

Supporting Information

Repressive Experiences among China Scholars: New Evidence from Survey Data

Sheena Chestnut Greitens¹ Rory Truex²

The Supporting Information for the project contains the following:

1. Overview of Research Design and Sample
2. Full Survey Instrument
3. Incident Descriptions (de-identified)
4. Indications of Sensitivity from the Chinese Government (de-identified)

¹ Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Missouri, greitens@missouri.edu.

² Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University, rtruex@princeton.edu.

1. Overview of Research Design and Sample

We conducted an online survey of China scholars in the social sciences in the spring and summer of 2018. The China Scholar Research Experience Survey (CSRES) measured respondents' experiences of state repression in the course of their research on China, and gathered information about the strategies that scholars use to navigate political sensitivities that might arise during their work.

Sample

The population of interest for the study was “social scientists that conduct research about China.” We erred on the side of a broad definition of social scientist, aiming to include any scholars that had a disciplinary affiliation in political science, sociology, anthropology, economics, and history. Our sample also included some scholars that self-identify as social scientists and study law, public policy, geography, demography and related fields.

We employed five primary sets of sources to generate our sampling frame. First, we identified and included (by scraping the membership database) all members of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) who specialized in China and whose disciplinary affiliation was in political science, sociology, anthropology, economics, or history. Second, we included scholars who had presented work on China at a major disciplinary conference in 2016 or 2017: meetings of the American Political Science Association (APSA), the American Historical Association (AHA), the American Anthropological Association (AAA), the American Sociological Association (ASA), and the Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) (economics).³ Third, we included any author who had published in *The China Quarterly*, the flagship journal of China Studies, in the last ten years. Fourth, we included China-focused PhD-level scholars at top think tanks.⁴ Fifth, to address issues such as the potential underrepresentation of women in some of our other sources, we consulted a crowdsourced, publicly available list of women in the China field that is commonly used by journalists to locate female experts on China-related topics.⁵

We believe this was a reasonable approach to generating a sampling frame but wish to note several limitations. In erring toward inclusivity, we generated “false positives”-- individuals that our sources identified as China social scientists, but who did not self-identify as such. These scholars were often coauthors on conference presentations with China scholars, or humanities scholars with a secondary social science tag in the AAS database. Many of these individuals notified us directly upon receiving the survey invitation; if they did so, we removed them from the sampling frame. Our sampling method also likely failed to capture some early-career China scholars, such as pre-dissertation graduate students, who might have conducted some research but not yet begun to publish or present at conferences.

³ This entailed obtaining PDF copies of conference programs and searching for papers that had the words “China” or “Chinese” in the title.

⁴ McGann 2018.

⁵ See “Greater China Female Experts Directory,”

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13l9IH7kWahhXwWFsMtBdrMs11gWYGOKqNI6rfUM84k4/edit#gid=0>

Our methods for identifying respondents were also English-language and Western-centric, as well as containing a strong emphasis on North America; the scope of our results should be interpreted accordingly. After reviewing the initial results of our sampling methods, we limited the sample to scholars working at institutions in North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Hong Kong. Our initial methods did identify scholars working in Africa, Latin America, and other parts of Asia, but the contact list was not large enough for valid inferences about research conduct by scholars in those locations. We also excluded scholars based at universities in mainland China, given current restrictions on conducting foreign surveys there.

After removing duplicates, individuals with invalid contact information, and “false positives”, our final list had 1967 names.⁶ On May 24th, 2018, we sent an invitation email to all individuals in the sampling frame, containing a unique identifying link to the survey.⁷ We sent follow-up emails on May 30th and June 27th, and closed the survey on June 30th.

In total we received 562 complete responses.⁸ This yielded an effective response rate of 28.6%, within the normal range for an online survey, and in line with our personal expectations prior to beginning the project. We note that some potential respondents reported that our survey email had been blocked by their universities’ spam protocol or directed into their spam folders, which may have depressed our response rate; we tried several subject lines in order to navigate these filters, but acknowledge this as an inherent limitation of online survey research.

Our sample contains a broad range of scholars conducting research on contemporary China, including representation from different social science fields, research approaches, and areas of thematic expertise. Our response rate is also relatively stable across personal attributes, except that response rates were lower among economists. For more detail, please see Table 1 in the article itself.

Survey Instrument

The survey was composed of three blocks. Respondents first completed a series of questions that measured their personal backgrounds: birth decade, gender, year of Ph.D., discipline, rank, size of institution, location, citizenship, and so forth. The second block measured experiences with different forms of research difficulty. Respondents were asked to indicate if they had personally experienced 13 different types of repressive activity on the part of the Chinese government (visa denials, bans, physical intimidation, being “taken to tea” etc.) during the course of research any time in the last ten years. For a subset of six more serious experiences, we asked respondents to document each experience by providing the year and a brief description of the event; this allowed us to track the quantity of incidents over time. The third section of the survey contained questions about respondents’ strategies for managing potential political sensitivity in their research, including questions about human subjects protection, institutional support, and self-censorship.

In constructing the survey, we tried to limit the number of questions to avoid unduly burdening respondents and depressing the response rate. We therefore restricted the scope of our inquiry to *research* experiences and strategies. This means that we did not include questions about other topics

⁶ We had multiple email addresses for approximately 10% of the sampling frame and sent individuals invitations at both links. We recorded only one set of survey responses for each individual.

⁷ This prevented individuals from sharing the survey or submitting duplicate responses.

⁸ This number includes all respondents that completed more than 90% of the survey questions.

that have appeared in recent public debate: classroom experiences; on-campus events; interactions with student associations; efforts to establish broader institutional partnerships or satellite campuses in China; or the role of Confucius Institutes. Our assessment was that many of these questions might be better answered by university staff and administrators, rather than individual researchers. To address the possibility that experiences in these realms may have directly or indirectly impacted respondents' work, we offered respondents an open-ended option of bringing up any event or issue not included in the survey that had affected their research.

2. Full Survey Instrument

China Scholar Research Experience Survey

24 May 2018

INTRODUCTION & CONSENT

Dear Colleagues,

You have been contacted to take part in this survey because you have been identified as a social scientist that studies China. In response to recent discussions of China's changing research climate, we invite you to take part in a survey on your research experiences in China.

The data you provide will be used to generate a summary report on a) research experiences and b) strategies for dealing with political sensitivities among China researchers. We estimate that the survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

Your participation in this research project is completely voluntary, and you have the right to refuse to participate or withdraw from the survey at any time.

Given the small size of the China field and the nature of the survey questions, even anonymized responses might still allow the researcher to be identified. For this reason, raw survey responses will only be available to the two Principal Investigators for the project, Sheena Chestnut Greitens and Rory Truex. Data will be encrypted and will not be shared or posted. All data will be presented only in aggregate, and any text from open-ended survey responses will have identifying information removed before inclusion in the report.

If you have any problems or questions involving the research, you may contact the Principal Investigators:

Sheena Chestnut Greitens, greitenss@missouri.edu
Rory Truex, rtruex@princeton.edu

If you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, or if problems arise which you do not feel you can discuss with the Investigator, please contact the Institutional Review Board at:

Assistant Director, Research Integrity and Assurance, Princeton University, (609) 258-8543,
irb@princeton.edu

University of Missouri Human Subjects Research Protections Program/IRB, (573) 882-3181,
irb@missouri.edu

By clicking Continue below, you agree to participate in the survey.

SECTION I: PERSONAL BACKGROUND

First, please answer some questions about your personal background.

A1. What is your gender?

- <01> Male
- <02> Female
- <99> No answer

A2. In what year were you born?

- <01> Before 1940
- <02> 1940-1949
- <03> 1950-1959
- <04> 1960-1969
- <05> 1970-1979
- <06> 1980-1989
- <07> After 1990
- <99> No answer

A3. What is your primary field?

- <01> Political Science
- <02> Sociology
- <03> Economics
- <04> History
- <05> Anthropology
- <06> Public Policy
- <07> Other
- <99> No answer

A4. What is your country of primary citizenship?

- <01> United States
- <02> China
- <03> [List all other countries]
- <99> No answer

A5. Do you have family in mainland China?

- <01> Yes
- <02> No
- <99> No answer

A6. Where is your current institution located?

- <01> United States
- <02> Canada
- <05> [List all other countries]
- <99> No answer

A7. What type of institution/organization do you work at?

- <01> Research university
- <02> College
- <03> Think tank (non profit)
- <04> Other nonprofit
- <05> Consultancy/private sector
- <06> Other

A8a. Approximately how many students are at your institution? _____ [display if A7=="Research university" or "College"]

A8b. Is your institution public or private? _____ [display if A7=="Research university" or "College"]

A9. What year was your Ph.D? _____

A10a. What is your current rank? [display if A7=="Research university" or "College"]

- <01> Graduate student
- <02> Post-doc
- <03> Assistant professor
- <04> Associate professor (without tenure)
- <05> Associate professor (with tenure)
- <06> Full professor
- <07> Other (please specify)

A10b. What is your current rank? [display if A7=="Think tank"]

- <01> Fellow
- <02> Senior fellow
- <03> Other (please specify)

SECTION II: RESEARCH AREA AND SENSITIVITY

B1. Please use 5-10 keywords to describe your research area:

B2. What type of research approach do you use? [check all that apply]

- <01> Interviews/participant observation
- <02> Archival/library research
- <03> Surveys
- <04> Quantitative data collection/analysis
- <05> Other (please specify)

B3. In general, how politically sensitive would you consider your research?

- <01> Very sensitive
- <02> Somewhat sensitive
- <03> Not very sensitive
- <03> Not at all sensitive
- <99> No answer

B5a. Have you ever received any direct indication from the Chinese government that your research is politically sensitive?

- <01> Yes
- <02> No
- <99> No answer

B5b. If yes, please describe: _____ [display if B4a=="Yes"]

B6. Do you believe your research topic and conclusions would fall within the regular/acceptable spectrum of debate amongst Chinese citizens who are scholars at mainland PRC universities?

