School for Social Research
- 2012 B.A. in Political Science, Free University Berlin  
Visiting student, Peking University, Centre for Chinese Language, 2010-2011

### Areas of Interest/Specialisation

Political Economy of China, History of Economic Thought, International Trade, Price and Monetary Theory

### Honours and Awards

- 2019 International Convention of Asia Scholars' Ground-breaking Subject Matter Accolade  
for Ph.D. Dissertation
- 2018 Warren Samuels Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in the History of Economic  
Thought and Methodology
- 2015-2018 Vice Chancellor's Award, Cambridge Trust
- 2015 Henry M. McCracken Doctoral Fellowship, New York University (declined)
- 2016-2017 Visiting Scholarship, Tsinghua University, School for Public Policy and Management

- 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)
- 2010-2012 Social Science Research Training Award, German National Academic Foundation, Research Group "Conflict, Cooperation and Democratization in Asia"
- 2010-2011 German National China Scholarship Program, German National Academic Foundation, German and Chinese Ministries of Education and Krupp Foundation
- 2007-2015 German National Academic Foundation Prize Scholarship, full funding for German B.A. and M.A.
- 2007-2015 National Protestant Prize Scholarship (Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst)

### **Grants and Fellowships**

- 2019-20 PI ESRC Rebuilding Macroeconomics Research Grant, "What Drives Specialisation? A Century of Global Export Patterns", match-funded by Political Economy Research Institute (PERI)
- 2018-2019 Goldsmiths International Engagement Fund Award
- 2018-2019 Goldsmiths Research and Enterprise Committee Award
- 2017-2021 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, grant for research stay in Shanghai
- 2016-2017 Suzy Paine Fund, Department of Economics, University of Cambridge, grant for fieldwork in China
- 2016-2017 The Universities' China Committee London, grant for fieldwork in China
- 2016 Young Scholars Initiative Conference Award by the Institute for New Economic Thinking and the European Society for the History of Economic Thought
- 2016 Peterhouse, University of Cambridge, Greta Burkill Grant
- 2016 Cambridge Political Economy Society, grant for fieldwork in China
- 2015 The New School for Social Research, conference travel grant

### **Publications**

#### *Peer-reviewed journal articles*

Weber, I.M. (2020): "Origins of China's Contested Relation with Neoliberalism," accepted by new University of California Press interdisciplinary journal *Global Perspectives*.

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,“ accepted by *Jahrbücher Historische Kommunismusforschung*.

Semieniuk, G. and I.M. Weber: “Inequality in Energy Consumption: Statistical Equilibrium or a Question of Accounting Conventions?” accepted by *The European Physical Journal Special Topics*.

Weber, I.M. (2019): “On the necessity of money in an exchange-constituted economy: the cases of Smith and Marx,” *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, online 24 August.

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*, Vol. 37, 31-63. (Winner of the Warren Samuels Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in the History of Economic Thought and Methodology)

Velupillai, K.V. and I.M. Weber (2016): “Reflections on B P Adarkar’s ‘Years of High Theory’ (1934-1941)”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 51, Issue No. 14, April 2.

### ***Peer-reviewed book chapter***

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.

### ***Monograph***

Weber, I.M. (2020): *How China Escaped Shock Therapy: The Market Reform Debate* (forthcoming).

### ***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.

### ***Working papers***

Weber, I.M.: “How to Make a Miracle? Ludwig Erhard's Post-War Price Liberalisation in China's 1980s Reform Debate,” (2019), Working Paper 1903, New School for Social Research, Department of Economics.

Shaikh, A. and I.M. Weber: “The U.S.-China Trade Balance and the Theory of Free Trade: Debunking the Currency Manipulation Argument,” (2018), Working Paper 1805, New School for Social Research, Department of Economics.

### **Selected Invited Talks**

2020      How China Escaped Shock Therapy: The Market Reform Debate, Mont Pelerin Society General Meeting 2020 Oslo, September 1-5

How China Escaped Shock Therapy: The Market Reform Debate, Deutsche Bank Lecture, University of Frankfurt, July 2

How to Make a Miracle? Ludwig Erhard's Post-War Price Liberalisation in China's 1980s Reform Debate, Workshop in Chinese History of Economic Thought, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, June 22-25

