

Department of Geography --- Public Seminar Series

“Big data and environmental management in China”

Speaker:

Professor Genia Kostka

Professor of Chinese Politics (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

Date: 26th July 2018 (Thursday)

Time: 2:00 – 3:30pm

Venue:

Room AAB1312, Multi-purpose Room, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Academic and Administration Building (AAB),
Baptist University Road Campus,
Hong Kong Baptist University

All are welcome

Co-organiser: Asian Energy Studies Centre, Hong Kong Baptist University

A significant change over the past decade is the emergence of digital technology to identify, analyze, report on, and respond to polluting activities in China. Advanced technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS), the global positioning system (GPS), and remote sensing (RS) technologies have opened the door to new modes of managing the environment. Most recently, ‘big data’ approaches in environmental management have emerged in China. At the national level, the MEP (now the MEE) announced in 2016 the construction of a national ecological big data platform by 2021. Innovative efforts to introduce new digital environmental management mechanisms are also underway at subnational levels, including the set-up of new big data platforms in Guizhou, Shanghai and Shenzhen. This talk will discuss recent innovative data strategies in environmental management at both national and subnational levels. One particular interesting aspect of the embrace of big data is the relationships that have sprung up between the state and businesses. Studying these new actor constellations deserve further in-depth study since they raise important new issues surrounding data sharing and data privacy practices, diverging interests between firms and governments.



Genia Kostka is a Professor of Chinese Politics at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her research and teaching interests are in China’s energy governance, digital transformation, and political economy. Previously, she was a Professor of Governance of Energy and Infrastructure at the Hertie School of Governance (where she remains a Fellow), an assistant professor at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management and a strategic management consultant for McKinsey & Company. She has a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Oxford, an MA with specializations in International Economics and International Development from SAIS Johns Hopkins University and a BSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her work has appeared in leading area studies and social science journals including *Comparative Political Studies*, *Regulation & Governance*, *Environmental Politics*, *Energy Policy*, and *The China Quarterly*. Alongside her academic work, she regularly consults for international organizations, including the World Bank, OECD, AusAID, GIZ, and Oxfam.