- <01> Yes
- <02> No
- <03> Maybe/Unsure
- <99> No answer

SECTION III: RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

C1. Approximately how many research trips have you taken to China within the last ten years?
_____ [sliding scale]

C2. Within the last ten years, approximately what is the total length of time you have spent in China? _____ [sliding scale in months]

C3a. Within the last ten years, have you experienced any of the following during the conduct of your research on China: [check all that apply]

- <01> Had difficulty obtaining a visa
- <02> Been denied a visa
- <03> Been interviewed by Chinese authorities (or “invited for tea”) to talk about your research
- <04> Been physically intimidated or detained
- <05> Been harassed online or via email/phone for something related to your research
- <06> Had your notes, research materials or computer confiscated (even temporarily) and reviewed by Chinese authorities
- <07> Had Chinese friends or acquaintances contacted by authorities in apparent connection with your research
- <08> Been denied entry to an archive or research library
- <09> Been denied access to specific materials within an archive or research library
- <10> Had interview subjects withdraw from interview at the last minute without clear explanation
- <11> Been misled about the identity of a Chinese interlocutor
- <12> Been invited or pressured to cooperate with Chinese authorities in some form or fashion

C3b. If yes, please help us document as many of the incidents as possible: [display once for every check in C3a=="Yes", up to three times per item]

i. Around what year and month did this occur? _____

ii. Please describe the incident in greater detail: [open ended]

C3c. What, if any, institutional assistance did your university/institution provide in dealing with the Chinese government? [open ended] [display if any item in C3a=="Yes"]

C4. At any point in the last ten years, did you ever consider yourself “banned” from mainland China?

- <01> Yes
- <02> No
- <03> Maybe/Unsure
- <99> No answer

C4a. Have you ever experienced the following:

- <01> Had a publication (book, article, report) censored
- <02> Had an invited talk, guest lecture, or other presentation cancelled
- <03> Received guidance on or had to get approval for the content of a talk, lecture, or other presentation

C4b. Was the publication that was censored a book, article, or something else? [display if C4a<01>=="Yes"] [check all that apply]

- <01> Book
- <02> Article
- <03> Other publication
- <99> No answer

C4c. Was the publication blocked or removed from circulation entirely, or was specific, partial content selected for deletion? [display if C4a<01>=="Yes"]

<01> Blocked entirely

<02> Specific content deleted

<99> No answer

C5c. Did the editor or publisher notify you in advance? [display if C4a<01>=="Yes"]

<01> Yes

<02> No

<99> No answer

C5d. Please describe your experiences. [display if C4a=="Yes"]

SECTION V: STRATEGIES

D1a. In the process of conducting research on China, have you ever done the following: [check all that apply]

<01> Decided not to pursue or publish a project because it was too sensitive

<02> Adapted a project's focus/approach to something less sensitive

<03> Used different language to describe a project while in China

<04> Published a project anonymously or under a pseudonym

<99> None of the above

D1b. If you like, please explain any "yes" answers above. [display if any of D1a=="Yes"]

D2. Do you personally know a colleague that studies China that has done the following: [check all that apply]

<01> Decided not to pursue or publish a project because it was too sensitive

<02> Adapted a project's focus/approach to something less sensitive

<03> Used different language to describe a project while in China

<04> Published a project anonymously or under a pseudonym

<99> None of the above

D3a. Does the nature of your research formally require you to consider human subjects protection?

<01> Yes

<02> No

<99> No answer

D3b. Do you take additional precautions **beyond** formal requirements to protect subjects or other interlocutors during the course of your research?

- <01> Yes
- <02> No
- <99> No answer

D3c. If so, what are those steps? [display if D3b=="Yes"]

D4. Are there other steps that you take to manage the sensitivity of your research? What advice would you give other researchers? (open-ended)

D4a. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Self-censorship is a problem in the China field.

- <01> Strongly agree
- <02> Agree
- <03> Neutral
- <04> Disagree
- <05> Strongly disagree
- <99> No answer

D5a. Have you ever had difficulty obtaining funding for a research project due to the sensitivity of the topic?

- <01> Yes
- <02> No
- <99> No answer

D5b. Was the difficulty with your own university, an external granting agency, or other? [display if D7a=="Yes"]

- <01> My university
- <02> External granting agency
- <03> Other
- <99> No answer

D5c. If yes, what was the topic? [display if D7a=="Yes"]

D6a. Please tell us how important each of the following topics is in terms of their effect on your research and publications. Please use a scale of 1 (not important) to 10 (very important).

<01> Concern about the sensitivity of topics/projects in China

<02> Concern with meeting disciplinary/professional requirements for tenure/advancement

<03> Concern with framing research to attract/obtain funding

<04> Other

D6b. If you like, please elaborate on your answer (open ended)

SECTION VI: ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

E1. Is there anything that we have not mentioned that you wish to tell us about your experiences doing research about China? (open ended)

E2. If you are willing to be contacted for a follow-up interview about your experiences, please send an email to [survey email address] or enter your email address here: _____

SECTION VII: CONCLUSION

Thank you again for your responses to this survey. We really appreciate your time.

If you have any problems or questions involving the research, you may contact the Principal Investigators:

Sheena Chestnut Greitens, greitenss@missouri.edu

Rory Truex, rtruex@princeton.edu

If you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, or if problems arise which you do not feel you can discuss with the Investigator, please contact the Institutional Review Board at:

Assistant Director, Research Integrity and Assurance, Princeton University, (609) 258-8543,
irb@princeton.edu

University of Missouri Human Subjects Research Protections Program/IRB, (573) 882-3181,
irb@missouri.edu

3. Incident Descriptions

Below are the full incident descriptions of different repressive events gathered in the open-ended response options. We have lightly edited the responses to prevent experiences from being attributed to individual researchers.

Interviewed by Authorities (“taken for tea”)

1. *Invited to tea to address their concern about my research report: we read everything you have written.*
2. *I have been visited by staff from Chinese Consulate and XXXX reporters came to interview, it is apparent that XXXX reporter wasn't doing this for normal journalistic reasons.*
3. *Usually, they are people who come up to you after your talk and say flattering things. They pose as graduate students, but there is something "off" about them.*
4. *I was traveling in XXXX and was detained on three different occasions by police, who asked a series of questions about my interests and intentions. This may have been related to my identity as a Westerner more than my research per se.*
5. *I had interviewing participants in an ongoing protest in an out of the way industrial area and was waiting to try to talk to someone who was a target of the protest. An officer approached me while I waited. Then, he asked for my identity papers. He also asked to see my research notes and explain what they said. The policeman then took me to a nearby police station and he and his colleagues asked me questions for about an hour or an hour and a half.*
6. *I was conducting research in XXXX's municipal archive, and had requested to read back copies of the XXXX Ribao (nothing else). On the second day, I was asked to present additional paperwork (that I didn't have); when I didn't have it, the archivist went to the office, returned, and said that I needed to go downtown to the government building to speak to an official. He reviewed my papers, asked me some questions, and then told me that I could not go back to the archive.*
7. *I had given an interview to the local press in which I was asked about Chinese foreign policy. I alluded to XXXX. I also talked about XXXX. The embassy also sent someone to talk to me and tell me that as a sinologist I was not entitled to make comments on Chinese foreign policy.*
8. *Our research group, consisting of Chinese and foreign scholars, were conducting survey research in a rural part of XXXX China. Some elements of the research topic were considered politically sensitive. We were contacted by the county government, spent a full day "having tea" and discussing the project, and finally asked to leave the county. We complied.*
9. *A person from the county public security bureau visited the community I was staying in and invited me to drink a beer with him. He asked questions about my history of international travel and thoughts about the area's political situation. He directed me to call him when I was leaving. I did*

so, but never got an answer.

10. *Invited to tea via email, but I declined because I wasn't in the area.*
11. *In conducting my fieldwork, I had to develop close ties to the local police. They had knowledge of my being there and so I had to meet with them regularly to "update" them. This took the form of brief meetings over lunch or tea about once every 3-4 months.*
12. *Interviewed rights activists around the time of the XXXX, which in retrospect was not smart. The police came to my hotel, questioned me, and asked me to desist/leave town.*
13. *Lunch with diplomats in Chinese restaurant, XXXX. One turned out to be head of XXXX station for State Security.*
14. *Repeated attempts asking me to update registration info (going into the station) while there was clearly no legal grounds to do so.*
15. *was asked if I wanted to chat with officials about my research. I had met one of them before, and the others who showed up were new to me. Polite encounter. They asked vague questions. I gave vague answers. Polite conversation. Nothing specific happened after this encounter, but I strongly suspect that one or more of the "new" guys at the meeting were state security.*
16. *In a rural county, XXXX. I arrived after receiving various permissions. I was then invited to lunch and told to leave the county.*
17. *Invited to discuss my research and was accused of collaborating with "terrorists" (i.e. XXXX)*
18. *Was recommended to consult the embassy first before organising any XXXX-related event because "foreigners are often mistaken by the Chinese situation".*
19. *It was during my fieldwork in XXXX in YYYY. I was called by local authorities saying that someone saw me taking pictures of some government and military buildings, which was of course not true. Together with my PhD student I had to then go to the office of international relations. While I was informed at the beginning of the talk that I am to obey the Chinese law and, if not, I'm going to be expelled, I was able to calm down the local government by demonstrating the falsity of the accusation and we were eventually able to stay and continue research for some more weeks. Nonetheless, I'm sure always followed. Also, the atmosphere became more tense and the police officer who took care of our registration and was our contact person at the police station also became unfriendly after the incident.*
20. *A young man whom I later was told was an undercover state agent asked me about my research during a dinner. He led me to believe that he was critical of the treatment of XXXX by the Chinese state prior to this conversation.*

