

The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Department of Geography and Resource Management

will present a seminar

by

**Prof. Matthew A. Shapiro**

Associate Professor  
Political science, Department of Social Sciences  
Illinois Institute of Technology



**China's Pollution Haven Status: A Spatial and Industry-  
Based Analysis of Foreign Investment**

**Abstract:**

China's air pollution remains severe, and there have been corresponding increases in its negative health, economic, and environmental impacts. This paper considers the role of the international political economy with the assumption that China's air pollution is not strictly homegrown and that foreign entities are investing in high-polluting sectors in China. To examine how this sort of pollution-haven activity is occurring, two datasets are considered in tandem: a mosaic anthropogenic emission inventory of China and a unique dataset of domestic and foreign capital stocks in China based on the LexisNexis Corporate Affiliations database. The subsequent analysis represents the first-ever description of the extent to which foreign investment into China is connected to industry-specific emissions arising from such investment. It is shown that approximately 10%~17% of select emissions are generated by foreign enterprises in China. Also discovered is that fact that Asian nations – China included – invest in markedly different geographies. Discussed are the implications of pollution haven-related behavior for China's pollution-reduction policies as well as for China's engagement with its neighbors to mitigate transboundary air pollution.

**About the Speaker:**

Matthew A. Shapiro is an associate professor of political science at Department of Social Sciences, the Illinois Institute of Technology, a research affiliate at Argonne National Laboratory's Joint Center for Energy Storage Research, and he has held research fellowships and appointments at the East Asia Institute, the Asiatic Research Institute, the Industrial Technology Research Institute, and the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute. Shapiro's published and ongoing research attempts to understand how innovation systems are formed and contribute to sustainable development, how climate change is addressed and impacted by relevant policies and political forces, and how communications from politicians, scientists, and the media impact both of these areas. Shapiro's work has been published in *The Pacific Review*, *Energy Policy*, *American Politics Research*, *Environment & Planning: A*, *Environmental Communication*, *International Journal of Public Policy*, and *Scientometrics* among others. Complete details can be found at [understandgreen.com](http://understandgreen.com).

**Language: English**

**Date: 7 March 2019 (Thursday)**

**Time: 4:30-6:00pm**

**Venue: Room 221**

**Chen Kou Bun Building  
Chung Chi College**

**~All are Welcome~**

For any inquiries, please contact Prof. Li Jing (Tel. 3943 6537 or Email: [victorli@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:victorli@cuhk.edu.hk)).