



The Department of Anthropology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

presents a seminar

by

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College of Asia and the Pacific
The Australian National University

on

One Township, Two Economies: The Many Paths of Social Governance in Rural China

Friday, 23 November 2018

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Room 12 Humanities Building

New Asia College, CUHK

A light lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. First come first served.

On two sides of a Township in rural China, endogenous and largely-independent industrial development since the 1990s has created *what appears to be* two quite distinct economies. On the heavy manufacturing Northeast, factory owners drive new Maseratis, Land Rovers, and Mercedes, and worry about the crackdown on polluting industries that threatens to shut down most of their factories. There are no non-state social supports for the less well-off people who live on this side of the Township.

On the Southwest, furniture-producing factory owners are also suffering from economic contraction and the stricter implementation of environmental and planning laws. But in contrast to the heavy industrialists, these small-scale entrepreneurs are proactively facing the future. A grand new exhibition and sales centre aims to make this Township the furniture centre of China, they privately fund public goods (such as all new roads), and they are enthusiastically promoting and propagating non-state village welfare systems. In a paper published in June 2017, I called these welfare systems “Face Funds.”

This paper explores how these two projects—industrial expansion and socio-moral consolidation—are intimately linked, and reflects on the possible motives of the entrepreneur-philanthropist in contemporary rural China.

Tom Cliff is an economic anthropologist and DECRA Research Fellow based at the Australian National University. He is the author of *Oil and Water: Being Han in Xinjiang* (Chicago 2016), which won the Association for Asian Studies' E. Gene Smith Prize for best book on Inner Asia in 2018.

ALL INTERESTED ARE WELCOME