

RESEARCH SEMINAR

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Indigenous development and more-than-capitalist economies in Southwest China

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Local communities in Southwest China, especially those of ethnic minorities, are encountering market forces and experiencing a transition to market-based ways of organising economic production and social relations. However, market transition is not the enactment of universal models or templates, but geographically uneven and varied, hybridising with local contingencies while concurrently reproducing or even refashioning sociocultural differences and identities. Drawing on theoretical insights in cultural economic geographies, which approach economies as always embedded, instituted, and laden with power, and the emerging scholarships on postcapitalist and alternative economies, which emphasise the mixture of diverse rationalities, priorities, and values (both economic and extra-economic, both capitalist and non-capitalist) in economic practices, this talk unpacks the dialectical relationships between economic and non-economic universes as they co-constitute market transition in Yunnan Province and Tibet Autonomous Region. Discussing a number of case studies emerging from this project, this talk reveals how market transition is shaped by local cultural contingencies, produces new dimensions of inequality and disempowerment, and concurrently channels economic gains to social and cultural revival for local communities

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Junxi Qian is associate professor in the Department of Geography, the University of Hong Kong. He is a social and cultural geographer who works at the intersection of geography, urban studies and cultural studies. Junxi's recent research interests include cultural economic geographies, urban theory, religion, rural revitalisation, and the cultural geographies of Anthropocene in China, with regional focuses on Pearl River Delta, Yunnan, and Tibet. He has published 1 monograph, more than 60 articles in leading international journals, and more than 30 articles in Chinese language journals. He won the prestigious Gill Memorial Award in 2022 from Royal Geographical Society - Institute of British Geographers for exceptional track record for an early-career scholar.



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