

ARTICLE AWARDS 2009:

Co-winner: Ho-Fung Hung, Indiana University. "Agricultural Revolution and Elite Reproduction in Qing China: The Transition to Capitalism Debate Revisited." *American Sociological Review*. Vol. 73 (August 2008) 569-588.

Hung (2008) returns to the classic sociological question of the origins of industrial capitalism and considers Qing dynasty China as an interesting negative case. This study engages a range of prominent explanations for the rise of capitalism, and illuminates key features of 18th and 19th century China through a detailed historical case study and comparisons with Japan in the 18th and 19th centuries, Tuscany in 14th to 15th centuries, and 18th century England. While existing prominent explanations have focused on the agricultural purpose, Hung shows that the answer lies in the peculiar class politics of Qing China. In China, families of the urban elite opted for reproduction strategies centered more on positions as gentry or officials within the state, not in commerce.

Co-winner: Jason Kaufman, Harvard University. "Corporate Law and the Sovereignty of States." *American Sociological Review*, vol. 73 no. 3 (June, 2008): 402-425.

Kaufman (2008) provides a detailed historical analysis of the diffusion of corporate charters for in New England from the colonial era until the first half of the nineteenth century. This study adds to our understanding of modern corporate law and organization – and as a result, informs debates regarding institutional durability and change – by uncovering over a century of political conflict, struggles over power, and often-heated debate.