

Authoritarian Citizenship: a Paradox?

Abstract

The concept of citizenship has long been associated with democratic states. Yet, ordinary people in authoritarian states also engage in a range of citizenship performances, from begging officials to intervene to protesting for rights. How should we conceptualize authoritarian forms of citizenship? Taking China as a country case study, Dr Fu will discuss what it means to be a “good” and “bad citizen” in the world’s most powerful authoritarian state. The study explores citizenship practices in comparative perspective and answers the question, “is authoritarian citizenship truly a paradoxical concept?”