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The Hopkins China Forum and



Young China Watchers

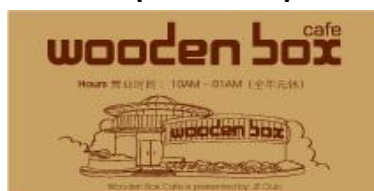
cordially invite you to:

Unnatural Selection: Gender Imbalance in China and Beyond

Mara Hvistendahl

Contributing Editor, Science Magazine
Pulitzer Prize Finalist

Wednesday, June 18th, 2014
19:15pm –20:30 pm



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 of Hopkins China Forum by writing to editor@shanghai-review.org.

There are over 160 million females “missing” from Asia’s population. That’s more than the entire female population of the United States. And gender imbalance—which is mainly the result of sex selective abortion—is no longer strictly an Asian problem. In Azerbaijan and Armenia, in Eastern Europe, and even among some groups in the United States, couples are making sure at least one of their children is a son. So many parents now select for boys that they have skewed the sex ratio at birth of the entire world. How did this occur? Why are women and girls becoming scarce in Asia and Eastern Europe as those regions develop? And what will happen when the world’s extra boys grow up? Drawing on extensive reporting not only in China, but India, Vietnam, South Korea, and Albania, Mara Hvistendahl will discuss the narrative behind the world’s “missing” women, the cast of which includes everyone from prostitutes, mail-order brides, and militant nationalists to geneticists, activists, and AIDS researchers—along with the California fertility doctors hard at work selling the world’s parents on the latest form of sex selection. Perhaps her most disturbing finding is that the gender imbalance is not, as has often been argued, simply the outgrowth of entrenched sexism, and that in fact the story of the world’s missing women traces, in part, to the United States.

[Mara Hvistendahl](#) is a Shanghai-based author and contributing editor with [Science Magazine](#) and a contributor to publications ranging from *The Atlantic* to *The Wall Street Journal*. She is also author of [Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men](#) (2011). A finalist for the *Los Angeles Times Book Prize* and the *Pulitzer Prize*, *Unnatural Selection* shows how sex selection has contributed to the global disappearance of over one hundred million women and girls. The book details how men and women alike are suffering as that gap transforms whole communities — and how the West helped spark the problem.

About Hopkins China Forum: Hopkins China Forum events are organized by The Johns Hopkins University and its affiliated alumni associations worldwide. For more information on Johns Hopkins events in Shanghai, please contact Frank Tsai at the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association – Shanghai at editor@shanghai-review.org.

About Young China Watchers: Young China Watchers is an informal group of professionals living in and working on China. Through regular roundtables and talks, it provides a chance for dynamic individuals of all nationalities and employment backgrounds to interact, broaden their professional networks, and discuss the most pressing political, economic, and foreign policy issues relevant to China today. Please contact youngchinawatchers@gmail.com.