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## Retrieving the past glory: social memory, transnational networks and Christianity in contemporary China

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# **RETRIEVING THE PAST GLORY**

Social Memory, Transnational Networks and Christianity in  
Contemporary China

**JIFENG LIU**

Front cover illustration: Trinity Church

Photo by Jifeng Liu

Back cover illustration: Gulangyu Island

Photos provided by Zhan Zhaoxia

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# RETRIEVING THE PAST GLORY

Social Memory, Transnational Networks and Christianity in  
Contemporary China

Proefschrift

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op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof.mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,  
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door

Jifeng Liu

geboren te Zoucheng, China in 1984

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sociology. I was definitely an intellectual in his eyes. He implicitly expressed his wish that his life could be recorded. Having been bored with his repeated telling of his story since I was a teenager, I had no interest in his biography at that time. Not until I took up social memory and alternative history as themes in this research did I begin to understand his wish, that is, an ordinary person's history needs to be recorded. Although it is too late, I dedicate this dissertation to my grandfather with a sense of guilt but in the hope that he knows about it.



## A Note on Romanization, Names, Monetary Units and Acronyms

The *pinyin* system of romanization of Mandarin Chinese (*Putonghua*) is used for most Chinese expressions, except when the organization, individual or author is better known under another spelling (for example, *Kuomintang* and John Sung instead of *Guomindang* and Song Shangjie).

I have translated the Chinese names of churches and places into English, since these names are often descriptive. In some cases, it is important to note that urban changes have necessarily brought changes in names or that some of these churches have inherited names from their predecessors. For example, the New District Gospel Church (*Xinqu fuyin tang*), located in Huli district, quite a new administrative district only established in 1987, was said to have been constructed to take the place of the abandoned Gulangyu Gospel Church. In the case of most of the respondents in this research who are Chinese, their names are used in the Chinese order (surname followed by given name). However, when I refer to those Chinese scholars whose publications are in English in the text, their full names will follow the European order (given name precedes surname).

All monetary units in this book appear as Chinese dollars (*yuan*) unless otherwise indicated. While the official renminbi-US dollar exchange rate of 1995 was about 8.33 *yuan* = 1 US dollar, in 2013 it was around 6.15 *yuan* = 1 US dollar.

Frequently used acronyms are as follows:

CCC: China Christian Council

CCP: Chinese Communist Party

CPPCC: Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

GMC: Gulangyu Management Committee

LMS: London Missionary Society

KMC: Kulangsu Municipal Council

KMT: *Kuomintang*, Chinese Nationalist Party

PCE: Presbyterian Church of England

PRC: People's Republic of China

RAB: Religious Affairs Bureau

RCA: Reformed Church in America

TSPM: Three-Self Patriotic Movement

UFWD: United Front Work Department

WHS: World Heritage Site

