

EAI Seminar

Topic: China's Indigenous Innovation and the Escalation of the US-China Intellectual Property Conflict

Speaker: Dr June Park
Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre on Asia and Globalisation at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Date: Tuesday, 24 May 2016, 3:30pm-5:00pm

Venue: EAI Conference Room
NUS Bukit Timah Campus
469A Bukit Timah Road
Tower Block #06-01, Singapore 259770

Abstract:

This seminar examines the impact of China's indigenous innovation on the US-China intellectual property (IP) conflict in the Trans-Pacific Partnership era. The speaker will address the research gap in the existing literature on global IP rulemaking that focuses on the contest between multinational corporations and developing countries. She will offer a perspective that focuses on the domestic policies of the Chinese state which have exacerbated tensions on bilateral IP conflict and triggered the creation of alternative platforms for global IP norms. She argues that the recent escalation of US-China IP conflict is deeply rooted in the Chinese government's proactive push towards indigenous innovation while restructuring the Chinese market structure. Using a case study of the pharmaceutical sector, the speaker explores China's techno-nationalism that involves theft of trade secrets via industrial espionage. She argues that China's technological catchup strategies as a latecomer to innovation have ignited bilateral IP conflict and prompted the United States to seek global IP rulemaking outside the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework.

About the Speaker:

June Park is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre on Asia and Globalisation at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. She specialises in US foreign economic policymaking on export-oriented economies of East Asia. Her research interests include WTO trade disputes, bilateral currency conflicts and intellectual property enforcement. For her book project titled, 'Trade & Currency Conflict: Northeast Asian States Responses to U.S. Pressures', she has conducted three years of fieldwork in Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing and Washington, DC. She received her BA in Political Science and Journalism, and her MA in International Relations, focusing on international security from Korea University. She graduated with a PhD in Political Science from Boston University with a focus on international political economy as a Fulbright Fellow.

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