21. *During my doctoral research in 20XX-20YY, my research contacts were repeatedly harassed; the police asked my landlord for the keys to my apartment (he complied and I changed the locks); my phones were tapped; I met with State Security agents four times in 20YY-20ZZ and fielded phone calls from them at other times. Subsequently, I have not had difficulties and have since visited China frequently.*
22. *On a trip through XXXX with a colleague from my university, we were stopped, searched, and interrogated by police at a roadblock in, a city in XXXX. They were polite, and even apologetic.*
23. *A day after being admitted to an archive, the Dean of my host institution invited me to a meeting at which we discussed my research in the presence of a middle-aged man whose job title was not disclosed to me, and the Dean indicated that access to that archive was "inconvenient" and would no longer be possible.*
24. *During fieldwork in XXXX, I was taken to dinner by a high-level member of the county government (cannot remember her exact position). She rather quickly determined that my research was historical in nature and probably boring and I had no further contact with her.*
25. *Foreign Ministry official told me they did not like something I had written. And complained to US embassy. But did not hear of it again*
26. *Prior to my arrival in China for the summer, two local officials working for the National Security Bureau first approached XXXX on his work phone in an attempt to reach me. XXXX agreed to relay the message and I subsequently agreed to be interviewed. The two officials remained anonymous throughout the interview, which took place in an informal setting (in a tea house) and lasted over three hours. They asked me about my research agenda, which I was still unclear about at that time.. They offered to fund my research and provide other support in exchange for favors such as helping them watch/observe XXXX students and other related student activities on campus. At the end of the interview, one of the officials asked me to exchange WeChat contact with him; I felt somewhat pressured and acquiesced. Two months later, they followed up with me with a second informal chat when they were on a business trip to YYYY, during which they asked about my research progress. I subsequently stopped responding to their messages and no further meetings took place.*
27. *I was contacted while in XXXX by a government official I had met while conducting research in a central Chinese province and asked to come for lunch. The pretense was that it was a friendly meal with an old acquaintance, but the counterpart was clearly interested in hearing an update on my research progress.*
28. *Rather typical invitation to speak about research with organizational representative.*
29. *Don't want to describe it.*

30. *Late-night interview at hotel room by local police about my reason for visiting the town I had come to.*
31. *2 "interviews" at the Chinese embassy in XXXX (s. previous post): interlocuters (2) wouldn't tell me their name, very partly polite, appealing to my "sinologist honor" testing my Chinese; during other parts of the "interview" they were more impolite, partly intimidating; they asked questions about me, my [spouse], the institute I work at, and about some of my opinions on China, the Chinese government; they told me to talk to nobody about this (which I didn't agree to do).*
32. *Again, this occurred in 20XX-20YY. Usually, the PSB stops by to see me and embeds an interview in a nice friendly chat.*
33. *I assisted a colleague researching XXXX in Beijing and in YYYY. Since we were interested in particular in researching how XXXX was handled in the Muslim community, we had interviews with local education and party officials about the nature of what we were after. They did steer us toward interview subjects but made no effort to obstruct our activities.*
34. *I'd rather not. Please understand.*
35. *Interviewed at my office about what I've written.*
36. *It was one of those regular interviews I had experienced in the past. Four gentlemen from the National Security Bureau visited me in one of the offices in a local university that was hosting me. The conversation was fairly friendly and the questions did not seem to have any particular focus. Some questions I recall were regarding (1) my circles of friends - such as their professional info and their respective research interests, (2) my religious activities, such as whether or not I had been to churches, and (3) my daily life. The conversation lasted about two hours and two of the people were taking notes with pen and recorders.*
37. *In XXXX when visiting local research libraries and organizing trips to counties near YYYY, I was invited to discuss my approach and the type of material I was looking for with local academic and CCP members.*
38. *It was in 200X. I was invited to China to share my research with a research wing of a XXXX government department that deals with political and economic issues related to development strategies in YYYY areas of ZZZZ. It was all a bit strange, but never threatening.*

Physically Intimidated

1. *Followed and harassed while doing field work*
2. *interrogation at airport, detained for a brief period but not placed under arrest.*
3. *Detained at a mosque in XXXX. I was told to wait for a local official to come interview me. That official told me I could not leave and called plainclothes police. When they arrived they told me I could not leave, interviewed me for about 20 minutes, copied my documents, then let me go.*
4. *On a short research trip to XXXX I was prevented from traveling to a research location. The Han police officer said "you have a visa problem." He said I had a business visa, when in fact I had a travel visa. He then took pictures of me with my passport and forced me to get into a taxi after taking pictures of me with the taxi driver and with the license plate of the car. During this process he ordered me to stand in particular locations and turn my back to him and the person he was speaking with.*
5. *I was visiting XXXX a town in west XXXX, open to foreigners and tourists. I was not conducting interviews but privately studying XXXX with a local. I was awakened one morning, placed in a van with two police officers, and driven to XXXX. I was not told the reason for my detention. The trip took two days, and we spent the night at a hotel. In XXXX, I was detained for four hours and interviewed by police. My camera was confiscated temporarily while the police reviewed the images. After four hours and much conversation with the police, I was released. I believe the police thought that I may have been a journalist..*
6. *I haven't been detained in the last 10 years. I was detained multiple times before this period from 200X-200X. The primary reason was being in areas that were not open to foreigners.*
7. *This occurred outside the ten year range, in 200X, in a XXXX borderland region. I was physically attacked by a drunk (someone known to locals as often drunk and sometimes jailed) and was defended by an interpreter.*
8. *detail in XXXX for taking photos of PAP soldiers.*
9. *I was followed as I traveled between research meetings.*
10. *I was detained for three days in a local hotel. A group of security staff (divided into two subgroups, one intervening and one monitoring). The main focus was on my oversea study and my research. Being threatened to lose personal freedom and not able to leave and enter mainland China if I do not cooperate with them. I pretended to cooperate, and then reported to my University and the police when I came back XXXX. The thing seems to be temporarily solved, but I was suggested by the police not to go back China in recent years.*

11. *Fieldwork in eastern XXXX during military crackdown on YYYY protests. Briefly detained on the street by XXXX local police. Talked my way out of it.*
12. *Placed under 'house arrest' in a county hotel for 'conducting interviews without permission'. My research team continued to conduct interviews and I stayed in touch with them by phone. Detention consisted of two policemen in the foyer of my hotel. They were rather sheepish, as it was a case of going through the motions as a complaint had been made by a township government official (largely because I refused to direct funding for a project to the school his children were attending). After two days the police were gone, and aside from the chilling effect, things went back to 'normal'.*
13. *As part of a group I was investigating a rather bog standard forced eviction on the site of the eviction. Uniformed police arrived within minutes and drove us to the nearest police station, where we were interrogated -- informally -- and forced to sign statements before being released after 5 hours or so. I had texted / called my embassy, which after an hour or so started calling the police station; this probably helped.*
14. *There have been many fairly low-level intimidating events since then, however, more than I can remember in detail. For example, I have on numerous occasions been followed / surveiled by plainclothes police, which can be intimidating. For example, last week, as I approached a XXXX office for some interviews, the XXXX came out into the street to warn me that police were stationed in the lobby of the building and that since my last visit a surveillance camera had been installed just outside the office, which he also suspected was bugged. This was a bit intimidating although it was not 'physical intimidation,' I suppose.*

Notes/Computer Confiscated

1. *This happened at the XXXX airport custom. I flew back to XXXX from Hong Kong. My books and conference notes were searched, and a book on YYYY was confiscated.*
2. *Archivists at the XXXX in Beijing confiscated my notes temporarily (several days) to review them before allowing me to complete my research visit to the archive.*
3. *request to view materials on a digital camera and laptop*
4. *I was in XXXX. When I left the hotel for one evening, I left my laptop in the room in its case in my shoulder bag. This was the only moment in the whole trip that I did not keep my computer with me. When I returned, the laptop was open on my bed, my luggage had been searched, as had the furniture, and there was a strong smell of tobacco smoke in the air.*
5. *XXXX*
6. *While arranging to ship research materials back to the US, my materials were briefly confiscated, and I was taken to a side room and told that some of my materials were sensitive and could not be taken out of the country. After some back and forth, my materials were returned to me, and I shipped them another way.*
7. *The policeman took my notebook and read its contents (which were in English). They then returned it to me.*
8. *All of the data on my laptop was copied and my hard drive broken while in Beijing. They left evidence making it easy to see someone had been in my hotel room and done this.*
9. *This was at the XXXX archives in Beijing. Each day after I looked through materials I was required to leave my notes overnight with archive personnel.*

Denied Visa

- 1. I had received a formal invitation from XXXX government and YYYY provisional government, but Visa was refused. There is no indication on my passport that visa has been denied. I am verbally told that Embassy Visa section that my application wasn't approved.*
- 2. It's not literally being denied a visa, with a denial stamp on my app, but rather, the visa not being issued (which is more courteous on the part of the Chinese). I was invited to a conference in XXXX and assured that, for the first time in many years, the authorities had approved my going there. However, in my visa app I foolishly said that after the conference I would go briefly to YYYY before returning home. This threw the consulate people into a tizzy. They phoned me, phoned my host, phoned my potential host in XXXX trying to find out what exactly I would do there, and were never able to satisfy themselves sufficiently to issue the visa. I think they tried to get the ZZZZ to approve it and didn't get an approval in time for the conference.*
- 3. It would take a book to document my experiences. But that book will never be written due to the people who must be protected.*
- 4. I have to stop at this point. These questions cannot begin to get at the complexities.*
- 5. I was given an 8 month student visa with affiliation at XXXX, which listed my study topic as XXXX. During these 8 months, I traveled to XXXX areas of XXXX, XXXX, and XXXX provinces without incident and working with colleagues. I notified my supervisor at XXXX of all my travel. When I applied towards the end of my stay for a travel permit to the YYYY, this permit was approved by the various government agencies and sent to me by a travel agency in YYYY via overnight mail to Beijing. That same night, the friend who had helped me to arrange the permit called and said that the Public Security Bureau had come to the travel agency and asked about me and why I was coming to YYYY. Without a specific explanation, they told the travel agency to revoke the permit and said that I should send the envelope with the permit back unopened and unused.*
- 6. Since XXXX, visa applications have been "delayed", so I couldn't take part in the official event I was invited (I had an invitation letter from an official Chinese institution every time).*
- 7. Unable to get visa in 200X*

