

The University of Hong Kong

香 港 大 學



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

The Novelty of Sovereign Wealth Funds: The Emperor's New Clothes?

Sovereign wealth funds are large state investment funds growing in size and number. With more than US \$5 trillion under management, sovereign wealth funds surpassing the combined asset volume of global hedge funds and private equity industry. Sovereign wealth funds have become central actors in international finance specifically after the Financial Crisis 2007-2009. Following a number of investment deals in the 2000s sovereign wealth funds have been subject to an intense media and government scrutiny. Now again at the inflection point to worldwide economic recovery commentators warn of a new wave of protectionism sparked by state interventionism. More and more countries are considering to set up new sovereign wealth funds. Are sovereign wealth funds driven by economics or politics, or both? Given this uncertainty, they pose unprecedented risks with regard to national security and monetary and financial stability. Along with this, Jürgen Braunstein will discuss to what extent sovereign wealth funds are novel phenomena in the international economic environment. This is a unique opportunity to reveal striking similarities between earlier state investment vehicles and contemporary sovereign wealth funds, and thereby helping to discuss contemporary threats associated with state investment funds from a broader perspective.

Jürgen Braunstein

Department of Government

London School of Economics (LSE)

Jürgen Braunstein is a Ph.D. candidate in the Government Department at the London School of Economics (LSE), working on the political economy of sovereign wealth funds. Jürgen is a researcher at the Centre for Risk Analysis at the LSE and he is affiliated with the Center for Emerging Market Enterprises at Fletcher School, Tufts University (Boston). During his studies, Jürgen Braunstein has participated and presented at numerous academic conferences across North America, Europe and Australia on the subject of sovereign wealth funds. He was researcher at the Kuwait Programme on Development, Governance Globalisation in the Gulf States where he compiled one of the first databases on sovereign wealth fund equity investments in OECD economies. He has worked with Roubini Global Economics (London) on macro-economic issues in the Middle East and on sovereign wealth funds. Jürgen has held teaching appointments in the Government Department at the LSE. This seminar will be based on an upcoming article in *Global Policy*.

Date: 14 November, 2013 (Thursday)

Time: 3:30 pm

Venue: Room 9.66, The Jockey Club Tower

(Tea & coffee will be served at 3:15 pm)

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