

"Despite the growing volume of Western commentary on the turn to the market in China's media industries, we still know surprisingly little about the impact of change on media work. Jianhua Yao's detailed study of the publishing industry in Shanghai, one of the pivotal nodes in China's knowledge economy, is a notable and welcome exception. Combining available data with questionnaire surveys and personal interviews, he unpicks the consequences of commercialization and globalization for the organization of work places, careers, and everyday lives, and explores the ways workers are responding and resisting. His analysis of the new knowledge precariat is a must-read for anyone interested in the transformation and future of creative labor in China."

—**GRAHAM MURDOCK**, Loughborough University

"China's emergence as a global power has transformed its media sector. Drawing on extensive research, including in-depth interviews, *Knowledge Workers in Contemporary China* provides an indispensable guide to the impact of China's emerging information society on its growing workforce in the creative industries."

—**VINCENT MOSCO**, Queen's University

*Knowledge Workers in Contemporary China: Reform and Resistance in the Publishing Industry* concentrates on the trajectories of the labor process transformation of knowledge workers, mainly editors, in the Chinese publishing industry. This book focuses on their changing social, economic, and political roles, their dilemma, challenges, and opportunities associated with current social reform, and China's integration into the global political economy. At its core, the book addresses three different yet interrelated processes of the political economy of communication in the Chinese publishing industry: commodification, structuration, and spatialization. It further examines whether worker organizations and trade unions are effective in presenting editors' legitimate rights and interests in current publishing reform. Through the political economic analysis of knowledge workers in China's publishing industry, particularly editors, Jianhua Yao attempts to help readers better understand the broader social and economic transformations, specifically the network of power relations and institutional contexts in which Chinese editors are situated, that have been taking place in China since the late 1970s.

**JIANHUA YAO** received his doctoral degree in sociology from Queen's University, Canada and his research interests include political economy, media and communication, and labor issues.

Yao

KNOWLEDGE WORKERS in CONTEMPORARY CHINA

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**REFORM AND RESISTANCE  
IN THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY**

Jianhua Yao



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