Merit-Based Selection and Institutional Merit

Date: 19 November 2021 (Friday)  
Time: 16:00 (HKT)  
Venue: Online (This talk will be held via Zoom.)

Speaker:  
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Abstract
Meritocratic principles and merit-based selection have recently been under attack. I engage these criticisms using resources from egalitarian theories of equality of opportunity. Drawing on the tradition of understanding talent, merit, and fair selection procedures in an institution-dependent sense, I assess the conditions under which merit-based, inequality-generating distribution of opportunities can be appropriate, as well as the departures from these conditions that would make fully or partially randomized opportunity distribution normatively preferable. Throughout, I focus on the case of higher education admissions at the bachelor’s level (college admissions), both because of the centrality of this case in the literature and in light of the significant impact that opportunity distributions in college admissions have on subsequent life prospects. I make use of both stylized admissions procedures and examples from societies including Canada, Korea, and the United States.

Short Biography
Jiewuh Song is an Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Seoul National University. She works on questions at the intersection of philosophy, law, and the social sciences and has particular interests in human rights theory, egalitarianism, and the political philosophy of international law. Her publications include “Human Rights and Inequality” (Philosophy and Public Affairs) and “Pirates and Torturers: Universal Jurisdiction as Enforcement Gap-Filling” (Journal of Political Philosophy).

Registration is required. Please email: jooglee@cityu.edu.hk