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SINGAPORE

School of Social Sciences

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences



Sociology

cordially invites you to the following seminar

**The Panama Papers
and the Geography of Advanced Business
Services (ABS) Intermediaries**

by

Gordon Tan

Date: Wednesday, 6 November 2019

Time: 3:00 to 4:30pm

Venue: HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)

Biography

Gordon is a financial geographer, whose work focuses on examining the role of technological changes in shaping the nature of urban financial centres and financial work, and how people understand and interact with new, emerging financial technologies like bitcoin. He is also interested in studying the networked flows of human capital among financial centres and their effect on urban and regional development. Gordon is currently working on a co-authored book that explores misinformation in the online era from a geographical perspective.

Abstract

While studies have paid attention to the activities of firms and their financial flows in offshore tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions, there is scant work on role of advanced business services (ABS) intermediary providers in shaping the geography of these jurisdictions. Yet such a study is needed in light of the recent release of the Panama Papers and the fallout of major political figures, celebrities and corporations as a result of the leaks. This paper examines the role of relational ties in mediating and linking high net worth individuals, political elites, corporations, intermediary providers, and, secrecy jurisdictions. By examining the major organizational hubs of social power embedded in network structures, it suggests that regulatory responses to tax avoidance and evasion associated with secrecy jurisdictions may need to move beyond a state-centred model of governance. Transnational governance involves a broader set of auspices and governors that include ABS actors and their social practices which constitute both a source of learning and normative regulation.

All are welcome!