The Shifting Geographies of Expertise and Policymaking

Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10, 2022

India China Institute and Centre on Asia and Globalisation
Venue: Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore

This workshop will address the changing relationships between expertise and policymaking in India, China, and beyond. In both countries, an increasing reliance on technical expertise for governance has been juxtaposed alongside new conceptions of who counts as a relevant expert. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic is perhaps the most vivid of many instances that illuminates the formation of novel epistemic communities and new institutional frameworks and infrastructures for knowledge production for policymaking. This workshop, at which individual papers will be presented for feedback and discussion, will explore the contested relationships and shifting contracts between epistemic and political authority at local, national, regional, and global scales.

September 8 (optional)
Late afternoon/evening: Activities & Dinner

Friday, September 9
9:00-9:30am: Arrival and Registration

9:30-10am: Welcome and Opening Remarks

Kanti Bajpai
Director of Centre on Asia and Globalisation and Wilmar Professor of Asian Studies,
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Manjari Mahajan
Co-Director, India China Institute, and Associate Professor of International Affairs, The New School

Mark Frazier
Co-Director, India China Institute, and Professor of Politics, The New School
10am-12 pm: Session 1
“Globalization, Global Governance and Policy Expertise in China and India”

Chair: Manjari Mahajan, India China Institute, The New School

Presenters:
Yu Zhou, Department of Geography, Vassar College, "Expertise in the Biomedical Industry: Rethinking the Relationships between Knowledge, State, and Globalization in China"
Rohit Chandra, School of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, "Pushing and Pulling: Institutional Underpinnings of Energy Transitions in India and China"
Yifei Li, Environmental Studies, NYU Shanghai, "The Belts, Roads, and Initiatives of the Belt and Road Initiative: Global China’s Pluralist Authoritarian Production of Expertise"

Discussant: Marina Kaneti, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

12-1:30pm: Lunch

1:30-3:30pm: Session 2
“Participatory Policymaking and Citizen Engagement in India and China”

Chair: Yang Allen, PhD Candidate, Department of Politics and Research Assistant, India China Institute, The New School

Presenters:
Ceren Ergenc, Department of China Studies, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, "The 'Expert Turn' in Participatory Policymaking in China"
Avinash Madhale, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, "Coping with COVID-19: Political Processes and Action: A Case Study of M East Ward of Mumbai"
Varigonda Kesava Chandra, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, "Challenging the Hierarchy of Civil Nuclear Policymaking and Expertise in India: Social Opposition to Nuclear Power Plants"

Discussant: Tim Bunnell, Director, Asia Research Institute and Professor of Geography, National University of Singapore

4:00pm: Excursion to Singapore heritage site and dinner
Saturday, September 10
10am-12pm:  Session 3
“Markets, States and Hybrids in Generating Knowledge and Expertise in China and India”

Chair: Manjari Mahajan, India China Institute, The New School

Presenters:
Ka-Kin Cheuk, Department of Chinese and History, City University of Hong Kong, "Shifting Geographies of Expertise and Policymaking in Foreigner Management in the Time of (post-)COVID-19: A County-view from China"
Thresia CU, Institute of Chinese Studies & Institute of Public Health, "Democratic Decentralization and Changing Locations of Knowledge Production for Health Policies: Community Engagement in Palliative Care"

Discussant: Kanti Bajpai, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

12:00-1pm:  Lunch

1:00-3:30pm:  Session 4
“Institutional Practices and Technologies for Expertise and Policymaking in India and China”

Chair: Mark Frazier, India China Institute, The New School

Presenters:
Loraine Kennedy, Center for South Asian Studies, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), "Shifting Geographies of Statehood in Telangana: Policymaking for Urban Development and Social Dignity in Hyderabad"
Yang Zhan, Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, "En/gendering Chinese Rural Reconstruction: Scholar Activism, Policy Making, and Women Unheard"
Xuefei Ren, Department of Sociology and Global Urban Studies, Michigan State University, "Dr. Fauci in China: Medical Authority, Policymaking, and China’s Responses to Covid-19"
Wenjuan Zhang, International Collaborations, Jindal Global Law School, "Identifying Factors for the Divergence of Policy Priority in Universalizing Elementary Education in India and China"
Discussant: Selina Ho, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

4:00-5:00pm: Concluding Session