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Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

# The Reach of the State: Work Units, Social Ties and Resistance Control in China

This paper draws on interviews and archival sources to explore how Chinese local governments exploit work units (*danwei*) and social ties to control urban resistance. It shows that when a protest takes place, relevant work units are often assigned to quiet down their contentious employees. When protest participants are independent of work units, their close relatives on the public payroll are frequently made responsible to persuade them to sit out protest. The paper suggests that while the reach of work units and social ties empowers the local state in protest control, frequent use of such approaches alienates elite members of society and impairs regime legitimacy.

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Yanhua Deng is professor of political science at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China. She received her PhD from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research centers on contentious politics, environmental politics, and grassroots governance in China. Her recent studies appear in *The China Quarterly*, *The China Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Social Sciences in China* (中国社会科学), *Sociological Studies* (社会学研究), and *Management World* (管理世界).

**Date: 15 April 2014 (Tuesday)**

**Time: 4:30 pm**

**Venue: Room 966, The Jockey Club Tower  
Centennial Campus, HKU**

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