



**CENTRE FOR CHINESE LAW
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW
FACULTY OF LAW
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**Date: April 19, 2017 (Wednesday)
Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Venue: 11/F Conference Room,
Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial
Campus, HKU
Online Registration: www.hku.hk/law
(Seminars & Conferences)
Enquiry: Ms. Shelby Chan
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The Origin and Evolution of China's Institutions: A Comparative Institutional Analysis

Abstract

This talk is based on Prof. Xu's ongoing book manuscript. Prof. Xu argues that today's fundamental institution of China, Regionally Decentralized Authoritarianism (RDA), is unique in the world and is essentially an institutional mixture originated from imperial China and totalitarian system of Soviet Union. In this talk, Prof. Xu will layout an analytical framework; and applying this framework to analyze the origin and the evolution of the Chinese institution by comparing it with major institutions in Europe, such as the Roman Empire, the Byzantine, and the Russian Empire, etc. Based on this, Prof. Xu will compare Meiji Restoration, the Russian 1905 Revolution, and the Chinese Wuxu Reform and the institutional origins of creating totalitarianism in Russia and in China respectively.

Professor Chenggang Xu

Xu Chenggang is Professor of Economics at Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business. He is one of the first recipients (joint with Yingyi Qian) of China Economics Prize for contributions in understanding government and enterprise incentive mechanisms for the transition economy of China. Dr Xu received his PhD in Economics from Harvard in 1991. He is currently a board member of the Ronald Coase Institute (RCI) and a research fellow of the CEPR. He has previously taught at the London School of Economics (1991-2009) as a Reader, at the University of Hong Kong (2009-2016) as Chung Hon-Dak Professor in Economic Development and as Quoin Professor in Economic Development (2008-2016), and as Special-Term Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University (2002-). He has also taught and worked at Harvard (1992-2002), the IMF (1997-1999) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (1982-1992). He was the President of the Asian Law and Economics Association (2010-2012) and World-Class University Professor at Seoul National University (2009-2013). He won the Sun Yefang Economics Prize in 2013.

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