

Antti Järvi

Final Report: Fudan University 2015–2016 (summary)

I studied at Fudan University, Shanghai, from September 2015 to June 2016. I took courses in Chinese Society program in School of Social Development and Public Policy (SSDPP). I am grateful for their helpful staff assisting me to integrate into my new environment. I am also very satisfied with the quality of education. The Chinese Society program focuses on many aspects of society, such as demography, social policy, politics and culture. All of my courses were 3 credit courses and included three hours of lectures per week and additional readings and homework.

Fall semester 2015 my courses were: *Culture and Health*, which had a focus on the socio-cultural dimensions of health, ill health and medicine. The course handled topics such as biopower, medicalization, aging and death. *China Through Contemporary Chinese Film* offered insights into the political, social and cultural changes in China through cinema. *The Transitional Chinese Society (China's Population and Development)* offered me in-depth knowledge of the two rapid and historical transformations in China: a demographic transition with a decrease in fertility and mortality, and an economic transition from a planned economy to a market economy. *Urbanization and Development in China* dealt with topics such as city-marketing, urban-rural dualism and suburban development.

Spring semester 2016 my courses were: *Political Development in Modern China*, which discussed such fundamental questions as why China became a communist country and how the communist party tried to industrialize the economy and society through state mobilization. The course offered an excellent overview of the historical background of the communist revolution, major events, policy changes, structural reforms and also some of the major concerns and debates in the Chinese politics today. *Religion in Chinese Society* introduced to the sociological study of role of religion in Chinese society. It explained the

significant role of religion in both the traditional and contemporary world. *Shanghai: The Key to Modern China?* course used the social, cultural, political and economic history of Shanghai as a lens to understand modern China. It dealt with themes such as modernity, commercialism and the role of city's colonial past in shaping its history. The course was extremely fruitful because learning also included analysis of exhibits and field trips to see historical sights. In addition to regular research articles, reading assignments included memoirs and works of fiction. I also participated some courses as an auditor during the spring semester.

I studied Chinese language on both semesters. I accomplished three levels in GoEast Language Center, which is situated close to the Fudan university campus. Studying took place in small groups (from 2 to 6 students), which improves learning immensely. I also took some private lessons. I plan to continue studying Chinese in Finland.

I'm extremely grateful for Helsingin Sanomat Foundation for the opportunity to get to know China better. The fellowship program allowed me to take a year off from work and to concentrate on Chinese society. I learned that China is a country of many dimensions and interpretations. For journalists and I would imagine also for scholars, that is fascinating thing and reminded me that there is a variety of truths. All in all, my year in China was a unique and comprehensive learning experience and has given me many ideas for the future.