Andrew G. Walder

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Professor, by courtesy, Political Science

Andrew G. Walder is the Denise O'Leary and Kent Thiry Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, and Senior Fellow in the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. Previously, he served as chair of the Department of Sociology, as director of the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, and as Director of the Division of International, Comparative and Area Studies in the School of Humanities and Sciences (now known as Global Studies).

A political sociologist, Walder has long specialized on the sources of conflict, stability, and change in communist regimes and their successor states. His publications on China have ranged from the political and economic organization of the Mao era to changing patterns of stratification, social mobility, and political conflict in the post-Mao era. Another focus of his research has been on the political economy of Soviet-type economies and their subsequent reform and restructuring. His current research focuses on popular political mobilization in late-1960s China and the subsequent collapse and rebuilding of the Chinese party-state.

Walder joined the Stanford faculty the fall of 1997. He received his PhD in sociology at the University of Michigan in 1981 and taught at Columbia University before moving to Harvard in 1987. As a professor of sociology, he served as chair of Harvard's MA Program on Regional Studies-East Asia for several years. From 1995 to 1997, he headed the Division of Social Sciences at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. From 1996 to 2006, as a member of the Hong Kong Government's Research Grants Council, he chaired its Panel on the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Business Studies.

His recent publications include Civil War in Guangxi: The Cultural Revolution on China's Southern Periphery (Stanford University Press, 2023); (with Dong Guoqiang) A Decade of Upheaval: The Cultural Revolution in Rural China (Princeton University Press, 2021); Agents of Disorder: Inside China's Cultural Revolution (Harvard University Press, 2019); "Generating a Violent Insurgency: China's Factional Warfare of 1967-1968," (with James Chu), American Journal of Sociology (2020); "The Impact of Class Labels on Life Chances in China" (with Donald J. Treiman), American Journal of Sociology(2019); "The Dynamics of Collapse in an Authoritarian Regime: China in 1967" (with Qinglian Lu) American Journal of Sociology (2017); China Under Mao: A Revolution Derailed (Harvard University Press, 2015); and "After State Socialism: The Political Origins of Transitional Recessions" (with Andrew Isaacson and Qinglian Lu), American Sociological Review (2015).