- Markets and Socialism in China: von Mises in China's Market Reform Debate, Department of Economics, George Mason University, April 16
- How to Make a Miracle? Ludwig Erhard's Post-War Price Liberalisation in China's 1980s Reform Debate, Economic and Social History Research Seminar, University of Edinburgh, January 15
- 2019 The Chinese Chapter in the Socialist Calculation Debate Workshop on Ludwig von Mises in the History of Economics and Liberalism, Leibniz Center for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF), June 24
- China's Great Political Economy Controversies: The 1980s Reform Debate and the 1950s Law of Value Debate, Fairbank Centre, Harvard University, Workshop, April 19
- The German and the Chinese 'Miracle': A Comparison of the Making of the Chinese and the German Export-led Model, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Economics, Asian Political Economy Conference, April 13-14
- The West-German Post-War and the Chinese Reform 'Miracle': A Comparative and Connected History, SOAS, China and Globalisation Seminar Series, March 12
- China's Reform Debates, Conference on China's Political Economy, School of Government, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin, February 8
- Thinking Reform in Ancient China and the Recent Past, Conference on Issues in the Comparison of the Histories of Chinese and European Economic Thought from Antiquity to the Present, Institute of Advanced Studies Bad Homburg and University of Frankfurt, February 21-22
- 2018 Intellectual Origins of China's Dual Track Price System, Research Project Chinese and European History of Economic Thought in Comparison, Institute of Advanced Studies, Bad Homburg, November 8-9
- Erhard's Miracle and China's Market Reforms, Conference for a Special Issue, *Jahrbücher Historische Kommunismusforschung* (Yearbook for Historical Research on Communism), Federal Foundation for the Study of Communist Dictatorship in East Germany, Berlin, November 23-24
- Origins of China's Dual Track Price System, 3rd SUFE Economic History Workshop on History and Thought: The Transformation and Development of the Chinese Economy in Modern Times, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, July 1-2
- Concepts of the Market and Socialism in China and the West, Workshop on History and Theories of Socialism in China, Fudan University, Department of Philosophy, Shanghai, May 24-28
- China's Encounters with Neoliberalism: Escaping a 'Big Bang' and Embracing the Market, Seminar Series Politics of Economics, University of Cambridge, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), May 1
- China's Escape from the 'Big Bang': The 1980s Price Reform Debate in Retrospect, Vienna Institute of International Economics, Vienna, April 26

Evolution of Planning Concepts in China, Triple-B Research Project – A Comparative History of Economic Thought under Communism, Institute for Human Science, April 27-28

- 2017 China's Escape from the 'Big Bang': The 1980s Price Reform Debate in Historical Perspective, King's College London, Lau China Institute, November 29
- 2016 The Moganshan Conference and the Challenge of Price Reform, School of Management, Wuhan Textile University, November 15
- Locating Neo-liberal Thought in China's First Decade of Reform, Conference More Roads from Mont Pelerin, Berlin Social Science Centre, March 20-22
- 2015 The Necessity of Money in Smith's Commercial Society and Marx's Commodity Producing Economy, Workshop on Public and/or Private Money, Department of Philosophy, University of Cambridge, December 7
- Defining the Path of Reform: China's Great Debate of the 1980s," Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on Economics (HPPE) seminar, Economic History Department, London School of Economics, October 21

#### **Conference Presentations**

- 2020 Marketisation beyond Neoliberalism: China's Reform Debate, 6<sup>th</sup> European Congress on World and Global History, Turku, June 25-28
- How China Escaped Shock Therapy to Become Modern, panel organized by R. Bin Wong, Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, March 19-22
- What Drives Specialisation? A Century of Global Export Patterns, Eastern Economic Association Annual Conference, Boston, February 27-March 1
- 2019 Shock Therapy and Alternative Treatments: The Role of Post-World War II Transitions in Reforming Chinese Socialism, Development Studies Association, Open University, London, June 19-21
- 2018 China – A Market Economy?, British Association of China Studies Annual Conference, King's College London, September 12-14
- China's Escape from the "Big Bang": The 1980s Price Reform Debate, International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy Ninth Annual Conference in Political Economy, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, September 12-14
- Shock Therapy and Alternative Treatments: China's Price Reforms from the Perspective of Post-WWII Transitions, The History of Economic Thought Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Balliol College, Oxford, August 29-31
- 2017 The Chinese Chapter in the Socialist Calculation Debate: Intellectual Origins of China's Socialist Market Economy, History of Recent Economics Conference, University of Lucerne, April 21-22

- 2016 The Necessity of Money in Smith's Commercial Society and Marx's Commodity Producing Economy, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Cambridge Journal of Economics, University of Cambridge, July 12-13
- Thornton versus Ricardo: Two Alternative Perspectives on Money and Trade, Annual Conference of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought, University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, May 26-28
- Thornton versus Ricardo: Two Alternative Perspectives on Money and Trade, Ricardo Conference on Two Hundred Years of An Economical and Secure Currency, Royal Economic Society, Ricardo Society of Japan, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, June 2-3
- 2015 Markets in the Service of Chinese Socialism? Origins of Post-Mao Reform in Mao Era Thinking, The Nation-State and the World Economy between Two Eras of Globalization, 1913 – 1975, Institute for New Economic Thinking Young Scholars Initiative, Pisa, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, July 14-16
- The Socialist Calculation Debate and China's Socialist Market Economy, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Academia Sinica, Taipei, June 22-24
- 2014 Combatting the Anti-China Syndrome: Re-Examining the Root Causes of Long Run Trade Imbalances, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Eastern Economics Association, Boston, March 6-9

