

Strategic Planning 2020

Program, field, concentration, area: “Economic Development (China)”

1. MA / TPG in “Economic Development (China)”

Rigorous course-based program on China’s economic development that is rooted in economic concepts and methods of analysis. Emphasis of the program is on applied issues in China’s economic development. Allows students to explore a wide variety of China-related topics. Suitable for recent BAs as well as more senior students.

a. Required

- (1) ECON 509 Mathematics Review
or ECON 510 Mathematics for Business and Economics
- (2) ECON 513 Microeconomic Analysis
- (3) ECON 514 Macroeconomic Analysis
- (4) ECON 528 Applied Econometrics or (new) SOSC equivalent
- (5?) --- the above is the MSc program in econ; I would prefer to have students take 2 or even 3 econometrics courses (there should be some statistics; its probably included in ECON 528, or possibly in ECON 509; sth to be checked); I would also prefer to have significant quality control over econometrics by doing it in-house (in SOSC)
- (6) SOSC XXX Economic Development
--- This could be more than one course, with, say, a micro (typically “rural”) - macro split, or micro - growth - finance split [I proposed to teach this (one) course in 07/08 before my no-pay leave came through]
--- If I taught it, this course would naturally have some China emphasis

b. Electives: 3 or 4 courses from

SOSC 521 China's Economic Reforms
SOSC 542 Economic Change in Rural China
SOSC 548 Issues in Contemporary Chinese Politics
SOSC 552 International Aspects of China's Reforms
SOSC 635 Social Stratification in China
SOSC [515] Economic Growth in China [I taught this around 1998]
and whatever else we may have over time or colleagues think should be included
ECON 512 China in the Global Economy
ECON 515 China Industry Analysis
ECON 516 China's Economic Development and Reform I
ECON 536 China's Economic Development and Reform II
ECON 537 China's Foreign Trade and Investment II

Let students choose *max.* 1 China course from HUMA (HUMA has a lot):

Perhaps of most relevance would be Chinese Economic History (unless James teaches it at some point); currently what’s available is HUMA 552 Modern Chinese History.

I am perhaps more open to students exploring HUMA than others are; I view the availability of HUMA as an asset in advertising, but students could also be told to, if

they are interested in HUMA, take it on top off the usual credit. Things that could be of interest: HUMA 554 Anthropological Studies of China
HUMA 669 Ideological Changes in Modern China
HUMA 677 Lineage and Business in Modern China

The program should be of interest to anybody who is involved with economic issues in China, whether that's in business or as a journalist or a future researcher.

2. MPhil with concentration in "Economic Development (China)"

- (1-3) The three courses 509, 511, and 534 or 517, as is, but/and the student can propose to the PG coordinator for approval: to replace some or all of these three SOSC courses with more challenging/advanced methods courses (either in SOSC or elsewhere), and/ or courses related to China's economic development
- (4) SOSC XXX Economic Development
- (5) Anything with economics and China

Three points are new here:

First: students with a sound econ background get very little out of 509, 511, and 534.

Allow them do something that's more meaningful for them. (Reminder: 511, when taught by me, is based on a sociology UG textbook, supplemented by a thin poli sci advanced text and a thin philosophy of science volume for fun; 509 and 534 are intermediate UG courses in a sound econ UG program, with 534 going beyond UG econ with stuff that's more relevant to sociology.)

Second: anchor the program, beyond the methods courses, on economic development.

Third: advertise this program correspondingly. I.e., where potential applicants currently see a bunch of sociology courses and baby-metrics when they go through the calendar and whatever material we have, they will then see the economic development focus and the possibility to upgrade their metrics/ methods. I think it is crucial that students, when they shop around among universities, see an economic development track (and other fields) rather than a sociology dept.

In my view, the MPhil in econ development (China) can only do one thing: take students with solid undergraduate econ training, give them a bit more methods and a bit more field perspective with respect to development and China, but otherwise let them write a thesis under supervision of China researchers in the "broader" China econ development field.

