

City University of Hong Kong

Department of Public Policy

Research Student Seminar

**Union of Homeowners' Associations in
Urban China: Origin, Operation and
State Response**

by

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Date:	27 Sep 2018
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Venue:	Room Y7529, Yeung Kin Man Acad Building City University of Hong Kong
Language:	English

Abstract:

Union of homeowners' associations refers to the network organization established by homeowners to coordinate their collective action across different neighborhoods and even different locations in urban China. Different from the traditional social organizations or NGOs that have restricted access to advocacy, homeowners' unions not only contribute a lot in defending its members' rights but also work as an organizational infrastructure to reinforce the momentum of homeowners' urban movement. Given the state's skeptical or even hostile attitude towards independent organizations that may challenge its legitimacy, this research attempts to explore under what conditions can the union of homeowners' associations coexist with the authoritarian state of China

Drawing on the theoretical lens of field theory, two questions will be addressed by this project, firstly, why the homeowners are willing and able to initiate such a union when they have a clear awareness that their coordinating actions are very likely to incur repression from the state? And secondly, why the local state, who are by nature hostile to collective actions, depends on divergent strategies, or selective repression, towards the union of homeowners' associations? As for methodology, this research will depend on qualitative approach to provide explanations for the aforementioned questions. Data will be collected from interviews, online discussion, social media, and documentary analysis. By empowering homeowners with new contention tactics and mutual support, the union of homeowners' associations is of great importance in the resolution of housing-related disputes and neighborhood governance. With a deep analysis on its origin, operation and the state response, this research is expected to shed light on the complex interaction among homeowners, state officials and even market entities in neighborhoods and thus advance the urban politics study in contemporary China.

Keywords: union of homeowners' associations, organizational origin and operation, state response

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All are welcome!