


Prof. KIM Sungmoon

City University of Hong Kong

Political Meritocracy for Responsibility

Date : 19 February 2024 (Monday)

Time : 16:45 – 18:15

Venue : LKK103 & Zoom Seminar 

Here is the link to the seminar – <https://lingnan.zoom.us/j/91923328554>

Political meritocracy is commonly understood in terms of a rule by the best and the brightest. It focuses on the political elites' moral and epistemic ability to make a public decision that can contribute to the people's long-term interests. Understanding political legitimacy chiefly in terms of the government's good performance, therefore, advocates of political meritocracy stipulate a general causal relation between the political leaders' superior virtue and knowledge and good public outcomes. In this talk, I explore an alternative account of political meritocracy—what I call responsibility meritocracy—which rejects such a simple causal connection that underscores performance meritocracy. Unlike performance meritocracy, responsibility meritocracy takes an ex post approach to political meritocracy by understanding merit mainly from the standpoint of the way in which political leaders take responsibility not only for the consequences of their own public decisions but, more importantly, for social, economic, and political situations that have occurred largely out of their political control such as natural disasters and structural injustice. I present this non-causal sense of responsibility as the gist of political virtue (or merit) that undergirds political meritocracy.

All are welcome

For enquiries, please call 2616 7445 / 2616 7488 or e-mail to dphil@ln.edu.hk