Denied Access to Archive

1. *Attempted to gain access to possible visual materials produced by foreign missionaries held at the XXXX only to be told by my institutional host (a professor at XXXX) that the files were being digitized and would not be available for several years (almost a decade, according to his estimate - not sure if this was reported to him or if he had made a guess).*
2. *The documents on XXXX were unable to access after 2012, though it was previously accessible before that time.*
3. *Denied access to XXXX*
4. *Denied access to XXXX because I wished to examine holdings related to a specific ethnic minority group in that province.*
5. *I was conducting research in XXXX's municipal archive, and had requested to read back copies of the XXXX Ribao (nothing else). On the second day, I was asked to present additional paperwork (that I didn't have); when I didn't have it, the archivist went to the office, returned, and said that I needed to go downtown to the government building to speak to an official. He reviewed my papers, asked me some questions, and then told me that I could not go back to the archive.*
6. *I wanted to access the archives of a government bureau related to wildlife conservation, but was denied.*
7. *Denied any access at all to archives in both XXXX and XXXX*
8. *The XXXX closed its doors to archival research a few years ago. When it re-opened, I heard from friends that some materials have been removed for research. My apologies - I thought my last visit was XXXX. It's actually XXXX. Even then, I was told by the Director of the XXXX Archives that there were no materials available there for research (which is nonsense). The Head of the Reading Room at the XXXX also accused me of trying to steal their "national treasures" when I asked for some documents to be photocopied.*
9. *Archive closed on short notice supposedly due to digitization. Contacts within China told me otherwise (clamping down).*
10. *Was unable to enter the XXXX for one week during the 19th Party Congress.*
11. *denied access to a local archival institution*
12. *I was denied registration at the XXXX.*

13. *After presenting a letter of introduction from a Chinese university, having my passport and letter inspected at two checkpoints, filling out forms, and waiting two hours for additional "inspection," I was told to leave the archive. The archivist said that they would call me if/when the inspection was complete. This was the XXXX.*
14. *Since about 200X, and perhaps as far back as 200Y (I cannot remember for sure) it had been very easy to access the XXXX. Just a visa and 20 yuan would get you in. In XXXX, I was told I needed an invitation letter from an academic organization and the appropriate visa—"not the repeat entry visit I'd been traveling on*
15. *interviewees provide information verbally, but reject to share things in written.*
16. *It was before the Olympics and I wanted to see the county financial records, and I was told that the time was too sensitive to allow me access to the library.*
17. *I was attempting to access the institutional archives of the XXXX, but despite letters of introduction, numerous email and telephone exchanges left China empty handed.*
18. *I had a letter from the previous year on file at one of the main archives in XXXX. This original letter from the previous year was granted by YYYY Program when I was studying there in XXXX. Upon return during the summer of XXXX, the archivist told me the letter was expired (it was not) and that the letter was incorrect in format (it was not) and that I should not have granted access the previous year. It took over 2 weeks and many phone calls and emails to get a new letter from a Chinese university to access the archives.*
19. *This is too common to even be memorable; access to historical archives has been unpredictable for as long as I have been researching in China.*
20. *There was (still) no access to the XXXX archives. I was further not allowed to go to several bookstores affiliated with XXXX.*
21. *One of my informants had arranged for me to interview their grandmother and her friends. This was something that had been planned months earlier. When the time of the interview arrived, my informant backed out with a very odd excuse that didn't seem true. Because I did not want to put my informant in danger, and I knew this was a possibility, I didn't insist. I had several similar experiences from 200X to 2012. [Note: Response does not appear to be about archival access]*
22. *I was told that Chinese units can no longer invite me because of an article I published.*
23. *Refused access to post-49 files at the XXXX. Told that might be able to look if had letter from local unit. Only allowed to look at card catalog of pre-49 files, which were mostly government circulars.*

24. *At XXXX municipal and YYYY municipal archives, some items were blocked from my view.*
25. *Arrived at XXXX with scanned and printed letter of invitation in hand, having been admitted to the same archives the previous year and many times before that. Was told to bring in an original (i.e. not printed - ink still drying), so had to make my way to the inviting institution for that purpose. This would not be worth reporting except that it marked an escalation of security consciousness. The year before I had been admitted with a printed invitation, although it had to be printed in colour; and I had been allowed to work in the archives for the day on the basis of the black-and-white copy. A few years before that I had been admitted without any invitation letter at all, pending arrangement for such a letter.*
26. *Attempted to obtain surveys of gardens kept in XXXX. Was told it could be done, then when I showed up, the archives were 'sealed' and not available.*
27. *This was common to many researchers - the XXXX stopped allowing foreign access to its collection*
28. *A district level archive--one in which I had worked in before and knew people--refused to let me view any materials, or even the index to supposedly open materials.*
29. *I have never been able to gain access to any archives or library in XXXX*
30. *trouble at XXXX. No big deal, but refusal to honor previous commitment*
31. *The XXXX is open to researchers. I had a letter of introduction from a Chinese institution, the history department at YYYY. I was told that foreign researchers were not accepted to do research.*
32. *Well, this is not particularly interesting I'm afraid. At XXXX foreigners were simply denied access to University Library, and also to access very poor Department libraries I had to ask my XXXX colleagues and students for help, they just checked out the books that I was interested at. The librarians throw me out on multiple occasions.*
33. *I was denied access to the XXXX archives and the YYYY archives in 201D; I have worked in both before (200A-200B and 201C).*
34. *I presented an affiliation letter from XXXX and the archivists said that I need an approval from the National Security Bureau, which would take months and I didn't have the time.*
35. *Visit to XXXX archives. The archives were in terrible shape, with only a poorly organized paper card catalogue. For a week, I was only allowed to look at the catalogue, not request documents, while my local contact pulled some strings behind the scenes. The second week, I was allowed to request items in the card catalogue, but not uncatalogued materials (which I knew to be substantial). I was not allowed to take photographs and was limited to paying to photocopy 10%*

or less of any given work.

36. *The XXXX has a bookshop that is supposedly open to the public, but even with a HK ID card, I was denied entry.*
37. *County-level archives in two cities in XXXX denied me access to their collections.*
38. *not allowed to review local newspapers at a county seat library*
39. *I was temporarily denied access to the XXXX. I was eventually given permission to enter the XXXX, but could view virtually nothing.*
40. *Don't want to describe it.*
41. *Not a specific denial based on research but the blanket closing of the XXXX. Inquiries about when access will become available and what is needed to gain access remain unanswered, including when inquiries come from local Chinese colleagues.*
42. *The archival director said that the collection was undergoing digitization and informed his staff members to be careful about what they were sharing with me. Before he came, another staff member had helped me retrieve several items from the collection.*
43. *denied access to the XXXX archives and XXXX scripts*
44. *XXXX archives closed*
45. *In southern XXXX was told the local archives were off limits to foreign researchers.*
46. *I was denied access to the XXXX. The denial was not explicit - I was told that documents were being digitized and would be unavailable for the future. Chinese scholars told me that this was a lie in order to prevent research.*
47. *I was not granted access to the major portion of an archive at a prominent university research center. My Chinese colleagues informed me that the situation was too sensitive and they worried about how their own activities would be affected if I was granted access.*
48. *I was denied access to the XXXX ancient text office. The manager told me, "even if you knew the governor, I still wouldn't let you in."*
49. *XXXX....very difficult to access*

50. *XXXX archives in Beijing now inaccessible*
51. *At the XXXX I was not allowed to make copies of declassified material. A few months later I was allowed to take notes in the Archives.*
52. *Tried to use a local country archive and was told I need to obtain permission from Beijing; didn't have time to arrange for the requested letter of introduction.*
53. *denied access to XXXX related to ethnic policy*
54. *Use of force to prevent me and my students to access the archives in the county and provincial records office. We followed every written rules to the t but still were denied and beat up.*
55. *Party archives in XXXX.*
56. *Denied access to state and local archives of XXXX province.*
57. *I applied to be a visiting scholar at XXXX. My host was baffled when the request was denied, as no one had been denied to work in her research unit up until that point. Apparently, the reason given was that my qualifications were "too good." I was able to be a visiting scholar for ten days at YYYY instead. [Note: Response does not appear to be about archival access]*
58. *documents on some minor parties during the Republican period were not open to the public in the XXXX and I was not allowed to enter see documents*
59. *shortly after Liu Xiaobo won the Nobel Prize*
60. *all my talks shortened roughly [Note: Response does not appear to be about archival access]*
61. *a conference on historical memory cancelled [Note: Response does not appear to be about archival access]*
62. *inability to work in XXXX archives at all*
63. *no access to materials of XXXX for 1950s and 1960s in any archive*
64. *Been denied to access some of the archives in the court, and was not able to download some materials in the database from overseas servers*
65. *Archive was not open to researchers due to work on preservation/digitization, although I am not*

sure it has ever been opened fully.

66. *Denied access to XXXX in XXXX*
67. *I had negotiated access to the university archive at XXXX, but my arrival there caused alarm among the archivists, and after working there for one day was told I could not come back.*
68. *Similar to the previous incident in XXXX, I was returning to the archives in YYYY in 201B after researching there the previous summer. In 201A, I was able to gain access with only my passport. In 201B, however, the archivist stated that a new policy was in place and that I needed a letter of introduction. Since I was only there for a few days (and after the 2-week ordeal in XXXX the same summer), I decided to utilize my time as efficiently as possible and conduct any research I could at the local library.*
69. *I had been using the library resources at a Chinese university, only their newspaper collections. Once they realized the years I was looking at. I was systematically denied access every time I went. Each time, I was told not now because the person in charge is in a meeting.*
70. *Denied access to XXXX library, although I was a visiting scholar at XXXX*
71. *The historical sections of libraries have been closed to me for at least 5 years.*
72. *Items I had previously been able to see at the XXXX and YYYY municipal archives were no longer viewable on the digitized archive navigator terminals; certain items were refused to me at the XXXX provincial archives.*
73. *I visited the archives in XXXX but was refused admission. These should be open to researchers, and I wanted merely to look at the catalogue. My research interest was the XXXX. Perhaps I should have avoided the words "XXXX" or "YYYY." I subsequently spoke about this incident to the head of XXXX Municipal Library (personal connection), who was surprised and expressed annoyance, saying that the whole system in XXXX should be open to researchers.*
74. *I had a letter of introduction to visit the XXXX in XXXX. The letter of introduction was from the XXXX department of history. I was allowed to look at the index and then some photographs, but then I was asked to leave.*
75. *I was told that the collection had been sent to the conservation department and the archive had no idea when the collection would return.*
76. *This happened during my PhD research in the late '90s but the drop-down menu did not extend that far back. I was researching the development of XXXX. Anything about northern XXXX was deemed off limits and I was refused access to the XXXX municipal archives. I was able to*

use the XXXX provincial archives but have since been told they are closed.

