

## Political Economy

### "Taiwan's Party System – Its Origins, Evolution, and Consequences for Democracy"

abstract:

In this talk, I argue that Taiwan's party system is a key and underappreciated cause of this "democratic miracle."

Taiwan's high level of party system institutionalization, or PSI, has ensured a credible alternative to incumbents in each election, enhanced the responsiveness of governments to citizen demands, limited the appeal of populist candidates, and encouraged increased spending on public goods and the development of broad, programmatic policies rather than narrowly targeted, clientelistic ones. Thus, while many observers worry about the negative impacts of these factors on democracy, including persistent political polarization, divided national identities, and disputes over authoritarian legacies, I argue that these have also contributed in positive ways to the resilient and high-quality democracy that Taiwan enjoys today.#