



## **Governance, Deliberation and Citizen Participation in China**

### **Call for Papers**

**Date:** 8-9 November 2012  
**Venue:** Australian National University, Canberra, Australia  
**Organisers:** Centre for Deliberative Democracy & Global Governance  
School of Politics & International Relations  
College of Arts & Social Sciences  
Australian National University

### **Description**

Over China's three-decade economic reform, the authoritarian regime has survived and maintained domestic support, in spite of increasing social conflicts and collective resistances over the years. This persistence provides the context for this conference's exploration of the evolving interactions between the state and the citizens, with particular focuses on participatory decision-making mechanisms. We would especially like to address the issues of governance strategies and practices, as well as forms and dynamics of citizen participation in late-reform China through the perspective of deliberative politics. In the past two decades, the rise of deliberative politics potentially incorporates citizen participation into policy-making in China by establishing communicative interactions between the state and the society. Deliberative practices have evolved with the discourse of "harmonious society" through a wide range of participatory innovations to manage local conflicts and to facilitate legitimizing decision-making.

Through those experiences, both the authoritarian state and the public have become more sophisticated in dealing with practical governance matters. It is the quality of governance that determines whether there will be challenges to China's regime legitimacy. The conference will aim to explore and assess the challenges, strategies and practices of governance in China, as well as the mechanisms of citizen participation and political engagement. Altogether we hope that the conference will incorporate both theoretical and empirical innovations, present diverse perspectives and findings, and generate thought-provoking discussions.

The conference would particularly welcome papers covering the following issues:

- Changes of governance ideology, modes, strategies and quality;
- Decision-making process influenced by factors such as consultation, think-tank, public opinions, and deliberation;
- Innovative practices of grassroots governance;
- The interactions among different forms of citizen participation, such as election, collective resistance, activism and deliberation;
- The role of media, internet and civil societies in contouring political participation and decision-making;
- The dynamics of public opinion formation and political discourse construction across different interest groups;

Beyond this, papers providing a comparative or strategic perspective on China's political changes and trajectories would also be very much welcomed.

### **Proposal and Paper Submissions**

- Proposals should include a title, a brief abstract (maximum 250 words) and a biographical note (maximum 100 words).
- Proposals should be submitted to Dr Beibei Tang at [beibei.tang@anu.edu.au](mailto:beibei.tang@anu.edu.au) before 24 August 2012.
- Successful applicants will be required to send completed papers by 26 October 2012. Draft papers will be circulated before the conference and distributed to the invited conference discussants.
- We may be able to contribute AUD 300 to the travel expenses of Australian-based participants.

### **Confirmed Guest Speakers**

#### **Professor Yongshun Cai**

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong

#### **Professor Baogang He**

Deakin University, Australia

#### **Professor Youxing Lang**

Zhejiang University, China

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The Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at ANU hosts the world's largest concentration of deliberative democracy scholars. Our research directions encompass transnational democracy, democratisation, democratic theory, local and national deliberation, and the micropolitics of deliberative forums.