Southeast Asia Research Centre

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

MALAYSIA'S 2022 ELECTIONS: PARTY POLITICS AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR IN AN ERA OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY

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Abstract:

Malaysia's 15th general election took place on November 19, 2022, capping a period of instability and unprecedented change in the country's politics. In this talk, I will discuss the new contours of coalitional and party politics that have emerged in the past seven years, unsettling the stable system of two coalition competition found in previous elections. In the 2022 election, three major national coalitions, along with multiple regional coalitions, contested against each other. Using newly available demographic data, I will discuss patterns of voting behaviour in the context of this proliferation of candidates, coalitions, and a vastly expanded electorate swelled with first-time voters. Despite the dramatic shift in Malaysia's political landscape, ethnic demographics remains a strong predictor of voting outcomes, and ethnically informed political competition still prevailed during the election. These findings have implications for understanding whether increased political competition, and post-electoral coalition building, will shake loose well-established political conventions around ethnicity and religion in Malaysia.

Sebastian DETTMAN is an Assistant Professor of Political Science in the School of Social Sciences at Singapore Management University. He researches politics in Southeast Asia, particularly Malaysia and Indonesia, focusing on political parties, electoral competition, and democratization. He received his PhD from Cornell University in 2018 and was a 2018-19 Postdoctoral Fellow in Contemporary Asia at Stanford University. His research has been published in outlets including Democratization, Journal of Contemporary Asia, Electoral Studies, and South East Asia Research.

18 April 2023 (Tuesday)
4:00-5:30 PM (HKT)

Room LI-1410
1/F, Li Dak Sum Yip Yio Chin Academic Building (LI)
City University of Hong Kong

How to attend this seminar:

Via zoom
https://cityu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYscuGgrz0vH9XgOWrsBk-OvZrXM1NWrhmX
Passcode: 414348

or in-person (pre-registration and visitor QR code are needed)
https://bit.ly/3HNtCwO

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

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All are welcome

Enquiries: please email to searc@cityu.edu.hk