

The University of Hong Kong

香 港 大 學



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

# Reforming Public Pensions in an Aging World: Lessons from Western Democracies

Longer life expectancy and lower fertility rates have meant that the public pension commitments made by Western industrial democracies to their aging populations pose an increasing strain on public budgets. But aging populations also mean that more of the electorate is at or approaching retirement age, and thus cutting back on those commitments is politically difficult. This seminar will examine how western democracies have dealt with the intertwined social welfare, budgetary and political challenges posed by demographic change, and what lessons Western experience offers for Asian countries whose populations are aging even more rapidly.

**Professor R. Kent Weaver**  
*Professor of Public Policy & Government*  
*Georgetown University*

R. Kent Weaver is Professor of Public Policy and Government at Georgetown University and senior fellow in the Governance Studies Program at the Brookings Institution. Weaver's major fields of interest are comparative social policy, comparative political institutions, and policy implementation. His recent research focuses on understanding how political institutions, feedbacks from past policy choices and strategic behavior of politicians interact to shape public policy choices. Weaver is the author of several books including *Ending Welfare As We Know It*, and he is currently completing a book on what the United States can learn from the experiences of other advanced industrial countries in reforming their public pension systems.

**Date: March 21, 2013 (Thur)**

**Time: 4:30 pm**

**Venue: Room 9.66, The Jockey Club Tower**

*(Tea & coffee will be served at 4:15 pm)*

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