3. PhD with concentration in "Economic Development (China)"

Two possibilities?

a. Start from the MA TPG:

- (1-6) Require the first six MA TPG course, but try to improve on the econometrics component with more rigorous econometrics training.
- (7-8) Identify two more SOSC courses broadly related to China's economic development (make required), or require two more SOSC courses to be elected out of a narrowly specified set of SOSC econ-development-type courses.

- (X) Base the comprehensive exam on SOSC XXX Econ Dev and the other two SOSC courses.
- (9-10) Electives.
 - In a more elaborate setup, the student could be asked to cover *two* areas in the comprehensive exam: the econ development related courses as well as courses from a second discipline (say, poli sci China); in this case, the two electives would be replaced by two China core courses in a second discipline.
- (X) Thesis.

Students are free to take more courses. --- (1) In my PhD studies, we had eight required courses in the first year (Math, Stats, Metrics, Micro I/II, Macro I/II, Applied price theory) followed by qualifying exams. (2) In the second/third year we then had to choose two fields and I think we had to take a minimum of two courses in each field, then pass two field exams. I think everybody took more courses than this required minimum, either in the two fields or in other fields. (3) In the years beyond the field exams we had to take one weekly workshop in one field.

b. Start from the MPhil:

Same as in a., except for the first 6 courses:

- (1-4) Four courses identical to the first four courses in the MPhil.
- (5-6) Electives.

4. UG major

The “Political Economy & Globalization” major (within the BA... HUMA/SOSC) with its 17 courses in the *major part* could build around training in two disciplines (or possibly fields)

- (i) The econ core courses in the major could be the seven courses Math, Stats, Micro I and II, Macro I and II, Econometrics (as currently taught in ECON).
- (ii) The polisci core courses I don’t know.
- (iii) Five to seven(?) courses (depending on what the polisci core takes up) from the China econ-polisci-global field. (Field courses could require that students have previously taken specific courses from (1) or (2).)

PG: All economists in the division feel the outsourcing to ECON should be very limited, one economist suggests to math, micro, and macro. As applied / development economist I care a lot about quantitative (and, where relevant, qualitative) tools, and would like to have more control over what’s being done there. ECON appears very weak in that respect, and SOSC currently has only the basics, and much of it sociology-oriented. We might want to do a couple of courses in quantitative methods ourselves.

Quality control: we haven’t talked about this, but at some point we may want to think about stating a priori what will make us consider closing down a program. There is always the student numbers as one indicator, but there is more, including student evaluation of the program, student placement after the program, student diversity that we can attract, student grades before entry, and comparative performance of the students in classes where we have students from different fields (programs).

	<i>Economics</i>	<i>Political Science</i>	<i>Sociology</i>	<i>Other soc. sci. disciplines</i>
<i>Economic Development (China) --- MA TPG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * core discipline courses * development field courses * all courses related to China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + across all other disciplines: courses related to economic development in China + across all other disciplines: non-economic-development China courses as marginal part of the degree, or as available extra 		
<i>Economic Development (China) --- MPhil</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * methods core * development field courses * all courses related to China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + across all other disciplines: courses related to economic development in China + across all other disciplines: non-economic-development China courses as marginal part of the degree, or as available extra 		
<i>Economic Development (China) --- PhD</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * core discipline courses * development field courses * all courses related to China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * core discipline courses [in one version] * development field courses * all courses related to China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + across all other disciplines: courses related to economic development in China + across all other disciplines: non-economic-development China courses as marginal part of the degree or extra 	
<i>Economic Development (China) or "Political Economy & Globalization" [not my title] --- BA</i>	<p>Choose maximum 2 disciplines -> core discipline courses. Identify field courses related to each of these two disciplines (and possibly other disciplines). For "Economic Development (China)" allow other China courses.</p>			