

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

will present a seminar

by

**Dr. HU Zhiyong, Fox**

Associate Professor

Department of Asian and Policy Studies

The Education University of Hong Kong



## **Reluctant Policy Innovation through Profit Concession and Informality Tolerance: A Strategic Relational View of Policy Entrepreneurship in China's Urban Redevelopment**

### **Abstract:**

This study engages with the theoretical perspective of policy entrepreneurship to examine the pattern and process of policy change in the context of China's urban redevelopment. Drawing upon a strategic-relational reinterpretation of policy entrepreneurship, this paper identifies a distinctive form of reluctant policy innovation in the "three old renewals" scheme initiated in Guangzhou where profit concession and informality tolerance were practiced to create a small window of opportunity for the project of urban redevelopment to break ground. The motivation of policy entrepreneurship in the successful urban renewal projects in Guangzhou was heavily contingent upon the geographically important location of the project site and the historically incidence of hosting the 2010 Asian games, which forced municipal government to become entrepreneurial and innovative in decision-making and income redistribution in order to get things done as quickly as possible. The distinct fashion of policy innovation identified in the case of Guangzhou points to the polymorphous and dynamic nature of policy entrepreneurship and advocates a relational treatment of the strategies and motives of policy entrepreneurs embedded in concrete geographical and historical context.

### **About the Speaker:**

Dr. Hu Zhiyong (Fox) is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong. Dr. Hu received his Ph.D. degree in Human Geography from the University of Hong Kong in 2007 and his bachelor and master degrees in urban geography from Peking University, China in 1998 and 2001 respectively. Prior to his current position, Dr. Hu previously worked as Assistant Professor in the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Post-doctoral Fellow in Department of Geography, The University of Hong Kong. His research focuses on China's urban redevelopment and economic restructuring with a particular interest in the growth and geography of state-owned enterprises in transitional urban China. His articles have appeared in leading international journals such as *Urban Studies*, *Regional Studies*, *Geoforum*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Cities*, *Environment and Planning C*, etc. Dr. Hu is the recipient of a small-grant research Award from Urban China Research Network (Albany, USA, 2004); student paper competition award from China Geography Specialty Group, AAG (2004), Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Award from HKU (2007) and Research Output Prize from Eduhk (2016). He is the recipient of several competitive research grants from international funding agencies, including the NNSF (China), Peking University-Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy (China), and the Hong Kong Research Grants Council.

**Language: English**

**Date: 24 October 2019 (Thursday)**

**Time: 4:30-6:00pm**

**Venue: Room 221**

**Chen Kou Bun Building**

**Chung Chi College**

**~All are Welcome~**

For any inquiries, please contact Prof. Harry Lee (Tel. 3943 8478 or Email: [harrylee@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:harrylee@cuhk.edu.hk)).