

# Empires of Ideas: Will China Overtake America in Higher Education? What may this mean for Hong Kong and HKU?

**Professor William Kirby**  
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**Date:** April 17, 2023 (Monday)  
**Time:** 16:30 – 17:45 (HKT)  
**Venue:** 11/F, HKU Social Sciences Chamber  
(The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU)  
**Chair:** Professor Gerard Postiglione

**Registration:** [https://hkuems1.hku.hk/hkuems/ec\\_regform.aspx?quest=Y&ueid=87261](https://hkuems1.hku.hk/hkuems/ec_regform.aspx?quest=Y&ueid=87261)

## Abstract:

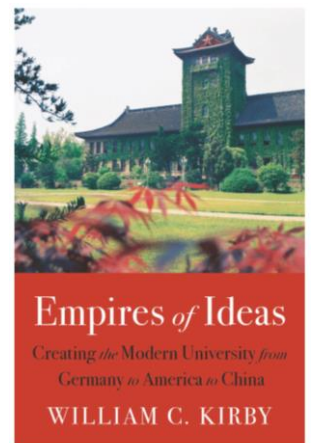
The modern university was born in Germany. In the twentieth century, the United States leapfrogged Germany to become the global leader in higher education. Today, America's supremacy in higher education is under great stress, particularly at its public universities. At the same time, Chinese universities are on the ascent. Will China threaten American primacy? And what does the rise of Chinese universities mean for Hong Kong and HKU?

## About the speaker:



William C. Kirby is T. M. Chang Professor of China Studies at Harvard University and Spangler Family Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School. He is a Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor. He serves as Chairman of the Harvard China Fund, the University's academic venture fund for China, and Faculty Chair of the Harvard Center Shanghai, Harvard's first University-wide center located outside the United States.

Kirby's work examines contemporary China's business, economic, and political development in an international context. He writes and teaches on the growth of modern companies in China (Chinese and foreign; state-owned and private); Chinese corporate law and company structure; business relations across Greater China (PRC, Taiwan, Hong Kong); and China's relations with the United States and Europe. He has authored or co-authored more than fifty HBS cases on business in China, ranging from start-ups to SOEs; agribusiness and middle-class consumption; banking and microfinance; healthcare and education; corporate governance and corporate social responsibility; and the global strategies of Chinese firms. His current projects include case studies of trend-setting Chinese businesses and a comparative study of higher education in China, Europe, and the United States. His most recent books include *Can China Lead?* (Harvard Business Review Press) and *China and Europe on the New Silk Road* (Oxford University Press).



~ All are welcome ~

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