

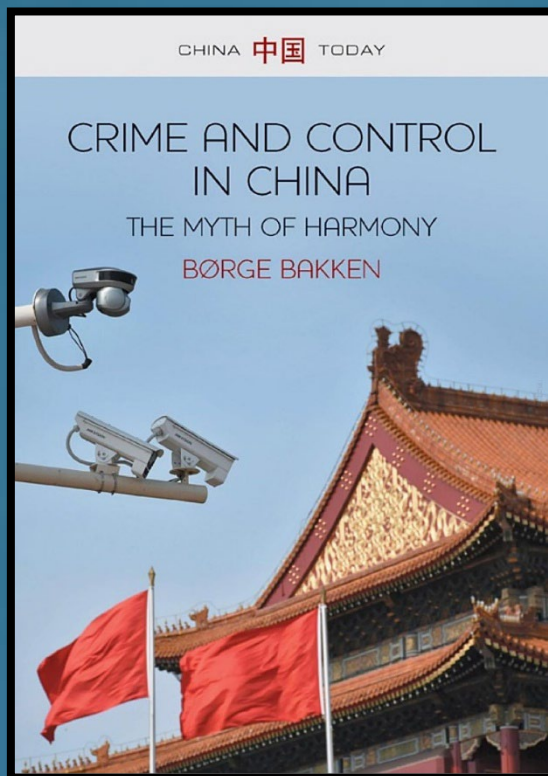
Public Law and Human Rights Forum (CPLR) &  
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Public Law and  
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香港城市大學  
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## Public Law and Human Rights Book Review Seminar Series (5) Crime and Control in China: The Myth of Harmony (Polity 2022) by Børge Bakken



China is a transitional society with one of the highest rates of inequality in the world. Criminologists would typify this as a highly unstable combination, contributing to very high levels of crime. Yet China reports extremely low crime rates. How might this be?

With this book, Børge Bakken shows that the reality in China does not match the rosy picture of low crime and rule-by-law that the authorities present to the world. Looking beyond the statistics, Bakken discovers that violent crime is a particularly 'sensitive issue', deliberately censored by party propaganda and by an unaccountable police force that can 'vanish' any type of crime to a degree that makes the published 'crime rate' a mere formality. Even the assumption that crime represents the problem and control its solution is not valid, Bakken argues. When control becomes part of the problem, the false assumption of a 'harmonious society' evaporates, rendering 'harmony' a myth, and violence the traumatic reality. Join us on Zoom as we discuss Bakken's fascinating book in greater detail.

Moderator: **Daniel Pascoe**, Associate Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

Attending Author: **Børge Bakken**, Visiting Emeritus Fellow, College of Asia & the Pacific, The Australian National University

Reviewer: **Enshen Li**, Associate Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

Please attend by the following link: <https://cityu.zoom.us/j/5275890978>

**Date:** 19 Oct 2023

**Time:** 5:00pm-6:00pm (HKT)

**Venue:** Online via Zoom

**Language:** English

**Scan the QR Code or Click the Link to Attend**

