

## Family Ties for Knowledge Creation in Developing Economies

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**Speaker:** Dr Peng-Fei Li  
Department of Political Science, University of Toronto

**Chair:** Assoc Prof Godfrey Yeung, Department of Geography, NUS

**Date/Time:** Friday, 13 February 2015, 3.30pm – 5.00pm

**Place:** Earth Lab (AS2 02-03), Department of Geography, NUS

### Abstract

It has been widely recognized that innovation is embedded in social relations and norms of communities and societies. The argument of social learning process is mainly drawn from practices of successful regions in developed economies. However, in many developing countries, especially in Asia, patterns of personal relations are quite different from those in Western individualistic societies. Particularly, family ties are an important feature of many traditional communities. This talk will explore the structure of family networks and argue that, although being strong ties, family ties can establish important bridges to connect industrial communities and are thus able to channel local technology diffusion.

As a preexisting social structure, family relations are likely to promote, rather than restrict, economic development. However, since the role of family ties for localized learning becomes restricted over time, another type of social networks, friends, will be more important to support regional upgrading.




### About the Speaker



Peng-Fei Li is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto. He taught at East China Normal University in Shanghai and worked as a short-time consultant for World Bank from 2011 to 2013. His research focuses on industrial clusters, social and business networks, and transnational knowledge flows, with a regional interest in Asia.

He published on *Journal of Economic Geography* and *Regional Studies*, and received Best Paper Award at the Regional Studies Association Global Conference in 2012. In 2011, he obtained his PhD at Peking University.

ADMISSION IS FREE – ALL ARE WELCOME

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