

Project title: Educational Stratification in China - A View from the Top

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#### Abstract

The proposed project asks a simple question--who gets to become a student at Peking University or Tsinghua University, two most prestigious universities in China? By studying the social background and characteristics of the undergraduate students at these two elite universities over an one hundred year period (1899-1999), we hope to contribute to the understanding of the process of educational stratification in China. In particular, we shall study 1) the influence of family social origin on one's chance for an elite education; 2) The effect of gender on one's chance for an elite education. We shall examine not only men and women's chances to get into Peking University or Tsinghua University, but also their chance to get into a particular field of study; 3) The effect of residential location on one's chance for an elite education; 4) the effect of the specific institutional arrangements and social policies. These educational stratification processes and mechanisms will be examined within specific historical contexts. The study will fill a gap not only in the studies of educational stratification in China, but also in the field of elite studies in general.