

Science, Modernization, and Nationalism:
Chinese American Scientists in Reform Era China

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Abstract: Chinese American scientists have played a key role in the shaping of Chinese science and technology policy and in the discourse on modernization in China since the re-opening of its relations with the United States in the early 1970s. This paper examines the experiences, influences, and perceptions of Chinese American scientists in China, with a focus on the early reform era from the reestablishment of US-China diplomatic relations in 1979 to the Tiananmen tragedy of 1989. It argues that in their promotion of modernization in China, Chinese American scientists both capitalized and reinforced their image as transnational agents of modernity and Chinese cultural nationalism.

Zuoyue Wang is a professor of history at the California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, specializing in modern science and technology in US and China. Born in China and originally trained in physics, he is the author of *In Sputnik's Shadow: The President's Science Advisory Committee and Cold War America* (Rutgers University Press in 2008 in English and Peking University Press in 2011 in Chinese). He is currently conducting research on a transnational history of Chinese American scientists and engineers during the Cold War with partial support from the National Science Foundation. He shared the History of Science Society's Price/Webster Prize in 2003 and is a member of its council for 2012-2014. In 2008-2009 he was the Hixon-Riggs visiting professor in science, technology, and society at Harvey Mudd College. He has been a visiting scholar at the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing and has served on the editorial boards of *Isis* and several other journals in the US and China.