### **Campus Workshops**

- 2019 The German Social Market Economy and the Socialist Market Economy with Chinese Characteristics: A Comparative View, Workshop on Ordoliberalism and the German Economic Model, Goldsmiths, June 6
- 2018 The U.S.-China Trade Balance and the Theory of Free Trade, Post-Keynesian Economics Society Annual Workshop, Goldsmiths, May 31
- China's Economic Reform as Re-Industrialisation: The 1980s Crossroads in Retrospect, Economics and Anthropology Workshop, Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF), Goldsmiths, January 12-13

### **Teaching and Mentoring**

#### **University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Economics**

Econ 204 Intermediate Macroeconomics (undergraduate)	Spring 2020
Econ 306 History of Economic Thought (undergraduate)	Fall 2019
Pre-dissertation advisor for two Ph.D. students	Since fall 2019

#### **Harvard University, History Department**

Ph.D. field exam supervisor, history of economic thought	Fall 2019, Spring 2020
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#### **Goldsmiths, University of London**

Economic History (undergraduate)	Fall 2017, 2018
History of Economic Ideas (undergraduate)	Spring 2018
Oxbridge-style supervisions for Introductory Economics	2017-2018, 2018-2019

#### **University of Zurich, Department of History, CAS in Applied Economic History**

Chinese History of Economics Thought (executive masters) Spring 2018

**University of Cambridge, Department of Economics**

Supervisor, History and Philosophy of Economics (undergraduate) Lent 2017

**The New School for Social Research, Department of Economics**

Teaching Assistant, Ph.D. level module Advanced Macroeconomics I Fall 2014

**Research Experience**

2020 Visiting researcher, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, June

2016-2017 Visiting researcher, Tsinghua University, School of Public Management

2014-2015 Research Assistant in monetary macroeconomics for Prof. Kumaraswamy Velupillai  
Department of Economics, The New School for Social Research  
Compiled Compendium of Monetary Macroeconomics in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

2014 Research Assistant in historical sociology for Prof. Vivek Chibber  
Department of Sociology, New York University  
Analysed German sources on business strategies before World War I.

**University Service**

Member of Executive Committee, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2019-Present

Head of Outreach, Marketing and Recruitment, Institute of Management Studies, Goldsmiths, 2018-2019

Member of Management Team, Institute of Management Studies, Goldsmiths, 2018-2019

Undergraduate Tutor for B.A. and B.Sc. Economics, Goldsmiths, 2017-2019

President, Cambridge Society for Social and Economic Development, 2016-2017

**Service to Profession**

**Reviewer**

Cambridge Journal of Economics (6x)

China Economic History Review (中国经济史研究)

Review of International Political Economy

Review of Radical Political Economics

The SAGE Handbook of Marxism

Member of the Advisory Board of Springer Studies in the History of Economic Thought

**Organizer of conferences, seminars and panels**

Organising Committee, The History of Economic Thought Annual Conference, Goldsmiths, 5-6 September 2019

Organizer, Workshop on Ordoliberalism and the German Economic Model, Goldsmiths, Political Economy Research Centre, 6 June, 2019

Panel Co-Convener, "30 years after 1989: Re-assessing models of market transition," Development Studies Association Annual Conference, Open University, London, 19-21 September, 2019

Co-Organizer, Post-Keynesian Economics Society Annual Workshop, Goldsmiths, 31 May 2018

Panel Convener, “Great industrialization debates at critical historical and contemporary junctures,” Development Studies Association Annual Conference, Oxford Department of International Development, 12-14 September, 2016

Co-Convener, China Political Economy Graduate Seminar, Cambridge, 2016-2017

Panel Convener, Marxian Economics, Re-Thinking Economics Conference, New York, 12-14 September 2014

Co-Organizer, Colloquium on the History of Worldly Philosophy at The New School for Social Research, 22 February 2014

Co-Organizer, Strike?! Global Changes in Labour Struggle, International Conference, Hans Böckler Foundation and Centre for Economic and Social Research, University Hamburg, 13-14 June 2013

### **Organisational Membership**

Association of Asian Studies  
Eastern Economic Association  
Development Studies Association  
History of Economics Society  
The British Association for China Studies  
The History of Economic Thought Society  
Union for Radical Political Economics

### **Policy and Public Engagement**

2019 Interview on 40 Years of Reform in China, Pandora Rivista di Teoria e Politica (in English and Italian), IPPR Progressive Review (English), LuXemburg (German)

BBC World TV News, Expert Interview, outlook for Chinese economy, 4 March

2018 BBC Business Live, Expert Interview, China-US trade relations in lead-up to G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires, 29 November

Member of the biannual workshops jointly held between the China Centre, Jesus College, Cambridge, and the Development Research Centre of the State Council of China

Panellist, public round table on 40 Years since Reform and Opening: Is China returning to Isolationism? Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in East Germany, Berlin, 22 November

Keynote speech China’s Position in the Global Economy, German Federal Parliament, Foreign Policy Strategic Planning Workshop, Die Linke, 7 March

China in the Global Order: A Long-Term View, International Peace Conference, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin, 26-27 January