The Field of Guanxi Studies

Friday, March 6 – Saturday, March 7, 2015

Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley and Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China

Even as China becomes an ever-more significant player on the world stage, its inner workings become ever-more intriguing. “Guanxi,” the often complex, multi-layered network of personal relationships that shape life and labor from the humblest village to the pinnacle of power, continues to be key in understanding China today. A distinct “field of guanxi studies” has emerged in business, the social sciences, and area studies.

This conference draws together experts from around the world to discuss recent papers on guanxi, its historical and cultural foundations and contemporary evolution along with China’s reform and globalization.

Friday, March 6, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
IEAS Conference Room, 180 Doe Library

Welcome
Thomas B. Gold, University of California, Berkeley
FAN Lizhu, Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China

Morning Session:
Dyadic Characteristics of Guanxi and their Consequences by Jack Barbalet, Hong Kong Baptist University
The Overlapping Development of Guanxi: A Historical Analysis on the Clientelistic Relationship in Chinese Society by CHEN Na, Fudan University
The Dynamics of Political Embeddedness in China by Heather Haveman, University of California, Berkeley
Behind the Length of Contract During Market Transitions by Mike Peng, University of Texas, Dallas

Afternoon Session:
‘Four Dishes and Soup’: Combatting China’s Epidemic of Chronic Disease through Anti-corruption Measures by Elanah Uretsky, George Washington University
Styles of Guanxi as Governance in Grassroots Institutions in Contemporary China by Sophia Woodman, University of Edinburgh
From Formal Structure to Social Capital in the Chinese Bureaucracy: Concepts, Measures and Patterns by Xueguang Zhou and Qinglian (Angela) Lu, Stanford University

Saturday, March 7, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
IEAS, 1995 University Avenue, Suite 510

Morning Session:
The Increase of Job-search Networks in China 1978-2009 by BIAN Yanjie and ZHANG Lei, University of Minnesota and Xi’an Jiaotong University
Guanxi Matters: Insights from Ethnographic Field Research on Stigma and Mental Health in Urban Shanghai by PAN Tianshu, Fudan University
Guanxi, Weiqi and Chinese Strategic Thinking by PAN Zhongqi, Fudan University
Guanxi and Social Movements by QI Xiaoying, Hong Kong Baptist University

Afternoon Session:
Guanxi’s Gravity: The Colonial Endeavour, Survival, and Morality in 21st Century Xinjiang by Tom Cliff, Australian National University
Cosmopolitan Guanxi Practice: a Qualitative Study of Skilled Migrants’ Social Networks in Shanghai by James Farrer, Sophia University, Tokyo
From Goudui to Beijing: Notes on Guanxi and Class Formation in the PRC by John Osburg, University of Rochester
Guanxi, Commercial Friendship and Relationship Marketing in B2C Service Settings by FAN Xiucheng, Fudan University

Discussion
Closing Remarks