



Special Lecture

Good Governance in Non-Democratic Contexts: The Example of the New Cooperative Medical Scheme in the PRC

→ May 27th 2008 (Tuesday) 4:15pm

→ Seminarraum Ostasien

→ Language: English



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In 2002, the Chinese leadership proclaimed a turnover in national welfare policy: Voluntary medical schemes at County level, called "New Rural Cooperative Medical System (NRCMS)" should cover all counties by 2010. This lecture addresses the main characteristics of NRCMS, analyses the introduction of local schemes based on own field studies in one Kazakh county of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region since 2006, and argues that the fast progressing of the local scheme and the flexibility shown by local administrators in considering structural and procedural adjustments are not the result of central directives but of local initiatives. Recentralisation from the township governments to functional departments in the provincial and the central state administration is only one aspect of rural governance. Complementary forms of locally embedded responsiveness to the needs of health care recipients are crucial in restructuring the administration and discharge of health care. These new modes of governance describe self-regulation as being different from hierarchical control and the institutionalized representation of interests of the local population. They may serve as a model for other fields of state administration.