77. *Denied access to specific documents related to XXXX at the XXXX.*

78. *I attempted to conduct research at the XXXX Regional Archives. I was denied access.*

79. *not permitted to research XXXX or the burning of the XXXX*

80. *inability to see materials in XXXX archive that I had access to in past (200X)*

81. *In the AY 201A to 201B, I was at a Chinese Institution and had been given an advisor. My advisor repeatedly told me he'd give me an introduction so I could get to the archives. Each time, I pressed him for it however he'd say, I'll take care of it later...finally, he admitted that as a foreigner I wouldn't get access.*

82. *I forget the details, but XXXX municipal archives gave me a frosty reception. I was eventually able to look at something.*

83. *I had read files at the XXXX and when I went back to re-read them, I discovered that the file numbers had disappeared from the catalogue. At a conference where one of the archivists was a speaker, I raised my hand to ask what could be done in this situation. I was quietly given a card and told that I could make further inquiries. In the end I was allowed to read the file with a security guard over my shoulder, but I was not allowed to write anything down.*

84. *I was informed that the collection concerned a sensitive period of modern Chinese history and therefore inaccessible to foreigners.*

85. *It was the XXXX. I was taking photos of the index of a republican era book- the librarian took my camera and deleted the photos as well as a number of other document photos not taken in the library.*

Denied Access to Specific Materials in Archive

1. *XXXX Municipal Archives - staff claimed to not be familiar with resources so could not access all requested documents on Overseas Chinese from XXXX. Many documents were provided so seems in this case it was about new staff who were administering access rather than being trained as archivists with knowledge of materials beyond general indexes.*
2. *This has happened many times over the years at many different archives and libraries.*
3. *XXXX city archives. Trying to obtain information on XXXX, I had not realised it was built partially on XXXX. As a result some of the documents were not available. I could look at maps of XXXX but was not allowed to take photographs or make photocopies.*
4. *I would say typical of any historian looking at materials, there are always some sections of an archive that are blocked out or "bu kaifeng" - that is to say, I didn't feel that I was personally being denied access, but rather that the materials are deemed sensitive.*
5. *This happened a lot when I conducted dissertation research. I was denied access to specific portions of collections at national-, provincial-, and county-level archives and libraries in XXXX, XXXX, XXXX, and XXXX.*
6. *not allowed to access books on cyber security*
7. *Ongoing.... and regular since 1999.*
8. *I requested documents (officially "open" to the public) in a district archive in XXXX and some were not made available. No explanation was provided*
9. *In XXXX, both the XXXX of China and the XXXX Archives declined to show a variety of collections as they were "digitalizing" them and not sure when would these be done. It appears that these collections, e.g. XXXX, is still unavailable today.*
10. *I would make a list of materials I wanted to see, and at times some would be denied. The most specific instance that I remember happened at the XXXX in XXXX, but it also happened at the XXXX Municipal Archives and the XXXX Municipal Archives, where I also researched. I more or less just accepted this as standard procedure, and no clear explanations were ever given.*
11. *I was denied access to a local documents collection at a provincial library.*
12. *The archive catalogs have been sanitized. I searched for materials relating to the "Five Antis" campaign of 1952 and found nothing. I searched for "private enterprise or business" in the 1950s and found nothing. When I asked about the dearth of materials (where there used to be lots a*

decade earlier) I was told that those materials were too sensitive and not available to the public. That was in XXXX Municipal Archives. In XXXX the catalog was still hand written, but the most interesting documents were not available to the public. I was allowed to photocopy many documents, but these were then vetted and some removed as too sensitive for me to take away.

13. *I spent part of the summer of 201A and 201B in the XXXX Provincial Archives in XXXX. There I was denied access to any material from the post-1949 period. I was allowed to view material from the pre-1949 period.*
14. *When I found files in the directory of the archive I was told I could not access them. The files were related to 1950s and 1960s economic exchanges with foreign actors*
15. *Again outside the range, in 200X. My Chinese collaborator was admitted to a university archival repository but I was denied entry.*
16. *All described in first response*
17. *In XXXX, in a public garden, I tried to obtain access to early photographs of the garden. The staff was very suspicious of me at first, and eventually let me look at the photographs they had in their computer, but I was not allowed to reproduce these or take photos of the screen. As a result I had to drop the topic.*
18. *Some documents requested were classified.*
19. *This is actually in 200X, in XXXX. I wanted actual primary sources to find out the amount of living space that working class Chinese had for their quarters in colonial XXXX versus that of the Japanese colonists. I received some official history books, and others, which were good, and well-researched, but still had the interpretations with the correct Party line, and emphasized the resistance paradigm. It was helpful in understanding the Chinese view. I had an introduction from my Japanese professor at XXXX, who was sympathetic to leftwing interpretations, but I was not able to visit with the person I desired to meet. I was not sure if I was being dissed as a grad student at that time, because I was XXXX, or because I was a women. It was hard to tell. However, luckily, Waseda University archives are stuffed full of old Manchukuo materials (though in Japanese) as are the XXXX. Most of my research concerned the Japanese side, but I wanted the Chinese perspective, too, to balance my research.*
20. *Limited access to materials at the XXXX; sudden "unavailability" of Republican-era publications at XXXX Municipal Library.*
21. *It happened at the XXXX Archives in XXXX. The staff was very reluctant to let me look at anything. When I requested help with the database, they refused and curtly told me that I should have consulted their website before arriving. (I had looked at the website; it was incomprehensible.) It is also worth noting that during my visit, I saw only two other foreign*

- scholars. When I did my doctoral research at the XXXX in XXXX, I saw at least 15-20 foreign scholars there on a daily basis.*
- 22. Qing documents that have not been scanned are now off limits -- this is justified as protecting the documents, but in practice it functions to censor what kinds of materials scholars may use; it appears to be a nation-wide policy (not allowing scholars to see original documents from the Qing)*
 - 23. This was at XXXX University archive. Again I was able to see the catalogue of archives from 1957, but specific items were still classified, and therefore unable to check out.*
 - 24. In more recent years, my research focus is more on the Japanese side, so I have not had to negotiate the problems that my students tell me about, but they have said that it is very hard to get into the major XXXX located archives, and that regional ones have easier access. This is both from my American and Chinese PhD students. The American one will be doing the bulk of his research in Hong Kong, while my Chinese one is also using archives in Japan, which have no access issues at all.*
 - 25. This has happened too often to detail. Every time I've visited an archive in China (since XXXX when I began dissertation research), I've been denied access to at least some sources. This has happened at municipal and provincial archives.*
 - 26. The denial was oral.*
 - 27. Any archives related to the Cultural Revolution were denied to access.*
 - 28. I could not read documents at the XXXX provincial archives. I learned later that even Chinese scholars cannot see those documents.*
 - 29. At a provincial archive, I was denied access to some of the files and the reason given was that I was requesting too many files, although the exact daily limit was never clearly stated. After I had materials photocopied by archive staff, a supervisor examined my photocopies and took away nearly half of them, saying those should not be taken out of the archive. No specific explanation was offered. Oh, they did mention that documents with people's names are not allowed to leave the archive.*
 - 30. Likely in 2015-2016. Working with XXXX. Previously had access to full records, including uncatalogued films (although none could be viewed). Allowed full access one year, including filming and to catalogue or items stored in storage units at apartment complex. Upon return the following year, access to person that had previously accompanied us was limited and mediated through a new manager. Delayed responses made it clear that access was not going to be granted even though previous agreement in place, that included digitizing and making access to collection greater for Chinese and non-Chinese researchers.*

31. *On every visit to archives and libraries I have been told that some material is not available. Usually they tell me that some research team is using it for a big project. This is probably the case.*
32. *This happened on several occasions at the XXXX Municipal Archives and district archives in XXXX. I saved the most sensitive requests related to my research - those dealing with the Maoist period and touching on issues such as land reform and property ownership - for the end of my research trip. In each case, I was politely denied access by the archive staff. In one case, they asked how I knew about the files in question and I informed them that their own website's catalog listed the files in question, and that was the end of the conversation.*
33. *Not given access to materials at XXXX Provincial Archives. Required to undergo vetting two months prior to arrival.*
34. *Materials I wanted to see were too old and fragile, and were not yet microfilmed or digitized.*
35. *I can only give a generic response. Working at the XXXX Archives around 200A-1B, I occasionally was refused access to materials that concerned people born within the previous seventy years, or files that contained such materials. Copying any such materials, even from the 1930s, was not possible. Occasionally refused access to materials that were produced by an authority (notably the central government) other than XXXX Municipality. From around 2011 onward, with increasing digitisation, it would seem that archives were filtered. I have never been denied access to any digitised document in either XXXX or XXXX.*
36. *While the XXXX Provincial Archives let me view many collections, I was told some materials that I wanted to see don't have clearance and was denied access.*
37. *Once I was able to gain entrance to the archive in XXXX, I quickly realized that many of the documents of interest to my research that I want to access from the previous year (still had the document search words and document numbers in my notes from the previous summer) were no longer there. Since all of the documents were digitized, I guess it is as easy for them to be blocked or removed. Whatever the case, they were no longer accessible.*
38. *I had worked freely in the stacks of a library collection for months on earlier trips, but was not permitted subsequently.*
39. *At the XXXX Archives, while the archivist agreed to bring me the specific files that I identified (based on sources from elsewhere), but refused to show me their archival catalogue.*
40. *I worked at a university in China. Survey data which were available to the university's researchers were only available to local (Chinese scholars) and not to foreign scholars like myself.*
41. *I was expecting to meet with a principle of a minorities high school to learn about the history of that school and the experience of the children and families. The principle had delayed the interview for several months and the plan was to return to the area in early XXXX for an interview. I*

waited for a week but in the end instead of an interview, I was sent a book about the minority group in that county. The principle said he was too busy. I will also note that in that same time period (XXXX), I also had hoped to visit a minority village that I had previously visited with students (two years before) but was told by the friend (who worked at the county Party School) that it was no longer possible to visit. It was "too sensitive" now. [Note: Response does not appear to be about archival access]

