

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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Social Movements in the Chinese Diaspora

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-71601-7 — Becoming Activists in Global China
 Andrew Junker
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108716017
 DOI: 10.1017/9781108685382

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First published 2019
 First paperback edition 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

NAMES: Junker, Andrew, author.

TITLE: Making activists in global China : transnational mobilization in the Falun Gong and the Chinese democracy movement / Andrew Junker.

OTHER TITLES: Sacred and secular protest in the Chinese diaspora

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2019. | Revision of author's thesis (doctoral) – Yale University, 2012, titled Sacred and secular protest in the Chinese diaspora : Falun Gong and the Chinese democracy movement. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2018051974 | ISBN 9781108482998 (alk. paper)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Social movements – China. | Protest movements – China. | Democratization – China. | Transnationalism – Political aspects – China. | Chinese – Political activity – Foreign countries. | China – Politics and government – 1976–2002. | China – Politics and government – 2002– | Falun Gong (Organization) | China – History – Tiananmen Square Incident, 1989.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC HN733.5 .J85 2019 | DDC 303.48/40951–dc23
 LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018051974>

ISBN 978-1-108-48299-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-71601-7 Paperback

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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.