RESEARCH SEMINAR

Department of Geography and Resource Management
地理與資源管理學系

Tourism geopolitics in the Arctic: China's tourists, infrastructure, and data

22 OCT 2026 (THU) | **CKB 109 16:30-18:00**

As global competition for Arctic resources intensifies, the Chinese state is increasingly involving itself in the region's governance. Drawing on a review of policy texts and media reports, complemented by observations at an Arctic conference held in China and three field visits to the Arctic in 2018–2019, I advance knowledge of the politics and processes underlying Chinese tourism in an emerging destination. Specifically, I put mobilities theory, biopolitics and critical geopolitics into a dialogue to show how China is applying biopolitical logics upon its outbound tourist populations while seeking to envision, regulate and extract value from three key forms of tourism resources: tourists, infrastructure and data. Overall, I contribute to a tourism geopolitics that reflects upon how tourism can be a means through which governments may develop resources, exercise authority, and exert power over their own citizens in spaces where they lack territorial sovereignty.

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Ben Iaquinto is a tourism geographer whose research focuses on the environmental and political implications of tourism mobilities in and from the Asia-Pacific. He is globally recognized for his research on backpackers, sustainable tourism, and tourism geopolitics. He is an Editor of Tourism Geographies, an editorial board member of Social and Cultural Geography, Mobilities, and Tourist Studies, and a Steering Committee member of the Australian Mobilities Research Network. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Hong Kong.

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