42. *This is a persistent problem in YYYY history. The Republican-era archives of XXXX have been digitized and indexed online at archives.gov.cn. Until recently, they could be viewed in high resolution. Now the images have all been taken down.*
43. *Foreign Ministry archives closed*
44. *I had hoped to view the collection of material from the 1950s held at XXXX I then learned that the collection has been shut down in all but name.*
45. *I was unable to access the folders of XXXX in the Maoist era.*
46. *I had hoped to visit the county library which held some documents about the XXXX minority. I had visited a couple of years before and was aware of various volumes on local history that I was interested in. I had been told in the past that I could go and spend time, but in fall XXXX I was told awkwardly that there was nothing there that would be of interest to me. My efforts to press, including noting that the documents I was interested in were all open and not classified, were pleasantly ignored. I did find some of these documents at the Provincial Library, which was quite open to me, but they did not have some of the documents (one covering a recent conference).*
47. *no access to some libraries at XXXX University*
48. *I really was not denied access but made to feel a little strange. I don't think this qualifies as denial of access but I can't remove my previous answer!*
49. *Materials in the libraries of monasteries and religions centers in XXXX are generally (if not almost always) inaccessible to foreign researchers.*
50. *Not a big deal. But in XXXX, historically the most open place in China in terms of archives, archival access has become MUCH more restrictive - only parts of documents available, xeroxing so restrictive that it is in effect impossible, refusal with no explanation to make available files that I saw without problems four or five years earlier.*
51. *In XXXX and XXXX I was denied access to XXXX manuscripts at the XXXX branch of the XXXX as well as the card catalog.*

52. *Denied access to materials in closed stacks in XXXX Library because of foreign identity.*
53. *Don't want to describe it.*
54. *Access to specific Republican-era archival materials denied at provincial and municipal archives in XXXX.*
55. *Note: archival access is consistently inconsistent, and has been thus across my career. Restrictions became more visible after summer 2014, however -- e.g. requests denied more often, copying restricted, etc. This has consequently shaped my research plans.*
56. *Part of the XXXX have not been digitized, but are available only on microfilm. One still has to request permission to view these files. I did not request permission ahead of time. I do not believe that this is a current political issue. Rather, these documents used to be considered sensitive in the 1980s when the archive was reorganized, and the institutional memory is lingering on without people actually making a lot of sense of this rule. Access to archival documents is generally bothersome, for all kinds of reasons, many of them institutional.*
57. *I was denied access to material related to famines and floods in 1940s China when I visited the XXXX. Some of this material is material that is cited in publications from the 1990s. I tried to gain access to it back in 2008 and was told that entire collection was unavailable because it was being scanned. I returned to the XXXX Archives this spring, only to find that after 10 years the drought and flood related material from the Republican period is STILL not accessible.*
58. *Tried to see materials that I had previously seen at the XXXX Archives and was told they are no longer accessible.*
59. *Previously failed attempts to gain access to archives, libraries, or other centers of research in XXXX.*
60. *Fairly typical response that material is not available. Often times, reasons are that material is being digitized, or "organized" in some way. In some instances, through back channels (usually by more junior personnel), I was made aware that the material was indeed available but not to foreign scholars.*
61. *Denied access to materials held in closed stacks at XXXX because of foreign identity*
62. *I think this incident had something to do with the library's somewhat unpredictable preservation efforts... I did not feel it was political.*
63. *There was a rare book I needed for a project that was only in one library in one copy and I set aside a whole week to look at it. I also worked connections, but was ultimately refused access.*

Every day the library said it was "too hot." It was hot, but they had an air conditioned reading room.

- 64. I was denied viewing archival records at the XXXX municipal archives, the XXXX municipal archives, and the XXXX municipal archives with no explanation (you have to ask permission, and it is up to our discretion was all I was told)*
- 65. In XXXX, no permission is needed to access their materials, but permission is needed to print them. Before Chinese New Year, 2014, about 80% of my printing requests were accepted. After Chinese New Year, 2014, only about 30% were.*
- 66. The archive director insisted that the requested item was irrelevant to my research topic.*
- 67. Limited access to XXXX archives, in contrast to full access to XXXX library and XXXX library, XXXX, Beijing*
- 68. This, too, is extremely common; sometimes materials that are listed in the finding guide are not available, other times it is clear that an archive or library holds substantial materials that are not even listed in the finding guide.*
- 69. Some materials on my research area were not made available to me at public archives.*
- 70. Denied access to XXXX materials at both XXXX Library and the XXXX Library.*
- 71. This was at XXXX University archive. I asked a friend who studied there for help. We were able to get a catalogue of the archives from the year of 1957, but weren't able to secure any document when making further requests.*
- 72. Only listing the most recent incident, but this is a fairly common occurrence across archives that I have used. The excuses range from that particular material involves personal information, is currently being reprocessed (or digitized), etc. Most frequently, however, no explanation is provided, only that that someone higher up did not permit access. Such experiences also apply to duplication of archival materials. In many instances what one is allowed to view cannot be printed or photocopied. Again, the explanations are often absent or inconsistent with stated policy.*
- 73. I visited the XXXX Municipal Library (where I have worked extensively) to revisit materials on land reform and economic reforms in the 1980s and 1990s, including local magazines, government circulars, etc. I was told these materials are unavailable now.*
- 74. To be honest, this has happened to me many times the entire time I have been doing research in China. Many times I am told outright that I cannot access materials. I think it frequently is less of a policy of denial and more dependent on the attitude of the specific librarian or archivist I am*

dealing with.

75. *Denied access to specific documents related to YYYY within the XXXX.*
76. *I was told that several archival files I had accessed on earlier research trips were no longer publicly accessible.*
77. *Only digital copies of periodicals made available despite request to see originals. Problems may arise when digital versions are incomplete.*
78. *Denied access to specific materials related to a certain ethnic minority group. Other materials in same provincial library were not a problem. Very selective denial of access.*
79. *At the XXXX, I requested materials based on a full citation in a Chinese language article. They refused to show me those materials and/or claimed they did not exist and the citation was wrong. Chinese scholars tell me this is common: that items cited by a prominent scholar then often "disappear."*
80. *In XXXX, basically all foreign language materials are not opened and cannot be used*
81. *I couldn't have access to newspapers from the years 1966 to 1968,*
82. *Denied access to any files originating after October 1, 1949 at the XXXX Provincial archives.*
83. *Again, this occurred before 2008. In 200X, I wanted to access a variety of materials related to a particular region and district at the XXXX. I was told that there was no catalog and I would have to already know the name of the exact document to access it.*
84. *It happened at XXXX Library that I could not access to certain magazines because they were "being digitized." When I was doing research at the XXXX Municipal Archive in 2017, I noticed that it became more strict to get copies of documents, comparing to 2013, for example. In this case, I was not "denied" to access documents, but they made the waiting days longer to get the requested copies (can't remember, three to four working days) - not always easy if the trip is short.*

4. Indications of Sensitivity from the Chinese Government

Among our respondents, about 18% responded that they had received some direct indication from the Chinese government that their research is sensitive; another 13% felt they “maybe” had received some indication. Below are the full, de-identified descriptions of these communications gathered in the open-ended response options. We have lightly edited the responses to prevent experiences from being attributed to individual researchers.

1. *Questions received during post-talk Q&As by Chinese nationals and scholars from Mainland China referencing XXXX issues, pressing for release of materials to Mainland institutions. Also noted unauthorized photography of my PowerPoint slides (often containing copyrighted image material or visuals otherwise not available to the public), even after asking participants to refrain from this.*
2. *Local agencies have often changed their position on support or ability to assist with research. Particular events or new political campaigns are sometimes cited as the reason; or just general postponement of previously agreed upon support. Local Public Security bureau have followed up on filming activities (even when arranged with local CCP representatives), likely because informed by others in the community. Conferences have been renamed or relocated to be categorized as 'unofficial' (particularly on XXXX relations). Questions about need to see certain documents could be result of political concerns or local anxiety that they may be politically responsible if they give access. It is never clear when documents are said to be unavailable if this is political reason or documents really aren't circulating.*
3. *A conference which I organised in XXXX [conference name omitted to protect anonymity] and for which I received a contribution from the local Confucius Institute were very meticulous in their questions about the conference's ulterior motives. In the end Confucius was satisfied that there were none.*
4. *I would rather not go into details.*
5. *I have done fieldwork on XXXX. The officials told me that I should be careful about how I write my arguments, not to say anything derogatory of the state since this is a political sensitive topic.*
6. *China doesn't like the research we focus on. Because it refutes the lies, shams that the Chinese government wishes to educate/ make believe the world.*
7. *Chinese academics have told me that. Moreover, I have experienced that certain materials are restricted.*
8. *We know our work is politically sensitive because of objections from the Chinese government to certain participants or topics of discussion at our conferences.*

9. *I've heard through the grapevine that my research is considered politically sensitive by Chinese officials.*
10. *My XXXX was contacted by the secret police, warning me against interviewing someone for my dissertation project.*
11. *I was challenged at a conference as to how I gained permission to do a piece of research, who authorised it, which institution I had worked with etc. It was rather intimidating.*
12.
 1. *asked if I would meet with State Security agents*
 2. *told to leave a conference that was about a sensitive topic*
 3. *had research temporarily stopped*
 4. *had colleagues in China threatened about my research*
13. *I have heard from people not directly involved with my research that it may be politically sensitive, but have never had any immediate indications from research contacts or respondents that it is.*
14. *The topics are not prohibited but I myself did not experience any dangerous situation or censorship.*
15. *I have been told privately by government officials and archive employees that elements of my research were too sensitive but I was circumspect in undertaking research and was never barred from an archive. Any restrictions on access to documents that I encountered were the result of general policy and not, as far as I could tell, directed at me specifically because of my research topic.*
16. *I have encountered resistance from archive officials at provincial-level and county-level archives, especially in XXXX China, when I visited their archives and attempted to use them for historical research related to nineteenth-century history. But it is always difficult to determine if their resistance is because: (a) they think my research topic is sensitive; (b) they know I'm a foreigner and therefore think that whatever research I do is sensitive; (c) my presence is merely an unexpected inconvenience which will require them to do more work; or (d) some combination of the above. I have never been told directly that my research topic is sensitive. However, I have been told that some portions of archival collections are simply off limits to me.*
17. *XXXX fieldwork was in a Chinese XXXX village*
18. *A friend in a central leadership organ told me my book contained "many new ideas that many colleagues in China would find hard to accept," but she still tried to arrange for translation and publication in China.*

