

MARGARET LEITH BOITTIN

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Assistant Professor (2015-)

Stanford University

Postdoctoral Fellow, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (2013-2015)

Predoctoral Fellow, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (2012-2013)

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Ph.D., Political Science, 2015

M.A., Political Science, 2005

Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA

J.D., 2013

Yale University, New Haven, CT

B.A., Humanities, 2001

Cum Laude, Distinction in Major

BOOK

The Regulation of Prostitution in China: Law in the Everyday Lives of Sex Workers, Police Officers, and Public Health Officials (Cambridge University Press) (December 2024).

REFEREED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Growing Awareness to Reduce Labor Abuse: An Experimental Test of a Migrant Domestic Workers’ Rights-Awareness Campaign,” (with Cecilia Hyunjung Mo, Biz Herman, Sarah Rich-Zendel and Soo Sun You), forthcoming, *Journal of Law and Economics*.

“Out of Place When Studying China’s Sex Industry,” in *Out of Place: Fieldwork and Positionality in Law and Society* (Cambridge University Press) (March 2024).

“Evidence of Caste-Class Discrimination from a Conjoint Analysis of Law Enforcement Officers,” (with Rachel L. Fisher and Cecilia Hyunjung Mo), *American Political Science Review* (March 2023).

“Using Incentives to Increase HIV/AIDS Testing by Sex Workers: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment in China,” *Law & Policy* 40: 4 (2018), pp. 398-423.

“New Perspectives from the Oldest Profession: Abuse and the Legal Consciousness of Sex Workers in China,” *Law & Society Review* 47: 2 (2013) (Lead Article), pp. 245-278.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Reverting to Traditional Views of Gender During Times of Relative Deprivation: An Experimental Study in Nepal” (second author) (with Katrina Kosec, Cecilia Hyunjung Mo, and Soo Sun You), Under Review, *Comparative Political Studies*.

“The Unintended Consequences of Mass-Media Anti-Trafficking Campaigns: Evidence from an Experimental Test” (with Cecilia Hyunjung Mo), Working Paper.

“Reassessing the Quality of Government in China,” (with Greg Distelhorst and Francis Fukuyama), MIT Sloan Research Paper No. 5181-16, MIT Political Science Department Research Paper No. 2016-38, Working Paper.

“Can Natural Disasters Have a Rally ‘Round the Flag’ Effect? The Political Consequences of Nepal’s 2015 Earthquake” (with Cecilia Hyunjung Mo and Stephen Utych), Working Paper. *Press: [FiveThirtyEight/ABC News](#)*

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“[Experimental Interventions Using Mass Media to Change Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Around Vulnerability to Forced Labor in Hong Kong](#),” prepared for the US Department of Labor, September 2020 (with Biz Herman, Cecilia Hyunjung Mo, Sarah Rich-Zendel, and Soo Sun You).

“[Designing an Effective Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign: Lessons from Nepal](#),” *Global Insights Series #002, LAPOP, Vanderbilt University*, June 2018 (with Dan Archer, Cecilia Hyunjung Mo, and Sarah Rich-Zendel).

“[An Issue of “Otherness”: Beliefs that Human Trafficking Cannot Affect One’s In-Group Present Obstacle to Combatting Human Trafficking](#),” *Global Insights Series #001, LAPOP, Vanderbilt University*, June 2018 (with Claire Q. Evans, Cecilia Hyunjung Mo, and Frank T. Tota II).

“[The Effects of Awareness-Raising Police Trainings to Combat Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking: An Experimental Study in Nepal](#),” prepared for the US Department of Labor, April 2019 (with Nicole Hinton, Cecilia Hyunjung Mo, and Georgina Pizzolitto).

“[Reducing Vulnerability to Human Trafficking: An Experimental Intervention Using Anti-Trafficking Campaigns to Change Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs, and Practices in Nepal](#),” prepared for USAID, Humanity United, the US Department of Labor, and Terre des Hommes, August 2016 (with Dan Archer and Cecilia Hyunjung Mo).

“[‘Swept Away’: Abuses Against Sex Workers in China](#),” prepared for Human Rights Watch, May 2013 *Press: AFP, BBC, China Digital Times, China File, New Straight Times, Radio France International, Radio Free Asia, Reuters, South China Morning Post, The Associated Press, The*

Australian, The Guardian, The Hindu, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Voice of America.

GRANTS

Canada-China Initiatives Fund, York Centre for Asian Research for "The Long Term Effects of Migrant Rights' Campaigns on Vulnerability to Forced Labour in Hong Kong," 2021-2022 (\$5,000)

Humanity United Grant for "Human Trafficking Vulnerability: An Experimental Intervention Using Mass Media to Change Norms and Behaviors in Nepal," 2016-2017 (\$25,000)

U.S. Department of Labor Grant for "Human Trafficking Vulnerability: An Experimental Intervention Using Mass Media to Change Norms and Behaviors in Nepal and China," 2015-2019 (\$1,000,000)

Terre des Hommes Grant for "Human Trafficking Vulnerability: An Experimental Intervention Using Mass Media to Change Norms and Behaviors in Nepal," 2013-2015 (\$31,710)

USAID Counter-Trafficking in Persons Research Challenge Grant for "Human Trafficking Vulnerability: An Experimental Intervention Using Mass Media to Change Norms and Behaviors in Nepal," 2013-2015 (\$199,731)

Humanity United Grant for "Human Trafficking Vulnerability: An Experimental Intervention Using Mass Media to Change Norms and Behaviors in Nepal," 2013-2015 (\$210,072)

