

**Panel:** Public Opinion in China (Cosmos & Violet Room)

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, December 12, 2012 / 09:00-10:15

**Talking Points for:** Bang Hyejung, Researcher, East Asia Institute, Sogang University

Literally, public opinion is the collective attitudes or views from the majority of members of a society toward lots of social issues. In this regard, the topic of ‘public opinion in China’ is too broad to start to discuss. Thus, I think we’d rather start from why we need to talk about public opinion in China. Like other countries, there’s no doubt on the existence of ‘public’ and their opinions on the social issues in China. But due to its different social system, it’s been hard to grasp the mechanism to form, deliver, disperse or share the public opinions in China so as to make any influence on the related social issues, which is rather common and important way for social members to realize their interests in democratic societies. In this vein, recent comparatively easy access and exchange of information and increase of using social networking systems in China with the wide spread of Internet and smart phones, create more room for China watchers to explore the interaction efficiency and its significance between Chinese government and their people. This kind of observation and analysis can help validate the progress degree of establishing the well-harmonized society in China, which shows what Chinese people really want and how effectively Chinese government realizes it. For our productive discussion, we need to narrow our attention down to the unconventional mechanism such as Internet and smart phones and its social impacts on the creation of public opinion in China as well as related reactions from Chinese government.

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