

SMU-Keio Workshop on
Political Participation in Contemporary China

Conveners:

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and

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The John G. Tower for Political Studies at Southern Methodist University in cooperation with the Center for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS) at Keio University is convening a workshop on **Political Participation in Contemporary China** in Dallas, Texas, on January 6 (Friday), 2012. The conference will bring together scholars working on Chinese politics in both North America and Japan to examine the current conditions of political participation under the authoritarian regime in China. Like many of non-democratic regimes in the world, China's authoritarian regime has established at least nominally democratic institutions. Are they a harbinger to future democratization of the nation? The participants of this workshop will examine various forms of political participation in China. These forms include not only institutionalized channels such as the elections of the People's Congresses, the Administrative Litigation Law, village elections, and petitions, but also non-institutionalized protests and uprisings. Moreover, we take political participation as a broad concept that includes democratic institutions in the authoritarian regime, state-society relations, central-local relations, and relations between formal and informal institutions.

Based on the empirical studies on these issues, we are going to explore the following two fundamental questions on participation in China: (1) what are the functions and limitations of democratic institutions under China's authoritarian regime; and (2) what prospects the current conditions of political participation tell us the possibility of China's democratization in the future. Each participant will be encouraged to compare political participation in China with other authoritarian regimes. Based on the papers from the workshop, we are going to publish an edited volume from the Lynne Rienner Publisher.

Participants

Conveners

Hiroki Takeuchi, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Fellow of the Tower Center, SMU

Tomoki Kamo, Associate Professor of Policy Management, Keio University (Visiting Scholar of the Center for Chinese Studies, University of California at Berkeley, 2011–12)

From Japan

Kazuko Kojima, Associate Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba

Mari Nakaoka, Assistant Professor of International Studies, Tokiwa University

Maosong Wu, Ph.D. Candidate of Political Science, Keio University.

From North America

Yuen Yuen Ang, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan

Martin Dimitrov, Associate Professor of Political Science, Tulane University

Mark Frazier, Associate Professor of International Studies, University of Oklahoma

Melanie Manion, Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Teresa Wright, Professor of Political Science, California State University, Long Beach

SMU-Keio Workshop on Chinese Politics

Political Participation in Contemporary China

January 6, 2012

**John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas**

PROGRAM

Thursday, January 5

7:00pm **Dinner** (location TBA)

Friday, January 6

8:45am–9:00am **Welcome Remarks**

James Hollifield, Southern Methodist University

9:00am–9:30am **Introduction**

Hiroki Takeuchi, Southern Methodist University

9:30am–11:00am **Formal Institutions and Political Participation**

Melanie Manion, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Mari Nakaoka, Tokiwa University
Tomoki Kamo, Keio University

11:00am–11:15am **Coffee Break**

11:15am–12:45pm **Political Protests and Participation (I)**

Teresa Wright, California State University, Long Beach
Masong Wu, Keio University
Martin Dimitrov, Tulane University

12:45pm–2:15pm **Lunch**

2:15pm–3:15pm Political Protests and Participation (II)

Kazuko Kojima, University of Tsukuba
Mark Frazier, University of Oklahoma

3:15pm–3:45pm Regime’s Responses

Yuen Yuen Ang, University of Michigan

3:45pm–4:15pm Concluding Discussion

6:30pm Dinner (location TBA)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Yuen Yuen Ang, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan

Martin Dimitrov, Associate Professor of Political Science, Tulane University

Mark Frazier, Associate Professor of International Studies, University of Oklahoma

Tomoki Kamo, Associate Professor of Policy Management, Keio University

Kazuko Kojima, Associate Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba

Melanie Manion, Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Mari Nakaoka, Assistant Professor of International Studies, Tokiwa University

Hiroki Takeuchi, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Southern Methodist University

Teresa Wright, Professor of Political Science, California State University, Long Beach

Masong Wu, Ph.D. Candidate of Political Science, Keio University

The conference is organized jointly by the Center for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS) of Keio University and the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies at Southern Methodist University.

An edited volume from the Lynne Rienner Publisher will be the main outcome of the conference.