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Tuesday, February 26, 3:30 p.m.
Tokioka Room (Moore 319)

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Disincentives for Democratic Change in China

Despite widespread and growing “mass disturbances” in China in recent years, there is little indication of increased public interest in promoting liberal democracy. The explanation can be found in China’s unique combination of socialist past and state-led late development. Declining sectors (such as laid-off state-owned enterprise workers) support Communist rule in the hope that the Party will make good on its socialist promises. Meanwhile, rising sectors—particularly private entrepreneurs—fear that political reform might threaten their economic prosperity and privileges. As a result, economic “winners” and “losers” both have a stake in maintaining the political status quo.



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