

China and the Problem of Influence in International Relations

Abstract

China's re-emergence over the last few decades meant its growing influence has been felt across many dimensions by both its regional neighbors and other states. China is reshaping its relationships throughout Asia and beyond as it engages economically, diplomatically, culturally, and militarily. In recent years, critical questions on the "rise of China" have extended to concerns over whether China's leaders will seek to alter the system in ways that favor their interests, and whether and at what point they will have the wherewithal to effect such changes. While discussions of China's growing influence and a prospective power transition cause considerable anxiety, China is significantly different, culturally and politically, from other ascending powers in the past. In addition, its rise to date has been particularly complex given the nature of a globalized world. China's growing influence in Asia and beyond has yet to be fully explored. In this lecture, Professor Goh will focus on the problems of studying China's influence in international relations.