International Conference on State Capacity in Comparative Perspective
May 23-24, CUHK

Organizers: Ying Bai (CUHK) and Debin Ma (Tsinghua University)

May 23 (Friday)

8:35-8:50 Welcome Remarks

1. **Local and Central** (Chair: Bai Ying)

8:50-9:30

Local Knowledge and State Capacity: Evidence from Chinese Gazetteers
Chicheng Ma (The University of Hong Kong)

9:30-10:10

State Capacity at the Municipal Level: Comparison Between Extraterritorial and Domestic Governments in Late-Qing and Republican Shanghai
James Harris (University of Tokyo, IOC)

10:10-10:50

Too Much but Never Enough: Bureaucratic Capacity and Backlashes to State-building in Medieval Japan
Weiwen Yin (University of Macau)

10:50-11:10 Coffee Break

2. **Fiscal Capacity** (Chair: Debin Ma)

11:10-11:50

Bargaining or Deceiving: Why the Late Qing China Failed to Transparentize and Centralize Domestic Commercial Taxes
Yu Hao (Peking University)

11:50-12:30

Tax Farming and State Capacity: Evidence from Colonial Indonesia
Mark Hup (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

12:30-14:00 Lunch (by invitation only)

3. **State Building in Ancient China** (Chair: Zhiwu Chen)

14:00-14:40

Legitimacy as State Capacity: Usurpation and Its Fate in Early China
Baomin Dong (Liaoning University)

14:40-15:20

Prometheus Tamed: Heroic Narratives in the Rise of State
Danli Wang (Shanghai University of International Business and Economics)

15:20-15:40 Coffee Break

4. **Graduate Student Presentation** (Chair: Chicheng Ma)

15:40-16:10

War and the origin of civilization in China, 8000–221 BCE
Wanda Wang (The University of Hong Kong)

16:10-16:40

The Origins of Great Power: War, Canal, and Economic Growth in Early Historical China
Senhao Hu (the University of Hong Kong)

16:40-17:10

Rocky Road to Prosperity: Western Trade, Modern Institutions, and the Crisis of Imperial China
Steve Zhiwen Wang (University of Pittsburgh)

17:10-17:40

Monetary Shock and Fiscal Reform: Evidence from Late Ming China
Jiongyi Xue (The University of Hong Kong)

18:30-20:30 Conference Dinner (by invitation only)

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May 24 (Saturday)

5. **Conflict** (Chair: Dan Li)

8:50-9:30

The Economics of Mobilizing Free-riders: Evidence from the Chinese Civil War 1945-1949
Peiyuan Li (Duke Kunshan University)

9:30-10:10

The Fiscal Roots of Mass Action Incidents in Late Qing China, 1901-1911
Hanzhi Deng (Fudan University)

10:10-10:50

Traditional Gentry and Wartime Mobilization Capacity in Comparative Perspectives: A Study of the Taiping Rebellion and the English Civil War
Chenyang Qi (Tsinghua University)

10:50-11:10 Coffee Break

6. **Information and Knowledge** (Chair: Peiyuan Li)

11:10-11:50

Knowledge Suppression and Resilience under Censorship: Three-century Book Publications in China
Ying Bai (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

11:50-12:30

Telegraph, Media, and State Capacity in Late Imperial China
Yuxiang Wang (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics)

12:30-14:00 Lunch (by invitation only)

7. **Market** (Chair: Yu Hao)

14:00-14:40

Monarchism, fiscal centralization and the public bonds in Modern China, 1894-1916
Dan Li (Fudan University)

14:40-15:20

Transformation from Indirect to Direct Rule, State Capacity, and Market Integration: Historical Evidence from Southwest China in Qing Dynasty
Tianyu Huang (Guangxi University)

15:20-15:40 Coffee Break

8. **Graduate Student Presentation** (Chair: Guanglin Liu)

15:40-16:10

Local Favoritism in State Formation
Zining Wang (Peking University)

16:10-16:40

The Career Effects of Exceptional Promotion: Evidence from Qing Local Civil Official System (1830-1910)
Yueran Hou （The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology）

16:40-17:10

Governing Local Bureaucracy in a Centralized State
Zanhui Liu (Tsinghua University)

18:00-20:00 Conference Dinner (by invitation only)