

THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & MARKETING
DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

**Contextual Changes and Environmental Policy
Implementation in China: A Longitudinal Study
of Street-Level Bureaucrats in Guangzhou**

By

**Prof. TANG Shui-yan
University of Southern California, USA**

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Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Venue: M802

All interested are welcome

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ABSTRACT

Environmental policy implementation in China is conditioned by many organizational and contextual factors, which have been undergoing rapid changes in recent years. Based on data derived from two rounds of surveys in the years 2000 and 2006 of environmental protection officials in the southern city of Guangzhou, our longitudinal study shows that as perceived by street-level enforcement officials, goal ambiguity has remained low, while administrative authority and support from a number of government and societal actors have increased. Yet due to the heightened expectations from these external stakeholders, street-level officials have perceived a higher level of administrative resource scarcity despite the fact the absolute amounts of administrative resources allocated may have increased. Furthermore, enforcement effectiveness as perceived by street-level enforcers has remained virtually unchanged. Among several contextual and organizational factors, perceived support from the municipal government has remained the most significant factor correlated with perceived implementation effectiveness. These empirical results help explain the continuing implementation gap and indicate a possible, but uncertain, movement from political to administrative implementation.