

Jackson/Ho China-East Asia Forum
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Unrest in Rural China: A Ticking Time Bomb?

Bio of Dr. Kevin O'Brien



Kevin O'Brien currently is the Alann P. Bedford Chair of Political Science and Chair, Center for Chinese Studies at the department of Political Science at UC Berkeley. Dr. O'Brien received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1987. Professor O'Brien's research focuses on Chinese politics in the reform era. His most recent work centers on theories of popular contention, particularly the origins, dynamics and outcomes of "rightful resistance" in rural China. He is the author of *Reform Without Liberalization: China's National People's Congress and the Politics of Institutional*

Change, as well as articles on legislative politics, local elections, and village political reform. Recent publications include "Selective Policy Implementation in Rural China," in *Comparative Politics*; "Neither Transgressive nor Contained: Boundary Spanning Contention in China," in *Mobilization*, and "Popular Contention and Its Impact in Rural China," in *Comparative Political Studies*. This last article was a co-winner of the Sage Award for Best Paper in Comparative Politics delivered at the 2004 American Political Science Association Meeting. He is also the co-editor of a book entitled *Engaging the Law in China: State, Society and Possibilities for Justice* (Stanford, 2005). A new book, with his long-time collaborator, Lianjiang Li, was published by Cambridge University Press in early 2006. It is called *Rightful Resistance in Rural China*.

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