

PROPOSITIONS

attached to the thesis

The Role of Local Governments in Emerging Regional Business Systems A Comparative Analysis of Zhejiang and Yunnan Provinces

By Zhen Lu

International Institute of Social Studies
Erasmus University Rotterdam

1. The implementation of the monotonic type of development trajectory at the national level might not bring about convergence to a homogeneous and monotonic type of regional development trajectories.
2. The highly competitive environment shaped by the decentralization and promotion system caused risk-averse and short term-oriented behavior of local governments in China.
3. The institutional innovation can enhance path dependence of regional development trajectory.
4. Finding the possible explanations and determining factors within a very broad theoretical and conceptual framework (business systems theory) may create hindsight bias and make it difficult to prove (statistical) causality due to the alternative explanations and external factors.
5. For findings to be generalized, new research agenda could include more research on replicating the results in other regions.
6. Without decentralization and promotion system, economic efficiency could be harmed in the market reform in China, due to the absence of actual discretion and incentive mechanisms.
7. The functional lock-in and institutional lock-in will ultimately cause industrial-technological lock-in.
8. To take target measures depending on regional economic structures might reduce regional inequalities; otherwise, eliminating the regional differences in the transitional Chinese economy is hard to achieve.
9. The neoclassical perspectives and mathematical economics are the major paradigms to economic analysis in the Chinese research community, while evolutionary thinking is seldom applied in economic analysis, let alone the regional comparative analysis.
10. Compared with the neoclassical perspectives, evolutionary thinking can be applied and offer better explanations in dealing with the dynamics and complex historical, socio-economic systems, especially in the Chinese economy.
11. "Grau, teurer Freund, ist alle Theorie und grün des Lebens goldner Baum." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe - Faust.