CHINA’S UPHILL BATTLE AGAINST INEQUALITY

Lecture by prof. Wang Feng
University of California at Irvine, Fudan University Shanghai, CARIPARO Visiting Research Professor Università di Padova

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ABSTRACT

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For the last four decades, China has been a global poster child of "growth with inequality." Containing rising inequality has been one of the central social concerns of the Chinese public and a high priority of the Chinese government. This lecture examines three new features of China's changing inequality and discusses their implications for China's efforts against inequality. The three features are changing forms of economic inequality (from income to wealth), opportunities of social and economic mobility, and the roles of rapidly expanded government social welfare programs in reducing inequality. As economic inequality has become more structural and durable, China's battle against inequality is also more urgent and challenging in the years to come.

THE SPEAKER

Prof. Wang Feng

Professor WANG Feng, from the University of California, Irvine, USA, and Fudan University in Shanghai, China, is a CARIPARO Visiting Research Professor at the University of Padova. Professor Wang is a leading scholar in the studies of social and demographic changes in contemporary China. He is the author of multiple books and articles on these subjects and his book on urban inequality (Stanford University Press 2008) won the best book award from the American Sociological Association's Asian and Asian American Section, and was translated and published in China. Professor Wang's work and views have also been covered by many media outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Financial Times, The Guardian, Economist, NPR, CNN, BBC, and others.

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