



Panel's title : Redefining state and market relationships in East Asia: Private interests in national agendas

Coordinator (Affiliation, University...) : Juliette Schwak (City University of Hong Kong)

Language : English

Topics : Politics

Panel presentation :

Economic globalisation, underpinned by the global diffusion of neoliberal ideas and practices, has reshuffled power relationships between state agents and market actors. The literature sometimes claims that unfettered market forces overwhelm the state, which loses its grip on increasingly mobile market players; elsewhere, certain alignments of state and private capital interests are evident. Nowadays, national goals and policy initiatives are increasingly, if not solely, driven by market principles and objectives. This panel explores how the intervention of private capital and the evolution of state-market relationships have influenced national policy agenda and outcomes in Asia. It also investigates public-private contesting or converging interests behind foreign policy decision-making and institutional innovations in the region. Panellists will present four case studies – the overseas expansion of China's national oil companies, the deepening involvement of South Korean's chaebols in foreign aid, the construction and evolution of intellectual property institutions in China, as well as the adoption of market solutions to solve Indonesia's deforestation crisis. Each of these illuminates the presence of private influences in public agendas and unveils important patterns of interactions between private and public actors in contemporary global political economy.

Key words : Decision Making; Neoliberalism; Foreign Policy; Transnational/Multinational Corporations (TNCs/MNCs); Corporations; Public Policy

Participants :

- 1) Name(s) (Affiliation, University...) : Juliette Schwak (City University of Hong Kong)

Communication's title : Dangerous liaisons? Reassessing public-private cooperation in shaping Korean ODA policies

Language : English

Presentation :

This paper analyses the understudied relationships between private and public sectors in shaping the Korean development assistance agenda. Since 2008, subsequent Korean administrations have made development assistance one of the keystones of their foreign policy. Fast growing middle-income countries seem to be favorite development partners for the Korean administrations, and the parallel increase in Korean chaebols' overseas expansion in these developing partners' markets, suggest that interactions between private economic interests and development assistance exigencies have been numerous. Based upon fieldwork on Korean development assistance, I show that Korean conglomerates are both informally and structurally included in decision-making processes in Korea as a result of the specific governance architecture inherited from the developmental state era. Recently, since its accession to DAC in 2010, Korea has also been



institutionalizing private actors' inclusion in ODA delivery mechanisms. This, I argue, should not be understood as contradictory to Korea's DAC commitments, but rather as part of a global agenda that has increasingly privatized development formulation and delivery. The inclusion of chaebols in ODA through institutional mechanisms might actually be more aligned with OECD norms than the existing literature suggests.

Key words : Development; Transnational/Multinational Corporations (TNCs/MNCs); South Korea; Developing Countries

2) Name(s) (Affiliation, University...) : Miriam Sanchez (City University of Hong Kong)

Communication's title : The state- business' link in China's energy relations with Latin America

Language : English

Presentation :

Following a general trend for marketization in the last two decades, China's National Oil Companies (NOCs) have been transformed into State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), notably investing heavily in Latin America. However, attributing Chinese overseas investment completely to government initiatives overstates the importance of profit imperatives driving Chinese companies to expand abroad. This presentation demonstrates that the confusion about NOCs performance can be solved by making an analytical distinction between its business expansion on the one hand and Beijing's oil diplomacy on the other. However, as the companies have to deal with adverse situations, it is evident that they rely on the Chinese state for economic and diplomatic support to overcome their status as 'latecomers' in the Latin American energy market. This has led to a relationship of convenience and synchronization between the Chinese state's energy strategy and the NOCs' internationalization aims.

Key words : Foreign Investment; Resources; China; Corporations; Latin America

3) Name(s) (Affiliation) : Bernice Maxton-Lee (City University of Hong Kong)

Communication's title : Throwing more wood on the fire: PES, MSI and enclosures; a critical analysis of conservation market leaders in Indonesia

Language : English

Presentation :

Indonesia's forest fires present one of the greatest threats in global climate change, simultaneously emitting huge quantities of greenhouse gases (GHG) and permanently removing a critical carbon sink. Despite much lauded innovations in the conservation sector, initiatives to fight market failures with creative market solutions have failed to stop the continued devastation. Given all our innovation and efforts, why is conservation failing? Here, I examine the models which almost



exclusively dominate the conservation 'market', explaining why they are failing to gain sufficient traction in reducing deforestation.

This paper challenges the notion that neoliberal capitalism is an appropriate model for solving ecological destruction, explaining how dominant conservation approaches are firmly embedded in free market ideology. I show how the priority of market-based conservation approaches is first and foremost the maintenance of capital accumulation and the development of new markets for capital, and not the protection or conservation of nature.

Key words : Environmental Regulation; Neoliberalism; Corporations; Indonesia

4) Name(s) (Affiliation) : Yvette To (City University of Hong Kong)

Communication's title : Interests, Power and Institutions: The Politics of China's Intellectual Property Transition

Language : English

Presentation :

This paper analyses the Chinese government's attempts to construct a modern intellectual property (IP) regime. China has adopted a series of policies to strengthen IP protection standards as part of the government's broader plan to promote an innovative economy. The results, however, have been uneven.

Drawing on structural-materialist and institutionalist approaches, I explain the development and actual constitution of the Chinese IP regime as emanating out of the dual pressures of a global economy characterised by intense competition, demanding the establishment of an IP regime, and the political conflict surrounding this regime. A host of actors, ranging from foreign states, global institutions, different fractions of capital and political elites have variously contested the form and function of China's IP regime. Ultimately, this paper illuminates not only the so-called "Chinese characteristics" of development, but also how the state and its relations with the market can be understood in contemporary China.

Key words : Intellectual Property; China; Corporations