

From the World's Manufacturing Factory to the World's Innovation Lab: New Business Trends in China and Implications for Scholarship

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China is in rapid transition from the “world’s manufacturing center” to the “world’s lab of innovation”. Two recent phenomena are particularly noticeable, namely shared economy and integrated e-commerce ecosystem, both of which are enabled by smartphones and reflected by one’s daily life in China. In this presentation, we follow an ordinary resident’s daily routine to examine China’s integrated e-commerce ecosystem spanning from social media for product finding, on-line shopping, e-payment, to express delivery, and to explore China’s shared economy, especially bike-sharing with a focus on ofo, a campus entrepreneurship based in Beijing successfully expanding to Western countries including the U.S. Finally, we summarize the Chinese characteristics of entrepreneurial spirit and explore the macro-economic environment that enables Chinese to pursue various innovations. Our ultimate goal is to discuss the implications of all the new phenomenon in current China and identify possible directions for new education and research in the fields of logistics/supply chain management, and international entrepreneurship.

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