

Seminar

**“Sorting, School Performance and Quality:
Evidence from China”**

(in English)



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Date: 3 November 2016 (Thursday)

Time: 10:30am – 12:00nn

Venue: WYL314, Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building

Abstract:

School choice reforms, such as lottery and voucher programs, give talented students the choice to sort out of low-performing schools but often leave disadvantaged students behind. This study shows how a Chinese city was successful in helping its low-performing schools to catch up by encouraging talented students to sort into these schools. The city identified eleven low-performing middle schools and guaranteed elite high school admission to their top ten-percent graduates. This study documents that the policy improved school performance by 0.19-0.26 standard deviations. Using data on lottery middle school assignment, I further test for potential mechanisms, including strategic sorting and improvement in school value-added.

All Are Welcome