

Acknowledgments

Since I left China for graduate school 10 years ago to study international relations, I keep pondering how the world understands my home country and how China can contribute to global common goods. Hence, my initial motivation for this research is to understand China's interaction with the rest of the world. From the very beginning, I decided to focus on environmental sustainability, as I believe this is the most critical challenge that our world faces in the twenty-first century. I have found a strong interest in governance at the transnational level gradually building, in which China's involvement should be important but has yet to receive sufficient scholarly attention.

But finishing this book has been a long journey filled with joy and frustration. I am lucky to have not been alone in this effort. I am tremendously indebted to several mentors who have guided me through this intellectual adventure. Liliana Andonova, my doctoral supervisor and the person who brought me to the field of environmental politics and transnational governance, deserves special thanks for her advice and long-standing support during and after my PhD. She consistently encourages me to think broadly and analyze rigorously. I cannot describe in words how much I have gained from her mentorship. I also owe a debt of gratitude to Thomas Hale for serving as my thesis co-supervisor and having provided critical comments. Tom always reminds me to think about the big picture question on China's role in this changing world, and his comments helped me significantly improve this work. Ben Cashore is another mentor that I thank for his support of this project and suggestions on how to refine my argument. It was my honor to be Ben's postdoc, although for a relatively short time, and to learn from him how to become an outstanding and generous scholar.

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This journey has made me realize that all human endeavors for understanding and changing our world are endless. So, this is not the end but just a new beginning.

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