

# JOINT RESEARCH SEMINAR

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT &  
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ASIA-PACIFIC STUDIES, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

## Rescaling of the Land Regime in the Making of City-regions: A Case Study of China's Pearl River Delta

18 Jan 2024 (Thu)  
4:30 – 6:00 pm (UTC+8)  
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Ubiquitous in fast-urbanising China, land-driven urban growth is increasingly inter-urban in nature – a trend that is underexplored in the literature. Grounded in a conceptual framework concerning the rescaling of the land regime, this study probes the unfolding land development processes of city-regionalism. Key findings of an examination of the Shenzhen–Shanwei Special Cooperation Zone in the Pearl River Delta are as follows: land regime rescaling is an emergent driving force for city-region making in China; the rescaled land regime centres on uneven capacities among the states of cooperating cities and benefit sharing (immediate land-related profit and potential longterm profit); provincial government engagement is fundamental to legitimatising this contested process; the rescaled land regime has been orchestrated by state interests in land development, rather than business interests released by marketisation, spawning a ‘stretching’ state territoriality of the central city. This study furthers the field’s understanding of a ‘world of city-regionalisms’ through a situated account of emerging city-regionalism characterised by land development in the Chinese context.

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Dr. Zhang Xianchun is an assistant professor in the Department of Land Management at Zhejiang University and an honorary research associate at the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong. His work primarily focuses on the spatial political economy, particularly urban and regional governance, spatial planning, and urban spatial growth and land policy. He is currently studying urban regionalization in China. Dr. Zhang's research has been featured in reputable journals, e.g., Urban Geography, Urban Forestry and Urban Greening, Urban Studies, Landscape and Urban Planning, Eurasian Geography and Economics, and Annals of the American Association of Geographers.



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