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SEMINAR: Economics of Science & Engineering | joint with | China Economy Seminar
Harvard University, Department of Economics
Host: Professor Richard B. Freeman
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SPEAKER: Wei Huang (Peking Univ, Natl School of Development)
TITLE: “The Tenure-Track System and Academic Research Productivity: Evidence from Reforms in Chinese Universities”
PAPER: joint with Qingfeng Liu (Tsinghua Univ), JianWei Xing (Peking Univ, CCER, NSD), and Shilin Zheng (IQTE, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

ABSTRACT:
Leveraging personnel system reforms in 46 Chinese economics departments, we conduct an event study to estimate the impact of the tenure-track system on research productivity. Using manually collected individual-level information on each faculty member in these departments, we show that tenure-track faculty have 0.18 (or 130%) more annual publications in high-quality journals during their probationary period than faculty hired under the traditional personnel system. Significant evidence shows that the increased incentives generated by the tenure-track system, not positive selection, leads to this increased productivity. The tenure-track reform accounts for much of the increased productivity in Chinese economic research.

BIO:
[Dr HUANG Wei](https://en.nsd.pku.edu.cn/faculty/fulltime/h/525380.htm) is an Associate Professor with Tenure at the National School of Development (NSD), Peking University. Previously, he was an assistant professor at Emory University and National University of Singapore. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard in 2016. His research fields include public economics, labor economics, and health economics. His research work has been published in journals such as *Review of Economic and Statistics*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Nature, Journal of Economic Perspectives, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Labor Economics, etc.

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