

Professor Elisabeth Köll

A Short Biography

Elisabeth Köll is a Visiting Associate Professor in the Entrepreneurial Management unit at the Harvard Business School for the academic year 2007-08. She received her PhD in Chinese Business History from Oxford University where she was a Rhodes Scholar. Since then she has taught courses on Chinese business, economic, and social history of modern China at Case Western Reserve University where she is a tenured faculty member of the History Department. Elisabeth's research focuses on the legal and managerial evolution of limited-liability firms in China in the early 20th century, particularly issues of control and accountability, and the process of industrialization and incorporation in comparative perspective. Her book *From Cotton Mill to Business Enterprise: The Emergence of Regional Enterprises in Modern China* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2003) shows how concepts, definitions, and interpretations of property rights, corporate structures, and business practices in contemporary China have to be analyzed in terms of their historical, institutional, and cultural roots.