

“High Noon in Hong Kong”: Negotiating over the Nomination Committee for the 2017 Chief Executive Election

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Ever since the Standing Committee of the NPC in China agreed in 2007 to allow Hong Kong’s 2017 Chief Executive (CE) election to take place through “universal suffrage,” a crisis has loomed. In every election since 1992, approximately 55-60% of Hong Kong people have cast their ballots in geographic constituency elections in favour of candidates in the “democratic” camp. So, if a “pan-democrat” is able to run for Chief Executive under conditions of universal suffrage, that candidate could win. Fearful of allowing any one unfriendly to the Central Government to run in, let alone win, the CE election, the Central Government sees a Nomination Committee, as outlined in Hong Kong’s Basic Law, as the best way to control the election. But many citizens in Hong Kong oppose such a system and a more radical group supports only public nomination and threatens to Occupy Central—sit in the streets of the business district. Professor Zweig will describe the ongoing political battles over the Nomination Committee and the effort to make the nomination and election process as democratic as possible.



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He is the author of four books, including *Internationalizing China: domestic interests and global linkages* (Cornell Univ. Press, 2002). He edited special issues of *Pacific Affairs* (September 2008) and the *Journal of International Migration and Integration* (Fall 2006), both of which focus on migration of ethnic Chinese in East Asia, and recently organized a special issue of *Asian Survey*, focusing on Hong Kong- Mainland relations. He has also edited five other books in both English and Chinese. In 2013, he received The Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship, Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, 2013-14.

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