



Thursday

January 13, 2022

3:30 - 5:00 pm PT

Online Event

Book Talk with

Professor Shelley Rigger

RSVP



# *The Tiger Leading the Dragon*

## *How Taiwan Propelled China's Economic Rise*

How did the once-secretive, isolated People's Republic of China become the factory to the world? Shelley Rigger convincingly demonstrates that the answer is Taiwan. She follows the evolution of Taiwan's influence from the period when Deng Xiaoping lifted Mao's prohibitions on business in the late 1970s, allowing investors from Taiwan to collaborate with local officials in the PRC to transform mainland China into a manufacturing powerhouse. After World War II, Taiwan's fleet-footed export-oriented manufacturing firms became essential links in global supply chains. In the late 1980s, Taiwanese firms seized the opportunity to lower production costs by moving to the PRC, which was seeking foreign investment to fuel its industrial rise. Within a few years, Taiwan's traditional manufacturing had largely relocated to the PRC, opening space for a wave of new business creation in information technology. *The Tiger Leading the Dragon* traces the development of the cross-Taiwan Strait economic relationship and explores how Taiwanese firms and individuals transformed Chinese business practices. It also reveals their contributions to Chinese consumer behavior, philanthropy, religion, popular culture, and law.

Shelley Rigger is the Brown Professor of Political Science at Davidson College. Her research studies the effects of cross-strait economic interactions on Taiwan people's perceptions of mainland China, and on U.S. interest in Taiwan. Professor Rigger is the author of *Why Taiwan Matters: Small Island, Global Powerhouse*, as well as *Politics in Taiwan: Voting for Democracy and From Opposition to Power: Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party*. Rigger's monograph, "*Taiwan's Rising Rationalism: Generations, Politics, and 'Taiwan Nationalism'*" was published by the East West Center in Washington.