

**The Origin and Evolution of China's Institution:
A Comparative Institutional Analysis**

Chenggang Xu
University of Hong Kong

This talk is based on my ongoing book manuscript. I argue 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. China has the longest imperial history than other empires in the world history. This is supported by the unique imperial institution of China, which is evolved over more than one thousand years. In this talk, I analyze the origin and the evolution of the Chinese institution by comparing with major institutions in Europe, such as the Roman Empire, the Byzantine, and the Russian Empire, etc. Based on this, I 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. At the end of the talk, I will discuss institutional obstacles of political reforms towards constitutionalism, democracy and a full-fledged market economy in China.