

ISPP Eastern Hemisphere Virtual Seminar Series – February 2021

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

This is a new initiative aiming at showcasing research from the Eastern Hemisphere, broadly defined. It serves as a platform for intellectual exchanges among scholars in the region and beyond. It will be held regularly on the last Friday of each month.

Feb. 26 (Friday) at 2-4pm (Hong Kong Time)

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

Speaker: Prof. Tetsuro Kobayashi (The City University of Hong Kong)

Title: **Preference Falsification in “Authoritarianizing” Contexts: The Case of Hong Kong**

.....

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/98825718463?pwd=Ykh1THlQcjlZU3h2VINFeWtGOXdwUT09>

Meeting ID: 988 2571 8463

Passcode: PoliPsych

Join by SIP

98825718463@zoomcrc.com

.....

Abstract

Preference falsification can be a threat to credible assessments of public opinion, especially in authoritarian countries. Prior studies have employed indirect measurements such as list experiments to probe the magnitude of preference falsification among pro-democracy individuals who are critical of authoritarian regimes such as China. However, little is known about preference falsification in the “authoritarianizing” contexts where political freedom is being lost on an ongoing basis. By conducting two list experiments in increasingly authoritarian Hong Kong, we provide a novel finding that significant preference falsification on the Hong Kong National Security Law, the harsh institutional repression enacted in June 2020, is observed among pro-establishment (i.e., pro-government) segment, but not among their pro-democracy counterpart. Pro-establishment individuals in the authoritarianizing contexts arguably anticipate further authoritarianism in the future, which leads them to believe expressing politically “correct” opinions through preference falsification helps to avoid political risks and enjoy future benefits by being the first to support the repressive law. Theoretical implications are discussed.

Speaker Bio

Tetsuro Kobayashi (Ph.D., University of Tokyo) is an Associate Professor at City University of Hong Kong. His research focuses on political communication, political psychology, and public opinion in East Asian countries. [tkobayas@cityu.edu.hk]
