



The Geography and Networks of Venture Capital Flows in China: The Rise of Beijing-Shenzhen- Shanghai Tripartite

by

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About the speaker:

Dr. Pan is currently a visiting scholar at Department of Geography, the University of Hong Kong and Assistant Professor at the School of Geography, Beijing Normal University. He obtained the bachelor degree in urban planning and economics, and Ph.D. degree in economic geography from Peking University. He studied in UCLA for one year in the joint Ph.D. program sponsored by the China Scholarship Council. His research foci are financial geography, urban and regional development. His recent research interests include the geography of financial center, venture capital, local government debts in China. He has published papers in *Geoforum*, *Urban Geography*, *Urban Studies*, *Cities*, and et al.

Seminar abstract:

Due to the importance of venture capital (VC) firms in spurring high-tech industries and regional economic growth, the geography of VC firms and VC investments have attracted a lot of research attention. The local bias or proximity preference of VC firms in practice have been well understood. However, the cross-region investment flows and syndication relationships have rarely been studied, though they are crucial to understand the VC activities. Drawing on a unique dataset on China's VC firms and investments, this study seeks to combine the traditional geographical analysis with network analysis. This study provides a full picture of the geography and networks of China's VC activities and reveals how Chinese cities are placed in the network of VC flows. In particular, it confirms that Beijing, Shenzhen and Shanghai are the most important VC centers across the country, which has been underpinned by both geographical and network analysis. In addition, the mapping of the networks of VC flows displays the different characteristics of the three cities within the networks. The city-dyad analysis shows that Beijing-Shenzhen is the most important city connection in terms of VC flows and syndication relationship. Beijing, Shenzhen and Shanghai have formed China's city tripartite in VC industry. The rise and dynamics of the city tripartite are embedded in China's unique institutional contexts, which are critical to understand the geography of China's VC industry.

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