March 24, 2016

Dear Students in Shanghai Summer Institute:

I would like to express the warmest welcome to all of you participating in the 2016 Global Study Summer Institute in Shanghai, June 19—July 16, 2016.

As you all know, Shanghai is one of the most exciting and (in more than one way) hottest cities in the entire globe. As being shown in the past, this intensive program will be a rich, fun, and (for many participants) also a transformative experience. You will get to know not only the city of Shanghai but also the ongoing process of globalization from a new perspective, providing that you actively participate in our program and its associated activities. We will emphasize interactive learning, participant observation, sympathetic understanding, and cross-cultural exchange. We will realize these goals by way of formal lectures, seminar discussions, cultural exchange labs, field trips, and mini-research project. The hands-on experience and the intimate knowledge gained by being on scene and living your life the local way will be, as it has been proven so many times, the most memorable part of this program. Please keep in mind that during these weeks you are not a visitor; instead, you will be a Shanghainese or at least try to learn to be a Shanghainese culturally. If you succeed to a certain degree, you will surely see the world a bit differently afterwards.

To take full advantage of the opportunities offered by this program, you need to start preparations even before you travel to Shanghai. For this purpose, we will hold a pre-departure orientation meeting in 11372 Bunche Hall at 4:00-5:30 PM on April 27 (Wed.), 2016. This meeting is very important for the success of your Shanghai experience; please do not miss it. Before you come to the meeting, please check out the course syllabi and other descriptions of the program at the UCLA Travel Study website and make a list of concerns/questions. We will be more than happy to discuss these issues with you during the meeting. I look forward to meeting you all in the orientation meeting.
For some useful information regarding the Travel Study program, such as visa application procedures, travel, local living conditions, etc., please consult the other posted documents on the IEO retrieve.

Please note that the two course readers will be made in Shanghai for much lower cost and be available to you at our local orientation by ECNU host in Shanghai in the morning of June 20 (Monday), 2016.

Best wishes for an unforgettable summer experience!

Sincerely yours,

Yunxiang Yan
Professor of Anthropology