State Rescaling and Social Environmental Movements in Hong Kong

In 2019, social unrest, tear gas, and rubber bullets have made Hong Kong one of the most hotly-debated places in the global mass media. The ongoing and unprecedented demonstrations and protests in Hong Kong have also triggered suspicion and worry over the principle of “Hong Kong People Ruling Hong Kong” under China’s “One Country Two Systems” policy. This collaborative research project examines state rescaling in Hong Kong and reveals how the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has interacted with multiple actors at different scales since the transfer of sovereignty in 1997. Specifically, through the case study of a cross-border high-speed railway project, we aim to advance the understanding of recent social or environmental movements, as well as that of Hong Kong’s gradually developing civil society.