

Successful Strategic Research Grant (SRG) Projects

Project Title: The Singapore Model and Its Influence on China

Brief Abstract:

While the processes by which democratic values and institutions are disseminated have been widely explored, little attention has been paid to parallel processes promoting authoritarian values and institutions. Singapore, a small city-state that has successfully industrialized while maintaining one party dominant rule, has drawn considerable interest from China, as no other country in the region has managed to achieve advanced economic industrialization without experiencing substantial political liberalization. Preliminary research suggests that there are two major aspects to the model: a state-led but market-oriented approach to achieving rapid economic growth (the developmental state) and the combination of authoritarian rule with "good governance" ("meritocratic" one-party rule) . The project aims to assess the influence of the Singapore model in China. In so doing, it will throw light upon the active dissemination of meritocratic authoritarianism as a model of governance, and the challenge it poses to proponents of democratization and global liberalism.

Investigator: Prof Mark R THOMPSON

Biography:

Prof Mark R Thompson taught in the United Kingdom (Glasgow), Germany (Muenster, Dresden, Passau and Erlangen-Nuremberg), and Japan (Keio University) before coming to CityU where he is also director of the Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC). He is outgoing president of the Asian Political and International Studies Association, APISA. 2007-08 he was Lee Kong Chian Distinguished Fellow for Southeast Asian Studies at Stanford University and the National University of Singapore. He recently completed a German Research Council funded project on dynastic female leaders in Asia and has received a research grant from the Hong Kong government (together with William Case) for "Democracy and its Discontents in Southeast Asia." He is also currently working with Stephan Ortmann on a project about China and the "Singapore Model."