

# Blind Spots in the Study of Political Representation: Actors and Political Dimensions in Southeast Asia and Beyond

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### Abstract:

Mass-elite policy preference congruence lies at the heart of the study of democratic representation. Substantiated by a meta-analysis result grounded in all related empirical works between 1960 and 2020, we demonstrate that the literature on mass-elite congruence has three blind spots. First, the literature has exclusively focused on political parties to the neglect of presidents including in (semi-) presidential democracies. Second, despite the increasing dealignment trend across the globe, the literature has not so far distinguished between partisan and independent voters and between voters and non-voters. Third, the literature has overlooked the study of mass-elite congruence in several new democracies across Africa, Asia and Latin America based on the false premise that political dimensions are antithetical to clientelism. For instance, although often characterized by its weakly institutionalized, cartelistic, and oligarchic politics, Southeast Asian cases point that the party-voter representation linkages reflect socio-cultural concerns such as ethno-religious identities. In the presentation, we will share our findings on how these three blind spots affect the measurement of democratic representation.

**Jaemin Shim** is an assistant professor at the Department of Government and International Studies at the Hong Kong Baptist University. Prior to the current position, he was a Fritz-Thyssen postdoctoral research fellow at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Tokyo. His primary research interests lie in democratic representation, comparative welfare states, gender and legislative politics. He is currently leading the Global Mass-Elite Discrepancy (GMED) Project and Gender and Policy-Vote Trade-Offs Project. His works have appeared or are forthcoming in international journals including *Democratization*, *European Political Science*, *Parliamentary Affairs*, and *Journal of East Asian Studies*.



## 29 November 2021 (Monday)

### 4:00-5:30pm

Room B5-308

5/F Yeung Kin Man Academic Building

City University of Hong Kong

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<https://bit.ly/2ZPhUyc>



or in-person

<https://forms.gle/KsFqibYEjscCGzXo6>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the seminar.



## All are welcome

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