

JOINT RESEARCH SEMINAR

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT &
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ASIA-PACIFIC STUDIES,
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Contested Geopolitics of Distribution in the City-region-building: Promoting Enclave Industrial Parks in the Pearl River Delta, China

27 February 2025 (Thu)
4:30 – 6:00 pm (UTC+8)
ZOOM ID: 942 3739 6800
Passcode: 314953

The discourse on the ascendancy of city-regions as a geopolitical framework predominately derives from neoliberal experiences, articulating the interplay between the politics of city-regional distribution and the evolving role of the state in distribution governance, alongside the challenges related to post-suburban development. Given the diverse political and economic frameworks across the state, exploring the geopolitics of city-regional distribution beyond overwhelmed neoliberal assumptions is imperative. This study aims to explicate alternative geopolitics of distribution within China's recent city-region-building. Through studying the negotiation and development of two Enclave Industrial Parks (EIPs) in the Pearl River Delta, Southern China, we recontextualize the centrally orchestrated city-regional distribution within the authoritarian framework of the developmental party-state. We propose a conceptual framework delineating the transitional rationality of the multi-scalar state, illustrating the political and territorial negotiation of distribution within a hierarchical resource arrangement. We argue that authoritarian distribution schemes, while manipulating the market regime, do not inherently impede the local distribution. Nonetheless, political and territorial mandates on city-region-building, which arbitrarily redefine the opportunities of local communities, perpetuate an authoritarian and contested nature of distribution, ultimately contributing to widening regional development disparities in contemporary China.



Xianchun Zhang
Associate Professor
School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University

Prof. Zhang currently serves as an associate professor in the School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University. He completed his Ph.D. at The University of Hong Kong. Previously, he served as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geography and Resource Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. His works have been published in journals, such as *Urban Geography*, *Land Use Policy*, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, and *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, and *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. His research interests are urban and regional studies, with particular reference to city regionalism of China. His primary research fields include city-regional integration policy, state spaces of capitalism and socialism, and management of urban growth and collaborative planning in transitional China.



香港中文大學香港亞太研究所
Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

For future seminars, scan
QR Code or visit:
<https://www.grm.cuhk.edu.hk/en/news/seminars/>

