

Studying Chinese Elite Politics: Paradigms and Methodologies

Abstract

Throughout PRC history, changes in the composition of the political elite have often reflected — and sometimes heralded — broader transformations in social, economic, political, and strategic dynamics. Central to any analysis of China's political trajectory is understanding the characteristics of the leaders who are governing the country.

Professor Li will evaluate some paradigms on elite studies in the political science literature with empirical data from the newly formed 20th Central Committee of the CCP. The lecture will highlight not only the imperative for more diversified methodological approaches, but also the far-reaching implications of the resurgence of new technocratic leaders and other rapidly rising cohorts.