

ISPP Virtual Seminar Series – Asia-Pacific Region October 2021

Organizers: Ying-yi Hong, Diwa Malaya Quinones, Peter Beattie

October 29 (Friday) at 2-4pm (Beijing Time)

Host/Moderator: Peter Beattie (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Speaker: Prof. I-Ching Lee (National Taiwan University)

Title: **Minority rights in democracy: Better protected or not?**

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Abstract

In recent years, evidence shows that democracy is under siege and points to a need for a better understanding of how people view democracy. To demonstrate the potentially problematic functions of democracy, I further explored the legitimization and delegitimization of a specific social policy in a democratic society. Legitimization is a process of accepting that authorities, institutions, and arrangements are appropriate, proper, and just (Tyler, 2006), whereas delegitimization is a reverse process of legitimization. In major social changes, legitimization and delegitimization often function simultaneously (e.g., Kelman, 2001). In the first set of data, we examined how people view basic principles in democracy (e.g., respect for minority views, equal rights regardless of education or intelligence levels, and equal rights regardless of the extremity of views) across United States and Taiwan (full democracy and free countries), and Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia (some democracy and partly free countries). Despite the general support of the democratic system across the countries, people supported the basic principles of democracy to various degrees (minority views and equal rights). Overall, respondents showed support of the respect for minority views, but were not likely to support equal rights regardless of education/intelligence levels or the levels of the extremity of views. In the second set of data (Hu & Lee, 2018), we collected survey and experimental evidence to show the beneficial effects of democracy on minority attitudes. In the third set of data, I investigated how people's views of same-sex marriage might be changed before and after the legalization of same-sex marriage in Taiwan. In a longitudinal representative data set, I demonstrated how people's support of same-sex marriage has been changed consistent with

their political party's stance. The pan-Green supporters (i.e., supporters of the ruling party who engineered the legalization) steadily increased their support of same-sex marriage, whereas the pan-Blue supporters (i.e., supporters of the opposing party) reduced their support of same-sex marriage, especially during the election. By politicizing the issues of same-sex marriage, the underlying principles upheld in the same-sex marriage legalization (respect for minority and equal rights) have been ignored. Further implications regarding democracy and minority rights are discussed.

Speaker Bio

I-Ching Lee is a professor at the Department of Psychology, National Taiwan University. Her research explores the interplay between cultural contexts, forms of prejudice, structural aspects of intergroup relations and social change. To date, she has used historical reviews, meta-analysis, field experiments, laboratory experiments, and culturally-sensitive surveys, as well as a variety of statistical methods, to this end, because she believes that each method best addresses certain questions (e.g. laboratory experiments on questions about causality and surveys on personal beliefs and ideologies). Her research topics include 1) political psychology; 2) needs and power; 3) culture, prejudice, and intergroup relations; and 4) gender issues. She has received awards including Gordon Allport Intergroup Relations Prize from the SPSSI, Morton Deutsch Award from the International Society for Justice Research, Young Scholar Research Award from the National Science Council in Taiwan, and Academic Research Awards from National Taiwan University and National Chengchi University.