Stanford University Action Fund Grant for "Human Trafficking Vulnerability: An Experimental Intervention Using Mass Media to Change Norms and Behaviors in Nepal," 2013-2014 (\$39,925)

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2009-2010

UC Pacific Rim Research Program Mini-Grant, 2009-2010

UC Berkeley Liu Graduate Research Fellowship in Chinese Studies, 2009-2010

UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Grant, 2006

HONORS AND AWARDS

York University Research Leader, 2016

Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law Fellowship, Stanford University, 2012-2015

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2011-2012

UC Berkeley Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, 2009-2010

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2006-2009

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship, 2005-2006 (declined)

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship, 2004-2005

Henry Scott Russian Studies Award for senior essay on Russian Futurist Ilya Zdanevich, 2001

Robert C. Bates Summer Traveling Fellowship to Russia and France, 2000

Richter Fellowship for research in Russia and France, 2000

William S. Charnley Scholarship for academic achievement and extracurricular activities, 2000

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCES

New York University Law School Law and Development Colloquium, April 2025

University of Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Contemporary China, April 2023

Comparative Law Workshop, University of Pennsylvania Law School, June 2020

QuantLaw, University of Arizona Law, February 2020

Out of Place: Power, Person and Difference in Socio-Legal Research, National University of Singapore, December 2019

China's Legal Construction Program at 30 Years, University of Michigan, October 2019

Measuring Governance Cross-Nationally, Stanford University, May 2019

Michigan Law School Junior Scholars Conference, University of Michigan Law School, April 2019

USC Gould School of Law, Center for Law and Social Science, March 2018

Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, October 2016, December 2016 and March 2018

Law Faculty Workshop, The Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, University at Buffalo School of Law, March 2017

The Past and Future of Law & Development, University of Toronto Faculty of Law, May 2016

Slavery and International Law: Past and Present, Stanford Law School, May 2015

China Law Conference, University of Toronto Faculty of Law, February 2015

Tsinghua-University of Toronto Law Faculty Conference, University of Toronto, October 2014

Rule of Law New Scholars Workshop, Rule of Law Collaborative, University of South Carolina, April 2014

Measuring State Quality in China and Beyond Workshop, The Governance Project at Stanford University, March 2014

Triangle East Asia Colloquium, North Carolina State University, February 2014

Effective States and Inclusive Development Workshop, Johns Hopkins SAIS, November 2013

Governance Indicators Workshop, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany, September 2013

Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, May 2013

Workshop on Human Trafficking, Program on Human Rights at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, April 2012

Workshop on Human Trafficking, International Crime and National Security: A Human Rights Perspective, Goettingen, Germany, February 2012

Yale University Workshop on Contemporary China, New Haven, CT, April 2010

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, 2012, 2021, 2023

Law and Society Association Meeting, 2011, 2018, 2020, 2023

Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, 2012, 2019, 2022, 2023

Canadian Law and Economics Association, 2019, 2022

Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, 2010, 2017, 2018

Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, 2016

Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2015

American Political Science Association, 2015

Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2015

Berkeley-Stanford Contemporary China Network, 2012

International Studies Association Annual Convention, 2011

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Universities Service Center, 2009

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Urban Justice Center, The Sex Workers Project, New York, NY, *Legal Intern*, Summer 2010

Conducted client intake, legal research and writing on cases pertaining to sex work and trafficking in New York City. Caseload included visa applications for trafficking survivors, employment discrimination of exotic dancers, and applications to vacate prostitution convictions.

Center for Women's Law and Legal Services of Peking University, China, *Intern*, Summer 2005

Researched marriage law in the United States for proposal to reform Chinese marriage law. Translated materials from Chinese to English.

Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Washington, DC, *Research Associate*, 2003-2004

Researched Chinese human rights and rule of law topics for the Commission's Annual Report, focusing on legal aid, non-governmental organizations, and administrative law.

Ningbo Legal Aid Center, Ningbo, China, *Intern*, 2001-2003

Researched governmental and non-governmental provision of legal aid in China. Translated legal aid materials from English to Chinese.

Public Defender Service, Washington, DC, *Intern-Investigator*, Summer 1999

Located and interviewed witnesses, interviewed clients, took detailed witness statements, performed extensive criminal background checks, served subpoenas, prepared memoranda regarding investigative activities, and assisted with case development for felony and misdemeanor cases.

REVIEWER

Cambridge University Press
Comparative Political Studies
European Journal of Cultural Studies
Global Public Health
Law & Policy
Law & Society Review
Law and Social Inquiry

LANGUAGES

French and English, bilingual native speaker
Mandarin Chinese, fluent (speaking, reading, writing)
Russian, proficient
Spanish, proficient

FIELDWORK

China (2005, 2008-2010, 2011, 2014)
Nepal (2013, 2014, 2017)
Russia (2006, 2009)

TEACHING

International and Transnational Law Intensive Program (ITLIP), 2022-Present

Property Law, Spring 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2025

Civil and Comparative Law, 2025

Law and Legal Institutions in China, Fall 2015, 2017, 2020, Spring 2023

Advanced Legal Research Methodologies (PhD Course) Spring 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023

Empirical Evidence in Research and Litigation, Fall 2020

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

Admissions Committee, 2024-2025

Clinical Education Committee, 2022-2025

Academic Standing Committee, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2019-2021, 2022-2023

President's Sustainability Council, York University, 2019-2021

Digital Innovation Committee, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2018

Research and Seminars Committee, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2015-2016; 2017-2018

Grades Review Committee, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2017-2018