

Department of Government and Public Administration, FSS

# **The Double Paradox of Corruption and Rapid Growth in China/Hunting Big Tigers**

Date: 22th May 2014 (Thursday)

Time: 15:00-17:00

Venue: T302

Language: English

## **Speaker:**

### **Prof. Andrew Wedeman**

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#### Abstract:

In the 1990s, China gained a reputation for rampant corruption and at one time was dubbed the sixth most corrupt country in the world. Although economists posit that corruption is negatively correlated with growth, the Chinese economy nevertheless grew at a remarkable pace, even as corruption intensified, with GDP per capita growing nearly 750% between 1980 and 2010. Deep-seated corruption and rapid growth have occurred elsewhere. Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea all experienced significant levels of “structural” or what might be called “development corruption” during their boom years. Corruption in China, however, more closely resembles the more common form of “degenerative corruption.” The combination of rapid growth and intensifying corruption in China can be explained by three factors: timing, the nature of China’s economic reform, and the communist party’s decision to launch a sustained anti-corruption effort. The current anti-corruption campaign and its exposure of serious high-level corruption raise questions about the validity of the latter claim. Analysis of recent cases, however, suggests that the level of corruption has not worsened significantly in recent years and that the Chinese economy continues to be able to endure existing levels of corruption.