Formation of Infrastructural Power:
Study on Service-oriented Government in China from the Perspective of Contracting out Neighborhood-based Service

by

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>31 Jan 2012 (Tuesday)</th>
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<td>Time:</td>
<td>16:40-17:40</td>
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<td>Venue:</td>
<td>B7516 (SA Conference Room), 7/F, Blue Zone, Academic Building, City University of Hong Kong (Please use Lift No. 8)</td>
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<td>Language:</td>
<td>English</td>
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Service-oriented government (SOG), which was officially put forward by premier Wen Jiabao in 2005 as a political guideline, marks the beginning of a new wave of reform on government functions in China. While the primary goal of SOG is to provide public service more efficiently, it is also the first time the role of non-state organizations in public service provision is highly regarded. This signifies a departure from traditional approach in public service delivery in which the state sector has the monopoly. Most significantly, SOG policy indicates a possible shrink of state power in public service provision. The combined impacts of such moves appear to favour the further consolidation of the emerging civic society. Yet in practice, anecdotal evidence shows that state power at the grassroots has not shrunk, it instead has been strengthened in the form of infrastructural power. State power has in fact stepped up its permeation in activities of non-state organizations in their provision of public services. This research aims to explore the rationale behind SOG policy from the perspective of community-based service provision. Guangzhou and XI’an are the two sites I’ll conduct the comparative research. The community-based service provision in Guangzhou, as the major case, can show us the formation of infrastructural power and its influences. The relevant case in Xi’an, as the supplementary one, can guide us to know the previous situation of state power.

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(Free admission)

All are welcome!