

CHES5130 China's Regions and their Global Interactions

2021-22, Term 2
Mondays 09.30-12.15
Venue: YIA402

Lecturer: Dr. Tim Summers (summers@cuhk.edu.hk)

Teaching Assistant: Wen Mingrui

Course summary

This course examines regional political economy in contemporary China in global context. It looks in particular at the evolution of regional policy in China since 1949 and its implications, at issues relating to ethnic minorities and western China, at Hong Kong, and the “belt and road initiative” from a sub-national perspective in China.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected:

- to be able to discuss contemporary regional political economy in the PRC, in particular issues relating to the western regions of China;
- to understand the relevance of this regional approach to the main trends in China's contemporary global interactions;
- to demonstrate an improved ability to present clear oral and written analysis.

Learning activities

Each class will consist of an interactive lecture with small group discussion.

Assessment scheme

1. 40%: Essay of 2,000 words on a topic set by the lecturer to be submitted by **6pm on Friday 5 March** (topic choices will be distributed at start of term). Late submission will be penalized.
2. 50%: Oral and written presentation in pairs of research on a question relating to China's regions and agreed with the lecturer; submission of written material and presentations to class will take place in the last week of term.
3. 10%: Class participation and attendance.

Full details of these assignments will be posted on the Blackboard e-learning system at the start of term. Students may refer to the grade descriptors for MA in Chinese Studies for further indications of grading criteria (available on Blackboard or from the TA).

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of the policies, regulations and procedures.

Lecture schedule and readings

The course is structured in three parts:

- Part I introduces the concepts and outlines the framework.
- Part II traces the development of regional policy in the PRC.
- Part III examines in more detail selected themes relating mainly to western China.

Optional readings are provided for students who wish to go deeper into the issues.

Part I

1. Introduction: Thinking about China's regions (10 Jan.)

Explains course requirements and sets out the scope of the course, the themes to be covered and the approach, and introduces ideas about China's regions.

- Peter T.Y. Cheung and James T.H. Tang (2001). "The External Relations of China's Provinces". In David Lampton, ed, *The Making of Chinese Foreign and Security Policy 1978-2000*, Stanford, 91-120.
- [optional] Li Mingjiang (2017). "Central-local interactions in foreign affairs". In John Donaldson, ed., *Assessing the Balance of Power in Central-Local Relations in China*, Routledge.
- [optional] Shahar Hameiri and Lee Jones (2016). "Rising powers and state transformation: The case of China". *European Journal of International Relations* 22(1), 72-98.
- [optional] Audrye Wong (2018). "More than Peripheral: How Provinces Influence China's Foreign Policy". *The China Quarterly* 235, 735-757.

2. Framework: Globalization, regions, and the rise of China (17 Jan.)

Looks further at the context for examining China's regions by assessing some of the explanations for the dramatic social and economic transformations in China over recent decades and thinking about the regional factors in China's rise.

- Perry Anderson (2010). "Two Revolutions". *New Left Review*, 61, 91-96 only
- Tim Summers (2018). "Globalization and China". Chapter 1 of *China's Regions in an Era of Globalization*, Routledge.
- [optional] Linda Jakobson and Dean Knox (2010). "New Foreign Policy Actors in China", *SIPRI Policy Paper*
- [optional] Carolyn Cartier (2002). "Origins and Evolution of a Geographical Idea: The Macroregion in China". *Modern China* 28 (1), 79-143

Part II

3. Regional policy in the PRC: 1949-1970s (24 Jan.)

After a brief introduction to regional policy from the establishment of the PRC, this lecture focuses on the Third Front (1964-1971).

- Covell Meyskens (2020). "Introduction". *Mao's Third Front: The Militarization of Cold War China*. Cambridge University Press
- Barry Naughton (1988). "The Third Front: Defence Industrialization in the Chinese Interior". *The China Quarterly*, 115, 351-386
- [optional] Covell Meyskens (2015). "Third Front Railroads and Industrial Modernity in Late Maoist China". *Twentieth-Century China*, 40 (3), 238-260.
- [optional] Chris Bramall (2019). "A Late Maoist Industrial Revolution? Economic Growth in Jiangsu Province (1966-1978)". *The China Quarterly*, online first

Note that there will be no class on 31 Jan., the week of Chinese New Year holiday

4. “Reform and opening up”: Coastal development and its implications (7 Feb.)

Looks at the impact that “reform and opening up” since 1978 has had on regional development within the PRC, in particular the rapid growth of some coastal regions.

- Dali L. Yang (1991). “China Adjusts to the World Economy: The Political Economy of China’s Coastal Development Strategy”. *Pacific Affairs* 64(1): 42-64
- Kirsten Lundberg (2019). “By Accident or Design? Shenzhen as a Global Hub for Digital Entrepreneurs”. SIPA Entrepreneurship & Policy Initiative Working Paper, available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3493331

5. Policies to develop Western, Northeast and Central China (14 Feb.)

Examines the reasons for and implications of “Develop the West”, the first of a series of policy programmes designed to address regional imbalances within the PRC, followed by brief discussion of subsequent policies to “revive the northeast” and the “rise of the central regions”.

