Women’s employment in rural China was basically characterized by contrasting stages of collectivization and decollectivization over the past six decades. In its transformation to a market-oriented economy, China’s agriculture has increasingly become enmeshed in national and international markets, and the ways that rural women work, as well as the roles women and men play within families and communities have again changed drastically. The costs fall disproportionately on marginalized rural women, which are mostly beyond the direct control of the state. This lecture sheds light on the related outcomes.

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