

UNIVERSITY OF MACAU
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

**POLITICAL SUCCESSION IN CHINA:
ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS AND THE
BO XILAI FACTOR**

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**9th April 2010 (Friday)
10:45 am - 12:15 pm
JM18
(Silver Jubilee Building)**

Abstract

After having witnessed a smooth institutionalized power transfer at the 16th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, Beijing is poised to inaugurate a new leadership at the 18th Party Congress in 2012. However, this coming political succession does not seem to be a no-brainer. The failure of Xi Jinping, the heir apparent, to be inducted into the Central Military Commission at the Fourth Plenum of the 17th Central Committee in September 2009 indicates that the matter is far from being settled. In the meantime, Bo Xilai's populist political strategy has successfully bolstered his candidacy for the powerful Politburo Standing Committee of the CCP.

In this talk, Dr. Bo Zhiyue, a leading scholar on China's elite politics, will analyze dynamics of elite politics since the 16th Party Congress, provide three scenarios for political succession at the forthcoming 18th Party Congress in 2012, and speculate on the role of Bo Xilai in the new Politburo Standing Committee.

Dr. Bo's short bio:

Dr. Bo Zhiyue is Senior Research Fellow at the East Asian Institute of the National University of Singapore. He obtained his Bachelor of Law and Master of Law from Peking University and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He is the author of a trilogy on Chinese political elites and elite politics: "Chinese Provincial Leaders: Economic Performance and Political Mobility since 1949" (M. E. Sharpe, 2002); "China's Elite Politics: Political Transition and Power Balancing" (World Scientific, 2007); and "China's Elite Politics: Governance and Democratization" (World Scientific, 2010).

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