Scholars' House
Hub for China Studies in Tokyo

The AI Governance Dilemma

How U.S.-China Competition Is Reshaping Policy Choices Across the Asia-Pacific

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As the United States and China compete for leadership in artificial intelligence, the contest is increasingly moving beyond just technology. It is also about who gets to shape the rules and norms governing the AI age. While Europe's landmark AI Act sought to establish a global model for regulation, countries across the Asia-Pacific have so far largely resisted a one-size-fits-all approach. Instead, the governments are pursuing different strategies shaped by their economic priorities, security concerns, and political systems. In this talk, Prof. George Chen, who brings more than two decades of experience at the intersection of technology, media, and public policy, including a long tenure at Meta (formerly Facebook), will examine the emerging AI governance divide between Washington and Beijing. He will explore whether countries across the Asia-Pacific may increasingly be forced to choose sides, and whether a distinct regional approach is possible. Drawing on both industry experience and academic research, Prof. Chen will also discuss how policymakers can navigate the growing tension between innovation, sovereignty, and public safety, a new "political trilemma" emerging in the age of AI.

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10:30-12:00

Seminar Room No. 2 on the first floor of the Economics Research Annex (Kojima Hall)
The University of Tokyo (Hongo Campus)

Hosts:
Scholars' House (https://scholarshouse.org)
Prof. Tomoko Shiroyama, Faculty of Economics, The University of Tokyo