

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Department of Geography and Resource Management

will present a seminar

by

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Scalar Politics as Discursive Struggle: Lessons from China's Urban Environmental Governance

Abstract:

The last two decades have seen the emergence of scalar politics as a key perspective for the study of the geographies of environmental governance. Many accounts emphasise scale as a material, substantive entity and focus their analytical effort on the diverse motivations and trajectories of the reorganisation of powers and responsibilities over the environment across multiple scales. However, to decipher how such scalar reorganisations can become possible, one needs to analyse scale at the same time as a discursive device with which actors articulate their interests and pursuits vis-à-vis prevailing scalar structures. Two cases of urban environmental governance in China lend support to this view of scalar politics as discursive struggle. In the Pearl River Delta, resistance from the city governments has compelled the provincial planners to reframe their attempt to protect rural green space through planning control from a project for regional ecological security to a fix to urban green space shortage. In the southwest region, the imperative to develop with and despite the central government's new ideal of ecological civilisation has prompted the government of Guiyang to strategically mobilise different scales for interpreting its city's environmental achievements and economic significances.

About the Speaker:

Prof. Calvin Chung is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Resource Management at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and serves as the editorial manager of *Asian Geographer*. His research interests include state restructuring, spatial planning, and urban political ecology in China. His recent publications appear in the *Antipode*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *The China Quarterly*, and *Urban Studies*.

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Time: 4:30-6:00pm
Venue: Room 221
Chen Kou Bun Building
Chung Chi College

~All are Welcome~

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