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“Helen Sun details the meticulous methods used by the Chinese Communist Party to monitor China’s Internet communication, particularly at Internet bars. At the same time, she also vividly describes the political energy and democratic discourse unleashed by the Internet, primarily among the younger generation. *Internet Policy in China* provides a vivid picture of momentous political and social changes under way in China today.”

—**Merle Goldman**, emerita, Boston University and research associate
at Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University

“A superb book that achieves its rich analysis of today’s Chinese Internet cafés, politics and policy by reaching deeply through state treatment of information, communication, and culture throughout its history. A necessary primer for understanding contemporary Chinese Internet developments.”

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Internet Policy in China: A Field Study on Internet Cafés examines the forces that have nurtured and frustrated the creation of an e–public sphere in China. In conjunction with this examination, Helen Sun considers the broader issue of the Internet’s true nature: is it inherently decentralizing and democratic, or is it all too dependent on the larger political environment? After describing the Chinese media policymaking and regulatory system, Sun undertakes a revealing study of the country’s Internet cafés, enriched by interviews with café operators—both legal and illegal—and visitors. The insights provided in these interviews paint a fascinating picture of the ever-changing game of China’s Internet censorship.

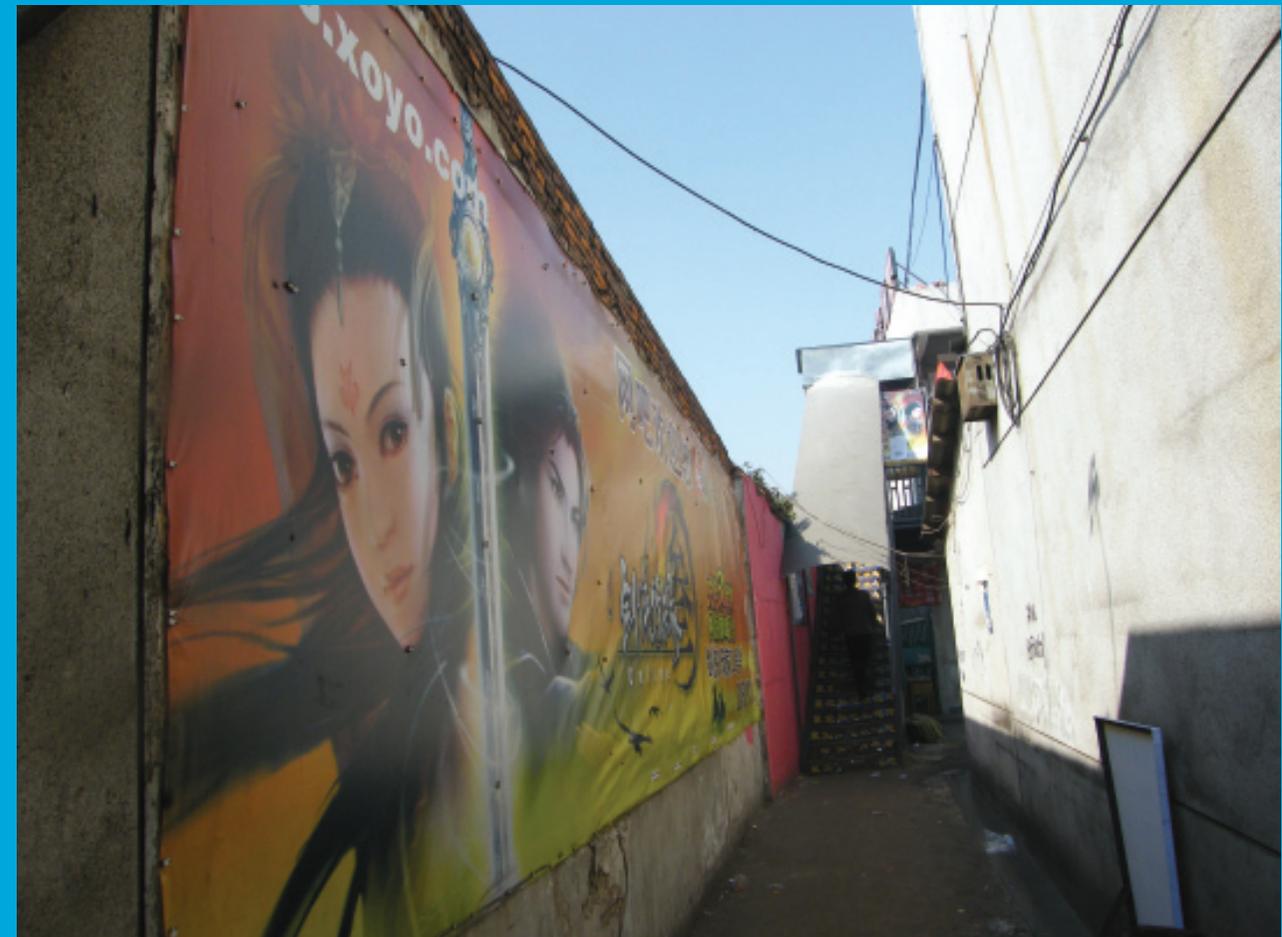
Helen Sun is associate professor of communication at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

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A FIELD STUDY ON INTERNET CAFÉS

HELEN SUN