

New Perspectives on Chinese Politics and Society

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Downtown Redevelopment in Ningbo

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This book is the culmination of my years of research as an urbanist. I intentionally use the term “urbanist” instead of any other term, with reference to particular disciplines in social sciences such as urban sociologist or urban geographer, to highlight my approach of inter-disciplinary research. Though this specific research project was started in 2007, my academic interest in urban studies was nurtured back in 2003, when I was still an undergraduate student. Thus I also see this book as the fruit of the entire academic journey to the present.

I am deeply indebted to my professors and friends who assisted me in various ways for my research. Most parts of this book first appeared as a PhD dissertation in sociology submitted to the University of Hong Kong (HKU). First and foremost, I sincerely thank Dr. David A. Palmer for his invaluable and illuminating guidance as my supervisor. He also helped me a lot when I was looking for publication opportunities for this book. I also want to thank Dr. Thomas Wong, Dr. Marissa Dean, Dr. Michael Adorjan, Dr. Alistair Fraser, Josie Close, Dr. Arlen Ye, Dr. Wang Jun, Dr. Zhai Binqing, and Dr. Wang Danning. I discussed with these HKU- or CUHK-based scholars on the earlier versions of my work and they gave me insightful comments.

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Zhang Han

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