



JOHNS HOPKINS  
U N I V E R S I T Y



## The Hopkins China Forum and



cordially invite you to:

# *A “New Deal” for Chinese Workers? A Comparative Look at Labor in China*

**Cynthia Estlund**

Catherine A. Rein Professor of Law, NYU Law School

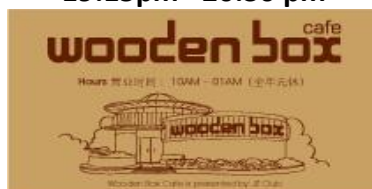
**Mary Gallagher**

Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan

*Moderated by Seth Gurgel, China Director of PILnet*

Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

19:15pm –20:30 pm



The Wooden Box

9 Qinghai Lu (just to the South of Nanjing West Road)

青海路 9 号, 近南京西路, 地铁二号线南京西路站

19:00 – Doors Open

19:15 – Lecture

20:00 – Q&A

20:30 – Mixer/Drinks/Dinner

21:30 – Live music at the Wooden Box

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai (Hopkins China Forum) at [editor@shanghai-review.org](mailto:editor@shanghai-review.org).

*Rising labor unrest in China may evoke comparisons to the early 20th century in the US, when frequent, violent, and politically-charged strikes made "the labor question" a major focus of policy debates and an impetus for Roosevelt's New Deal. The resulting labor laws, which legitimized and regulated independent labor unions and collective bargaining, effectively resolved "the labor question." Strikes did not decline for many years, but they were rarely violent or political and did not threaten domestic stability or economic growth. Professors Estlund and Gallagher will engage the question of whether this story holds lessons for today's China. Can China's workers achieve their own "New Deal" in some form -- policy reforms that improve workers' lot, democratize labor relations, and quell serious labor unrest? Is that the best way, or a likely way, for China's leaders to achieve more harmonious labor relations? Or will ad hoc, short-term harmonization strategies continue to substitute for serious reform?*

[Cynthia Estlund](#) is Catherine A. Rein Professor at the NYU School of Law, and a leading US scholar of labor and employment law and workplace governance. In [Regoverning the Workplace: From Self-Regulation to Co-Regulation](#) (2010), she chronicles the decline of collective bargaining and the shortcomings of traditional regulation and litigation as workplace governance strategies, and outlines a way forward that aims to improve workplace governance through democratization. In her book, [Working Together: How Workplace Bonds Strengthen a Diverse Democracy](#) (2003), she argues that the workplace is a site of both comparatively successful integration and intense cooperation and sociability, and explores implications for democracy and for workplace law and policy. Her other writings focus on speech rights, procedural fairness, information disclosure, discrimination and harassment at work. Since 2009, Estlund has worked on transnational and comparative labor law and labor relations, especially in relation to China. She previously taught at the University of Texas School of Law, Columbia Law School, and Harvard Law School.

[Mary Gallagher](#) is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan, where she is also the Director of the [Center for Chinese Studies](#), and faculty associate at the Center for Comparative Political Studies at the Institute for Social Research. Her research areas are Chinese politics, comparative politics of transitional and developing states, and law and society. The underlying question that drives her research in all of these areas is whether the development of markets is linked to the sequential development of democratic politics and legal rationality. Her empirical research in China is used to explore these larger theoretical questions, and is published in her book, [Contagious Capitalism: Globalization and the Politics of Labor in China](#) (2007). She taught at Foreign Affairs College in Beijing from 1996-1997, and was Fulbright Research Scholar from 2003 to 2004 at East China University of Politics and Law in Shanghai, China. From 2005-2007, she was part of the public intellectual program for the National Committee on US-China Relations, bringing together academics and policy makers working on US-China relations.

[Seth Gurgel](#) is the Director of the Beijing Office for [PILnet](#) and is also responsible for managing PILnet's programs in China and Hong Kong. A graduate of New York University Law School, Seth was both a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar and an Institute for International Law and Justice Fellow. He then worked as the Shanghai Research Fellow for the US-Asia Law Institute at NYU School of Law and the Coordinator of NYU Law School's Shanghai Initiative. His legal work and scholarship on China has centered on Chinese rule of law development and Chinese jurisprudence, with a specific emphasis on rule of law development in the labor law and criminal justice contexts. He also has a Master's of Education from the University of Notre Dame, and considerable experience in both Chinese and American community organizing and education. He served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Florida for two years and also as an instructor, organizer, and translator for various legal education initiatives in China at Chinese law schools and in the Anhui countryside.

**About Hopkins China Forum:** [Hopkins China Forum](#) events are organized by Johns Hopkins University and its affiliated alumni associations worldwide. For more information on Johns Hopkins events in Shanghai, contact Frank Tsai at the Hopkins Shanghai Alumni Association at [editor@shanghai-review.org](mailto:editor@shanghai-review.org).