Neighborhood-based Deliberation System: 
the Political Turn in Constructing Chinese Infrastructural Power

Paper presented to Governance, Deliberation and Citizen Participation in China, held in Australia National University

by

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<th>Date:</th>
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<td>Time:</td>
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<td>Venue:</td>
<td>SA Conference Room, B7516, 7/F, Blue Zone, AC1 City University of Hong Kong</td>
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In recent years, the deliberative institution originated from democratic countries has been widely and officially employed in China, aiming at maintaining social stability and consolidating the state power via the political participation of the public. The discussion surrounding the deliberative system in China focuses on how to understand and adjust the relationship between the government and the citizenry under the authoritarian regime.

As the frontline in reaching people and penetrating state power, more attention has been paid to the neighborhood community on constructing and sustaining its deliberation system, which is also utilized as the strategy in developing the policies on “Community Building” and “Party Construction”, including institutions on community-based public hearing (shequ jumin tingzheng zhidu), community-based democratically consultative and deliberative meeting (shequ minzhu yishi huiyi zhidu), community-based residents’ evaluation meeting (shequ jumin pingyi huiyi zhidu), and so forth. Despite strong emphasis of the state in pushing forward the deliberative system, it is still at odd with the authoritarian state which still dominates China and there is a general lack of holistic reviews on the community-based deliberative system as well as the rationale behind these institutions. To fill the void, this study will take a close look at the current mechanism of community-based deliberation system and the function of deliberation institution in community construction. This will help to shed light on the change of local governance ideology and the transformation of its form.

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(Free admission)

All are welcome!