



Thomas B. Gold

Thomas B. Gold is Professor of Sociology at the University of California. Since 2000 he has also served as Executive Director of the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies (IUP), a consortium of 14 American universities which administers an advanced Chinese language program at Tsinghua University in Beijing. At Berkeley he has also served as Associate Dean of International and Area Studies, Founding Director of the Berkeley China Initiative, and Chair of the Center for Chinese Studies.

Professor Gold got interested in China as an undergraduate at Oberlin College. After graduating he taught English at Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan. He then received a Masters in Regional Studies-East Asia and a PhD in Sociology, both from Harvard University. While at Harvard he was among the first group of American exchange students to study in China, spending a year at Fudan University in Shanghai, from February 1979-February 1980. He also worked part-time for many years as a Chinese language escort-interpreter for the State Department.

Professor Gold's research focuses on many aspects of the societies of East Asia, primarily mainland China and Taiwan. In the largest sense, he examines the process of the emergence of the increasingly empowered and autonomous individual and a private sphere in societies, which have combined traditional and modern forms of authoritarian rule. He explores this from many angles: youth and the life course; personal relations (*guanxi*, social capital), private business and entrepreneurship, popular culture, non-governmental organizations, and civil society.

His book, *State and Society in the Taiwan Miracle* (1986) was the first to apply theories of dependency, world systems and dependent development – up to that time based mainly on the experience of Latin America - to an East Asian case. He continues to write about changes in Taiwan society since the end of Martial Law in 1987. Professor Gold regularly teaches courses on Introductory Sociology, Development and Globalization, and Contemporary Chinese Society. He recently taught seminars on “The Simpsons” Global Mirror,” North Korean Society, and non-profits in the education field. He won a Distinguished Teaching Award from the Division of Social Science in 2007. He taught in the UC Education Abroad Program at Fudan University, Shanghai, in the fall of 2012.

He is a strong advocate of public sociology and has served on the boards of many civic organizations. He currently sits on the boards of The National Committee on U.S.- China Relations, the Asia Society of Northern California, and East Bay College Fund, which provides scholarships and mentors for graduates of Oakland public high schools who attend four-year colleges or universities. He is an adviser to Strait Talk and East-West Coalition, two international student groups, and is an external advisor to programs at universities in Japan and Singapore. He serves on the editorial board of many scholarly journals as well. He received the Chancellor’s Award for Civic Engagement in 2010.