

Isabella Maria Weber

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Economics
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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 (expected) 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, Economic History, International Trade, Price and Monetary Theory

Honours 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
- 2015-2018 Vice Chancellor's Award, Cambridge Trust
- 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. (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.

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 Economic Reform Debate*. London, New York: Routledge (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

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 19 April

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, 13-14 April

The West-German Post-War and the Chinese Reform 'Miracle': A Comparative and Connected History, SOAS, China and Globalisation Seminar Series, 12 March

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, 8 February

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, hosted by Prof. Bertram Schefold, Institute of Advanced Studies Bad Homburg and University of Frankfurt, 21-22 February

- 2018 Intellectual Origins of China's Dual Track Price System, Research Project Chinese and European History of Economic Thought in Comparison by Prof. Bertram Schefold, Institute of Advanced Studies, Bad Homburg, 8-9 November
- 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, 23-24 November
- 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, 1-2 July
- 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, 24-28 May
- 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), 1 May
- China's Escape from the 'Big Bang': The 1980s Price Reform Debate in Retrospect, Vienna Institute of International Economics, Vienna, 26 April
- Evolution of Planning Concepts in China, Triple-B Research Project – A Comparative History of Economic Thought under Communism, Institute for Human Science, 27-28 April
- 2017 China's Escape from the 'Big Bang': The 1980s Price Reform Debate in Historical Perspective, King's College London, Lau China Institute, 29 November
- 2016 The Moganshan Conference and the Challenge of Price Reform, School of Management, Wuhan Textile University, 15 November
- Locating Neo-liberal Thought in China's First Decade of Reform, Conference More Roads from Mont Pelerin, Berlin Social Science Centre, 20-22 March
- 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, 7 December
- 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, 21 October

Conference Presentations

- 2019 Shock Therapy and Alternative Treatments: The Role of Post-World War II Transitions in Reforming Chinese Socialism, Open University, London, 19-21 June
- 2018 China – A Market Economy?, British Association of China Studies Annual Conference, King's College London, 12-14 September

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, 12-14 September

Shock Therapy and Alternative Treatments: China's Price Reforms from the Perspective of Post-WWII Transitions, The History of Economic Thought Society 50th Anniversary Conference, Balliol College, Oxford, 29-31 August

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, 21-22 April

2016 The Necessity of Money in Smith's Commercial Society and Marx's Commodity Producing Economy, 40th Anniversary Conference of the Cambridge Journal of Economics, University of Cambridge, 12-13 July

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, 26-28 May

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, 2-3 June

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, 14-16 July

The Socialist Calculation Debate and China's Socialist Market Economy, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Academia Sinica, Taipei, 22-24 June

2014 Combatting the Anti-China Syndrome: Re-Examining the Root Causes of Long Run Trade Imbalances, 40th Anniversary Conference of the Eastern Economics Association, Boston, 6-9 March 2014

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, 6 June, 2019

2018 The U.S.-China Trade Balance and the Theory of Free Trade, Post-Keynesian Economics Society Annual Workshop, Goldsmiths, 31 May

China's Economic Reform as Re-Industrialisation: The 1980s Crossroads in Retrospect, Economics and Anthropology Workshop, Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF), Goldsmiths, 12-13 January

Teaching and Mentoring

University of Massachusetts Amherst

History of Economic Thought (undergraduate)

Fall 2019

Goldsmiths, Institute of Management Studies, 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, designed and sole-taught seminars for
Ph.D. level module Advanced Macroeconomics I Fall 2014

Research Experience

- 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 20th 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
Student Representative, Economics Student Union, The New School for Social Research, 2013-2014

Service to Profession

Reviewer

Cambridge Journal of Economics
China Economic History Review (中国经济史研究)
The SAGE Handbook of Marxism

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

Affiliated Member, China Centre, Jesus College, University of Cambridge
Eastern Economic Association
Union for Radical Political Economics
The British Association for China Studies
Development Studies Association

Policy and Public Engagement

2019 BBC World TV News, Expert Interview, outlook for Chinese economy, 4 March

Interview: 40 Years of Reform in China, Pandora Rivista di Teoria e Politica (in English and Italian) (forthcoming)

Interview: Escaping Shock Therapy - On the Development of the Chinese Economic Model, Institute for Public Policy Research (forthcoming)

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

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

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