19. *My work on XXXX was difficult to conduct because of PRC influence; also I've been told that at a leading research institution in the PRC my research is considered 'critical'*
20. *XXXX*
21. *Archival staff have informed me that my topic concerns a sensitive period of modern Chinese history.*
22. *My student doing fieldwork in XXXX was questioned by the public security. He was asked to submit his questionnaire and interview guide. They also asked him who was his PhD thesis supervisor.*
23. *I have been pulled aside by various officials and told about the sensitive nature of the work, in part to explain why I could not read/access particular documents/people. But I have been able to do research, so clearly there are mixed opinions about the sensitive nature of the research among officials.*
24. *Strange visa number after writing critical article on China. (Visa number triggered a second check by local public security.)*
25. *State security officials summoned some collaborators of mine to ask about my work.*
26. *Three examples: 1. I requested and received copies of YYYY at XXXX in the 1990s, but when one of the administrators realized that the journal was for internal use only, I had to return all my copies. 2. I was not allowed to get copies from the ZZZZ Archives because I am a foreigner. 3. When I visited the territory of the former AAAA mission in BBBB and CCCC in the late 1990s, I was interrogated for a day at the Public Security Bureau (Gong'anju), had to translate my notes into Chinese, then my colleague had to translate my notes into Chinese.*
27. *Friends from the Chinese government warned me about conducting my research in China, especially as a professor of a foreign university.*
28. *Not being given visas.*
29. *I was advised to only discuss "contributions" rather than past political problems during an interview.*

30. *I have been urged by Chinese editors to be mindful that things published in China will need to make it through state sanction. I'm not sure if the specifics of the warnings were made explicit or implicit to the editor before being passed on to me. I've also had feedback from colleagues in China that my personal website (which I use professionally) was blocked. However, the blocking does not seem to be consistent across time/space.*
31. *My publications in China have been censored.*
32. *Archives/libraries closed for my kind of work.*
33. *My survey partner was told that administering our survey was not "convenient" at this time. when we asked later, we were also told it was not convenient. we did not administer the survey, and my partner's institute was closed down a few months later.*
34. *in my XXXX research, interviewees would tell me that they would only talk to me if I planned to present China in a "good light", and not like the US media. and especially during sensitive times, like Olympics and after the 2008 earthquake, it was really hard to get any XXXX to talk to me.*
35. *post-2015, I have had a hard time talking to any local government officials, even in the XXXX which are usually the most open to Westerners, and they've told me that the pressure (risk) is too high right not to draw attention to yourself by talking with a Western researcher.*
36. *In 1989 the Foreign Affairs officer of XXXX University confiscated genealogical materials I had collected. This was in the context of the YYYY demonstrations when it was good to be tough on foreigners.*
37. *Extra vetting of a workshop and denial of visa to a participant*
38. *I was helped with my research by the Foreign Affairs Office in XXXX for YY years. I was introduced to local government officials for free and to local scholars. After that I had to arrange my research on my own because the city would no longer help me.*
39. *Also, after 2004 a couple people I've worked with have been interrogated by the local security officials.*
40. *But I was never stopped in any way from doing my own work.*
41. *... feedback from my newspaper columns*

42. *During one trip for field research, I had local police officers come to my hotel room every night to check my passport. The hotel already had filed my passport with the local police department, so this appeared to be an extra step to send some sort of a signal.*
43. *negative comments by high-level officials*
44. *negative comments in Chinese press*
45. *Chinese colleagues asked to discuss whether I am hostile to China*
46. *Some changes were made when one of my books was translated into Chinese. In a volume I edited some articles were left out in the Chinese edition.*
47. *Informants have told me to change research subject. It is generally people that I want to interview that either decline interview on this ground or that more explicitly tell to change subject*
48. *I have also been indirectly told to back off. Once, the security bureau (anquan ju) told a Chinese colleague of mine to tell me to stay away from a case to study (protests in relation to an incineration plant)*
49. *verbal warnings*
50. *I have to submit my interview outlines before I start my fieldwork as requested by government officials.*
51. *Questions about research asked to Chinese assistant; non-publication of conference papers submitted by or before deadline; cancellation of interpretation for conference paper*
52. *Analysis of sensitive documents from XXXX was not allowed to be published.*
53. *A few incidents outside China, do not want to elaborate.*
54. *My own research was not censored or constrained, and I was not stopped directly, but more well-known professors who I worked with were barred from labor conferences that I attended, and the local Chinese people I worked with and who were directly engaged in the topic of my research were subject to repressive measures*
55. *contact with Public Security while in PRC*
56. *interview with officials with their remark that this topic could be sensitive*

57. *A short piece that was translated and posted on a PRC web site was taken down. When I inquired I was told it was probably too sensitive.*
58. *I've met with XXXXX who were being monitored/under house arrest. I'm fairly certain my emails to them have been read.*
59. *The most regular indications received are denials of requests to access archival materials or indexes to same, as well as library materials.*
60. *Combative line of questioning after from a XXXXX reporter attending after I had presented a paper at a niche academic conference in YYYY [non-Chinese location]*
61. *Topics like censorship have been a hush-hush issue in China. Based on the (mis)treatment Chinese dissidents/activists/outspoken scholars receive, I consider my research topics sensitive. Meanwhile, there are no direct rules prohibiting scholars from doing research on this area. It is an ambivalent subject, probably designed in a deliberate way, to encourage self-censorship and over-censorship among scholars.*
62. *I have been briefly detained by police in XXXXX about a half dozen times*
63. *It has been indicated to me that local governments will worry about what I find within their localities and that I should frame my research in terms that centre on urbanisation and family, so in terms that would not be construed as pertaining to government or politics.*
64. *I study XXXXX, which is not a subject Chinese media can openly comment. So, I suppose it's somewhat sensitive.*
65. *I have interviewed local officials, asking the same questions in different regions. In some regions, local officials responded without a problem, but in other regions local officials would say that the same information was "min'gan" and therefore they would not share it with me.*

66. *Chinese friends who I have visited with in a non-research related capacity, but during research trips, have been asked by investigators what I am doing. eg, I know that while "having tea" with PSB, friends have been asked about me. Honestly for the most part, they seem to dismiss my work or influence once they figure out that my research is historical and that my friends don't in fact know that much about what I am doing. Some of these friends are artists or lawyers, so I think that they and their Chinese circles are more the topic of discussion than anything I am doing, but I know that my work has come up.*
67. *Also, a conference refused to import English language copies of my recent book because it was a "potentially sensitive topic" - but, I also have a Chinese publisher working on the text, so those facts seem to counter-balance each other.*
68. *Papers about XXXX have been perceived to be sensitive. Papers about lack of impacts of XXXX have been perceived to be sensitive.*
69. *I am not sure what direct indication means. I have been told by colleagues at Chinese Universities that my research question is sensitive and that getting approval was difficult. I have been told by local officials that a question was a bit sensitive.*
70. *My laptop was stolen from the XXXX guest hostel while I was sleeping next to it. They stole only the laptop, not my mobile phone, passport, printer, etc.*
71. *Publication that was translated into Chinese for a university scholarly journal was never published.*
72. *In 2004, I was unable to get a foreign researcher visa before I left for China, and it was made clear to me that while I could enter the country on a tourist visa and get a foreign scholars visa in the country, I almost was refused a visa altogether.*
73. *Once I got to China, I was allowed to look at the card catalog of a municipal archive, and then when I returned to request those documents, I was not allowed to see any of them because those parts of the catalog were "at the bindery".*
74. *In addition, when I went to the public library to look at open source documents from before 1949, I was denied access to those materials because my research project, which was set entirely before 1949, was "too sensitive."*
75. *In 20XX I released a paper on China's YYYY. Both my co-author and I started receiving massive denial of service attacks on our personal and organizational website immediately after the paper was publicly released. We believe that these attacks came from China.*

76. *Visits by police to hotel to check visa.*
77. *Between 20XX and 20YY, I was able to visit local field sites and interview officials and citizens and/ or visit local archives through the normal routes (introduction letters from known scholars or institutions, connections through other officials, etc). After 20YY (or so), this became more difficult, and after 2012 nearly impossible. I say "maybe/ unsure" because I have never been sanctioned by the Chinese government or officially prohibited from doing research, but local officials clearly signal that they are uncomfortable meeting me (or even having me visit their county or district) because of political sensitivity, even officials I have been in contact with for ten + years.*
78. *I've received death threats on Twitter, threat of abduction from a third country back to China; my name has come up in police interrogations of Chinese citizens in China.*
79. *Use of some document was "internal." Most of my work was not seen as sensitive.*
80. *Chinese government asking colleagues about the work I'm doing.*
81. *Some of my articles have been translated into Chinese and published in Chinese academic journals; most of these have been censored, usually only lightly, and have been published with my assent.*
82. *Archives are not open to foreigners in the region for post 1949.*
83. *I always have difficulty accessing documents in archives and repositories on the grounds that the topics are sensitive. Individual archivists have always helped me overcome their political administration colleagues' objections but it's quite laborious for all parties concerned.*
84. *For instance, I once was asked to present on an alternative subject at a public Confucius Institute-sponsored conference. But the director backed down when I refused.*
85. *verbal indications that these are dangerous areas*
86. *I was not allowed to enter the archives, as the issue of ethnic minority history was very sensitive when I was doing my field work.*
87. *Many of my interviewees were sensitive about the topics as well.*
88. *I get hints about what is and is not feasible.*

89. *from a state journal, not quite the Chinese govt?*
90. *I had tremendous difficulty getting party officials to talk with me during research trips to China in 201X and 201Y. I wouldn't have thought that the research was particularly sensitive, indeed, I would have wanted them to tout their success in promoting better XXXX standards and outcomes, but very, very few would agree to meet with me.*
91. *I was denied an entry permit to XXXX region in 20YY.*
92. *Comments from academic colleagues in China that research is sensitive*
93. *Some informal indications, but no formal direct statement.*
94. *Sometimes they allow me to see things I request at archives; sometimes they don't. We never get an explanation.*
95. *Doing research in a XXXX region I was followed rather obviously, photographed without permission, and my luggage was searched. I also received telephone calls designed to find out where I was.*
96. *Some of my invited book chapters in Chinese (or Chinese translation) to be published by Chinese academic publishers were denied publication (taken out from the book) with the reason given that : "The facts (meaning data and interpretations) presented in this chapter manuscript are different (or deviate) from the facts (or reality) that we know of (in China).*
97. *An official in a casual setting mentioned it was sensitive.*
98. *These messages were conveyed by my research collaborators who partly work for party state research institutions.*
99. *I was told it had been reviewed by various agencies, including those related to foreign policy and intelligence.*
100. *On a few occasions, my requests for visits or interviews were denied because they were "inconvenient." I did not know whether that was true or not.*
101. *I have been told that a colleague in China seeking authorization to translate a book of mine could not get it, due to my having published on sensitive subjects (the book was not on one but my previous ones were)*