- David Goodman (2004). “The Campaign to ‘Open up the West’: National, Provincial-level and Local Perspectives”. *China Quarterly* 178, 317-334
- Jae Ho Chung, Hongyi Lai and Jang-Hwan Joo (2009). “Assessing the ‘Revive the Northeast’ Programme”, *China Quarterly* 197, 108-125
- Lai Hongyi (2007). “Developing Central China: A New Regional Programme”. *China: An International Journal* 5 (1), 109-128
- [optional] Tim Summers (2011). “China’s western regions 2020”. In Kerry Brown (ed), *China 2020: The Next Decade for the People’s Republic of China*, Chandos, 137-171 (esp. 137-157)

6. Regional policy to 2020 and beyond (21 Feb.)

Looks at the most recent iterations of regional policy in China. Draws conclusions for thinking about regional construction and regional political economy in contemporary China.

- Long Yang (2017). “China’s regional development policy”. Chapter 4 of John Donaldson, ed, *Assessing the Balance of Power in Central-Local Relations in China*, Routledge
- Yuen Yuen Ang (2018). “Domestic Flying Geese: Industrial Transfer and Delayed Policy Diffusion in China”. *The China Quarterly* 234, 420-443
- [optional] Haimeng Liu, Chuanglin Fang and Siao Sun (2017). “Digital inequality in provincial China”. *Environment and Planning A* 49(10), 2179-2182
- [Optional] Jon R. Taylor (2015). “The China Dream is an Urban Dream: Assessing the CPC’s National New-Type Urbanization Plan”. *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 20, 107-120

In Week 6, students should briefly share their research topics for final presentation with the lecturer.

7. Regions and policy making in the PRC (28 Feb.)

Assesses regional policy against wider questions of policy making in the PRC, including extended class discussion of agenda setting in China’s regional policy.

- Wang Shaoguang (2008). “Changing Models of China’s Policy Agenda Setting”. *Modern China* 34(1), 56-87
- [optional] Meg E. Rithmire (2014). “China’s ‘New Regionalism’: Subnational Analysis in Chinese Political Economy”. *World Politics* 66 (1), 165-94
- [optional] Andreas Mulvad (2015), “Competing Hegemonic Projects within China’s Variegated Capitalism: ‘Liberal’ Guangdong vs. ‘Statist’ Chongqing”, *New Political Economy* 20, 199-227

Part III

8. “New Silk Roads”: the belt and road initiative from the perspective of China’s regions (7 March)

Examines the Belt and Road initiative and its implications for China’s regions.

- Tim Summers (2018), “The belt and road initiative and China’s regions”, chapter 5 of *China’s Regions in an Era of Globalization*, Routledge.
- Lee Jones and Jinghan Zeng (2019), “Understanding China’s ‘Belt and Road Initiative’: beyond ‘grand strategy’ to a state transformation analysis”. *Third World Quarterly* 40(8), 1415-1439
- [Optional] Emily T. Yeh and Elizabeth Wharton (2016). “Going West and Going Out: discourses, migrants, and models in Chinese development”. *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 57 (3), 286-315

9. Policy case studies (28 March)

Introduces case studies (selected after discussion with students in the first half of term) on the role of sub-national actors in policy making.

- Reading material to be posted on Blackboard

10. Ethnic minorities and minority regions in global context (14 March)

Examines ethnic minority regions and ethnic minorities policy, with a global perspective.

- Sun Yan (2019). “Debating Ethnic Governance in China”. *Journal of Contemporary China* 28(115), 118-132
- James Leibold (2013). *Ethnic Policy in China: Is Reform Inevitable?* East-West Center
- [optional] Elena V. Barabantseva (2009), “Development as Localization: Ethnic Minorities in China’s Official Discourse on the Western Development Project”, *Critical Asian Studies*, 41(2): 225-254

11. Western China in global context (21 March)

Looks at current specific cases of political and economic issues relating to China’s western regions and their international implications.

- Readings to be posted on Blackboard

12. Hong Kong (4 April)

Discusses Hong Kong as a global region of China.

- Erik Baark, Yun-Chung Chen, Ngai Pun and Alvin So (2013). “Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta in China: Cross-border integration and sustainability”. In Flavia Martinelli, Frank Moulaert and Andreas Novy, eds, *Urban and Regional Development Trajectories in Contemporary Capitalism*, Routledge, 127-147.
- David R. Meyer (2018). “Hong Kong: China’s global city”. In Tai-lok Lui, Stephen W.K.Chu and Ray Yep (eds), *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Hong Kong*. London and New York: Routledge.
- [optional] Leo Goodstadt (2018). “Mismanaging the Mainland”. Chapter 8 of *A City Mismanaged: Hong Kong’s Struggle for Survival*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

13. Final project presentations (weeks of 11 & 18 April)

A number of sessions for presentations will be arranged during these weeks, and each pair of students will present and participate in one of these sessions.

Note that Monday 16 April is a public holiday