Abstract


China’s economic leap is usually believed to be a successful combination of dependent development, proper state intervention and decentralization. Guangdong Province and its capital Guangzhou, the pioneer regions in the decentralization reform, are facing severe challenges in their economic development after the substantial growth brought by the reform and the development in the export-oriented manufacturing industry. This thesis contributes to the literature on dependent development, decentralization and proper centralization. The main concern of this thesis is a justified local economic development planning process within China’s institutional backdrop—the “tacit relationships” among individuals and between the central and local government. I specify my research to one locality—Guangzhou, and two local industries—automobile and software. In studying the tacit relationships, to solve the problem of lacking substantial quantitative data at detailed level in previous studies, I use the technology of Social Analysis Network (SNA) and graph theory to analyze the interrelationships and power allocation of the political and academic leaders in the Science and Technology (S&T) system.