102. *My collaborator would encourage me not to stay away from anti-establishment camps*
103. *Chinese academic and local government official declined to be interviewed because the topic was too sensitive*
104. *Since last year I have to submit (in Chinese) the content of my talks; XXXX topics are very sensitive*
105. *I did research on a border and was warned not to get too nosy at the border. I was also told that I was constantly followed*
106. *Via a colleague, I've been warned that my current research project is under the surveillance of the PSB.*
107. *Statements by the Chinese government about human rights (particularly civil and political rights) and certain aspects of criminal justice indicate that these areas are very sensitive. But no one has told me to my face that my work is.*
108. *don't know*
109. - *Exploratory fieldwork in 2012 in a rural county. Local leaders, "randomly" met through a local business, invite me for a 1-day tour of the newly-built facilities and touristic views. I guess I was under observation. Then stopped all contact the next day.*
- *Non-Chinese contacts in XXXX or in YYYY are sometimes ill at ease talking about Chinese digital surveillance over the phone or Wechat ("don't talk about that here"). Particularly in business contexts. Much more than Chinese contacts who will express it in more straightforward/natural ways ("yes there is surveillance, so what").*
110. *In 19XX, I was unable to obtain a 3-month extension on my research visa at the end of a year affiliated to the regional branch of YYYY. This was because some serious separatist incidents had occurred in south ZZZZ in the months preceding.*
111. *I discuss company strategies in the Chinese market and local government's treatment of different national origin of FDI. Both foreign and Chinese sides speak often my questions are sensitive to answer, but not sure whether any of them report to the higher-up.*
112. *in teaching, as science is a sensitive topic as is modernity*
113. *I have lots of academic and government contacts, so sensitivity issue is part of normal discussions*

114. *The Chinese government is run by a party and its agents, all of whom are implicated in the crimes of the land revolution, the great leap forward and its famine, the cultural revolution, the Tiananmen repression, and on and on. It wants to cover up its past, and to present the present in terms of the lies it has made up about its abusive history. I study XXXX. The government does not want this tabooed topic opened up, and has moved to make it more difficult to study it in the past five years. I know how to cope with this suppression, but most scholars, especially younger ones, do not.*
115. *One of my articles was among those recently censored at the behest of Chinese govt importers in Cambridge University Press publications.*
116. *Have been emailed by Chinese scholars regarding my research. No other indication.*
117. *I have not received any direction for Chinese authorities, but they have shown a keen interest in what I do.*
118. *I've been told by interviewees and third parties that it is sensitive. I also have enough experience to determine on my own whether or not it is sensitive.*
119. *In 20AA-20BB, was interviewed by persons associated with the XXXX Office, YYYY government, and ZZZZ government to establish whether I am friendly to China. No follow up since that time.*
120. *Odd interactions with visiting academics and delegations.*
121. *Can't get a visa*
122. *my lectures are monitored in China*
123. *limited access to sources*
124. *Indications from interviewees/ interlocutors that certain subjects should not be discussed/ addressed.*
125. *My work has been attacked openly as harboring a "splittist" and "neo-imperialist" agenda by scholars publishing in prominent academic venues with close government sponsorship.*
126. *inability to get a paper published in mainland*
127. *Information through our partner organisation in China*

128. *Advised that it is incompatible with my current status as a resident foreign lawyer.*
129. *I have received indications but am not sure whether you would count them as direct. Numerous interlocutors have described to me, most recently about a week ago, how they were asked in detail about their interaction with me during 'chats' with the police (guobao and criminal investigation officers, possible guo'an), sometimes in detention or 'soft detention' settings. Some years back, while i was working in another institution, a research associate of Chinese nationality was subjected to detailed and intimidating questioning about me, my work, and the institution I was co-directing by guo'an police. Nearly ten years ago I was briefly informally detained while researching XXXX; on this occasion the police wanted our pictures but we refused to relinquish them. On several occasions, the police was visible monitoring interlocutors/ myself, sometimes filming them/ us. However, despite the YYYY focus of my work I have never been refused a visa or troubled at the border or told to be more cautious. -- Generally, I do not seek interaction with officials, especially not the police.*
130. *My research seemed to have been flagged as sensitive by some of the administration of the university with which I was affiliated based on a number of off hand comments, though this seems to have been largely because I was interviewing elite actors.*
131. *As the science and technology environment has become more politically sensitive, some informants have told me its problematic for them to be in contact with foreigners, and seem to have potentially been pressured to cut off contact.*
132. *Not to make critical comments on Chinese government in overseas media*
133. *My primary research focus is XXXX and XXXX cultural areas. The Chinese government have refused a visa for me to research trips and conference participation, despite having an invitation from academic institutions in China.*
134. *I am pretty sure that in XXXX while I was giving a speech at a history conference at YYYY that the PSB folks had a plant in the audience. You can always tell them by their distinctive flat top hairstyle--this guy was probably old school. I kept watching his face, but I guess I said the right things.*
135. *I was denied a visiting position at a university. When I gave talks in XXXX, I was asked to avoid certain topics and terms. (These restrictions were not in place in AAAA or BBBB.)*
136. *I have been approached by police while conducting interviews at the site of a protest and taken to a police station to answer questions.*

137. *Separate conversations with two different Chinese officials*
138. *Two instances come to mind: (1) My research group was asked by county officials to leave our research site in rural China in 20XX. (2) A provincial-level research university declined to sponsor my visa application in 20YY. They did not directly say that it was because of the sensitivity of the research, but I believe that to be the case.*
139. *officials telling me not to ask 'political' questions*
140. *Being directly told "this is sensitive" by government officials (and many others)*
141. *I have been followed by members of the local anquan ju (most likely provincial or below level) in the course of my fieldwork. They tracked me 24-7, including parking outside my hotel and using a video camera to film me whenever I left the hotel. This had major impacts on my ability to conduct fieldwork and subsequent to my discovery that I was being tracked, I did not approach any Chinese interlocutors. I abandoned my fieldwork, and they followed me to the airport where I flew back to Beijing.*
142. *Interviewed by police and asked to leave a research site.*
143. *Contact by PRC diplomats and security services after BBC website article on XXXX.*
144. *I used to work mainly on XXXX and have been interviewed by the police fairly often.*
145. *Blocked access to databases and records offices.*
146. *surveillance at the field sites.*
147. *harassment by police and national security agents.*
148. *Failed collaboration with Chinese academic institutions.*
149. *I was told by a third party that I was being watched (circa 20XX). Nothing really specific.*
150. *I had a strange encounter in XXXX once, having "tea" with government officials, but it was a civilized encounter. Nothing specific happened after that.*
151. *I was warned by Google (circa 20XX) that a "foreign entity" was attempting to compromise my account*

152. *I was invited to chat where I was informed that I was not welcome to conduct research in a county, and was sent on my way.*
153. *Ambassador suggested I do not organise events on XXXX and YYYY [geographic areas]*
154. *interrogated several times*
155. *Massive public criticism in Chinese state media of institutional and personal research publications and media statements*
156. *My article on Han and XXXX mobility in YYYY was approved for publication by editors of a Chinese journal [name omitted for anonymity] but the article was censored by the AAAA Commission of BBBB Province as 'stirring up ethnic tensions' and withdrawn from publication.*
157. *I have been turned away from a number of research location by security personnel. I was also prevented from living in certain parts of XXXX [city] by police and housing authorities.*
158. *I have interacted with the State Security Bureau and police directly and indirectly during my doctoral research as well as subsequently.*
159. *At the XXXX Municipal Archives, an archivist was assigned to vet every file I requested before I could see it. An undercover PSB officer was offered to me as a research assistant. Informants were questioned after speaking to me.*
160. *During trip to Beijing, members of the Foreign Ministry told me they were unhappy with something I had written. And complained to member of US embassy staff*
161. *I've been blacklisted since 2003 as one of the contributors to the Starr volume on Xinjiang.*
162. *interviewed by police, motivations questioned*
163. *On one occasion I was encouraged to quit my research completely. On another occasion I was forced to delete survey data I had collected over one year of research in order to protect a Chinese colleague whose supervisor warned him against the research.*
164. *On other occasions I have been blocked informally from conducting field studies.*

165. *Reticence, reluctance to provide requested archival material. Word of mouth conveyed by personnel in library/archives of some hesitation in providing complete set of services.*
166. *I don't want to describe it.*
167. *I was questioned by Chinese police while interviewing and observing a protest demonstration. The police called my sponsoring institution and they declined to process my subsequent request to affiliate as a visiting researcher (on a different visa).*
168. *I have been told directly by Chinese government officials, scholars, and local people that it is sensitive.*
169. *being asked to drink a cup of tea.*
170. *I've been told so.*
171. *My research has been monitored by the Chinese government.*
172. *I was summoned for an interview with the state security apparatus (guo'an, not gong'an) in XXXX in 20AA. After some negotiations involving my local research partners, my colleague could go instead, to 'represent' me. It was made clear to him that all my publications are being screened for sensitive issues (mostly critical reporting or evaluation of political authorities in China or their conduct), and that they will be in the future. "We do not want to see anything critical written about your field sites" (pointing to the cities and provinces where I did/do my field research). Should I have anything to say in particular about local authorities, or any suggestions for policy improvement, it was said, I should better report that to the Chinese authorities directly, instead of publishing it in academic channels. What obviously played a role was also that I have some Chinese publications and that some of my English language publications were translated into Chinese and circulated online. So, the potential "multiplication" effect in China/among Chinese was clearly an issue.*
173. *Being warned and questioned*
174. *I have had "minders", bureaucrats and party members, who follow closely my research and who have informed me periodically about the sensitivity of my research questions. I've also met with state security agents at their behest/ request.*
175. *Typically embassy officials and my Chinese colleagues will describe myself or my work as 'dangerous'*

176. *I work on XXXX. My Chinese counterparts in China tell me that my research is sensitive.*