

## **How Much Should We Expect to Know About Chinese Politics? Views from Journalists and Scholars**

### **Abstract**

How much do scholars, journalists and other “China-watchers” know about Chinese politics, about policy-making processes, elite politics and power relations at the highest level of the Party? How much do business leaders, government officials, and think tanks who tend to be less vocal know about elite Chinese politics? Has the understanding of these processes, of the CCP and of how it works as a complex organisation changed at all since the end of the Mao era? Are there novel ways to study Chinese politics or is it still fundamentally so opaque that one is left with guesses or mere speculation in lieu of scientific analysis? How much do we know about the extent and nature of the changes brought about to Chinese politics under Xi Jinping? Is the personalisation of power under Xi as important as what most observers argue? And is Chinese politics more or less predictable today than it was one or two decades ago? As the CCP’s 19<sup>th</sup> Congress approaches, these are some of the questions that will be discussed in this Forum.