

## Statistics and the Language of Global Health

Yi-Tang Lin presents the historical process by which statistics became the language of global health for local and international health organizations. Drawing on archival material from three continents, this study investigates efforts by public health schools, philanthropic foundations, and international organizations to turn numbers into an international language for public health. Lin shows how these initiatives produced an international network of public health experts who, across various socioeconomic and political contexts, opted for different strategies when it came to setting global standards and translating local realities into numbers. Focusing on China and Taiwan between 1917 and 1960, Lin examines the reception, adaptation, and appropriation of international health statistics. She presents the dynamic interplay between numbers, experts, and policy-making in international health organizations and administrations in China and Taiwan. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Yi-Tang Lin is a Swiss National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the University of Geneva and a visiting scholar at the Harvard Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies for 2021–22.

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# Statistics and the Language of Global Health

*Institutions and Experts in China,  
Taiwan, and the World, 1917–1960*

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Yi-Tang Lin

*University of Geneva*



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For my parents,  
Chen Ying and Lin Kuo-Ching

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## Note on Language

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This book uses the pinyin romanization system. The historical romanizations used in original sources are provided upon first mention in each chapter. Alternative forms are used for the following: (1) historical figures who are widely known under a different romanization (e.g. Sun Yat-Sen, Chiang Kai-Shek); (2) Taiwanese places; and (3) contemporary scholars, whose names are romanized according to their preference.

### **Cited Works**

Historical publications in Chinese are romanized using pinyin. Author names for English-language publications are cited in their original forms. Journals in Chinese are cited in pinyin alongside their official translations.

A glossary of Chinese individuals and organizations is provided at the end of this book.

Abbreviations

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AICP	Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor
APHA	American Public Health Association
BCG	Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (vaccine)
CCMC	Committee on the Costs of Medical Care
CFHS	Central Field Health Station
DALY	Disability-Adjusted Life Year
GMEP	Global Malaria Eradication Program
ICA	International Cooperation Administration
ICD	International List of Causes of Death/International Classification of Diseases
IHB	International Health Board
IHD	International Health Division
ISI	International Statistical Institute
JCRR	Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction
JHSPH	Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
LNHO	League of Nations Health Organization
MEM	Mass Education Movement
NHA	National Health Administration
OIHP	Office international d’hygiène publique
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PFHS	Peking First Health Station
PRC	People’s Republic of China
PUMC	Peking Union Medical College
ROC	Republic of China
TMRI	Taiwan Malaria Research Institute
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
USPHS	United States Public Health Service
WHO	World Health Organization
WHOIC	World Health Organization Interim Commission