THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & MARKETING

DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH SEMINAR


By

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Venue: M802

ABSTRACT

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The paper studies the bewildering and mind-boggling changes in China's local governing system starting from 1980 to present, the tries to unveil the political and institutional logic behind the apparently incomprehensible and fluid changes. What we mean by local governing system refer either one of the following three phenomena: 1) creation and abolition of local jurisdictions, 2) territorial changes not involving the creation or abolition of local jurisdictions, and 3) changes in the status of local jurisdictions. The study is based on the official data compiled by the Ministry of Affairs about the changes at and above the county level.

We argue that the apparently incomprehensive changes in China's local governing system belies some discernible patterns. We trace the fluid changes and the patterns of changes to the core features of the political system and the institutional features that have emerged in the era of reform.