Singapore Centre for Applied and Policy Economics (SCAPE)
Department of Economics

Policy Forum

Title
Where Is Pro-social Leadership from?
Provincial Leaders’ Liberal Arts Education and Fiscal Expenditure Structure in China

Speaker
Professor Lu Ming
Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Fudan University

Date
13 December 2013, FRIDAY

Time
4 pm - 5.30 pm

Venue
Lim Tay Boh Seminar Room (AS2 03-12)
National University of Singapore, 1 Arts Link, Singapore 117570

Chair
Assoc Prof Liu Haoming
Department of Economics, NUS

Abstract

Economic development policies are significantly influenced by the government leaders. Using the background that college students are strictly divided into majors of liberal arts and science/technology in China, this paper studies the impact of top provincial leaders’ college education backgrounds on the provincial fiscal structure. Based on the provincial panel data, we find that compared with the science/technology-background leaders, those liberal-arts-background ones would increase fiscal expenditure share on science, education, culture and public health by one percentage point and cut expenditures on infrastructure accordingly. This finding indicates that leaders majored in liberal arts value pro-social spending more than short-run economic growth, and thus lead a different development pattern. Our empirical results are quite robust in different checks for the causal relationship between leaders’ education background and fiscal expenditure structure.

About the speaker

Lu Ming is Distinguished Professor of Economics, and Director of Centre for China Development Studies at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Professor at Fudan University, China. He is also Research Fellow of Peking University-Lincoln Institute, and Hitotsubashi University, Japan. He worked as a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard University and National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). He has consulted for the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. His recent research tries to link political economy with economic geography to analyze regional issues. He is also interested in urban labor economics that studies how social interaction and knowledge spillover affect employment and income in the local labor market.

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Registration

Admission is free and all are welcome; we would appreciate it if you could register @ https://esurvey.nus.edu.sg/efm/se.ashx?s=1CC7023E4D17587F

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