Becoming Activists in Global China

*Becoming Activists in Global China* is the first purely sociological study of the religious movement Falun Gong and its resistance to the Chinese state. The literature on Chinese protest has intensively studied the 1989 democracy movement while largely ignoring opposition by the Falun Gong, even though the latter has been more enduring. This comparative study explains why the Falun Gong protest took off in diaspora and the democracy movement did not. Using multiple methods, *Becoming Activists in Global China* explains how Falun Gong’s roots in proselytizing and its ethic of volunteerism provided the launch pad for its political mobilization. Simultaneously, diaspora democracy activists adopted practices that effectively discouraged grassroots participation. The study also shows how the policy goal of eliminating Falun Gong helped shape today’s security-focused Chinese state. Explaining the Falun Gong’s two decades of protest illuminates a suppressed piece of Chinese contemporary history and advances our knowledge of how religious and political movements intersect.

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Becoming Activists in Global China

Social Movements in the Chinese Diaspora

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Acknowledgments

This volume certainly would never have made it to publication without several key people. First on that list is my Yale advisor and friend, Julia Adams, who not only provided intellectual guidance, but also insisted over and over again that I press on until the book is published. I would like also to thank Yale sociology faculty Deborah Davis, Philip Gorski, and Jeffrey Alexander. A special thank you is due to Roberto Franzosi at Emory University for his tireless help in adapting PC-ACE to use with my materials. The book was primarily researched and written while I was at Yale as a graduate student and at the University of Chicago when I was a member of the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts. I am grateful to many colleagues, professors, and mentors at Yale and the University of Chicago who read and provided feedback on earlier drafts of this work. While at Yale, I received generous support from the Council on East Asian Studies MacMillan Center, a John F. Enders Fellowship from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and a Camp Grant from the Department of Sociology. In addition, I am grateful to the National Science Foundation for a Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (#0961624) from the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics (MMS) Program in 2010. While at Chicago, I also received two grants for research in Hong Kong from the University of Chicago Center in Hong Kong. Several research assistants both at Yale and at the University of Chicago helped at various stages of this project, to each of whom I am grateful. Dan put in an enormous number of hours coding. Thanks also to Jack for sending me the ten yuan “truth currency” reproduced in Chapter 5. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to my parents, whose support and encouragement were, and remain, invaluable.