



EQUALITY DEVELOPMENT AND
GLOBALIZATION STUDIES

The EDGS and Political Science Speaker Series on "Society and Politics in the Asia-Pacific"

ELIZABETH PERRY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



HIGHER EDUCATION AND AUTHORITARIAN RESILIENCE: THE CASE OF CHINA, PAST AND PRESENT

Monday, April 17, 2017
2:00pm - 3:30 pm
Scott Hall 212

Western social scientists from John Dewey to Seymour Martin Lipset have associated state investment in higher education with liberal democratic regimes. Authoritarian regimes, it is often suggested, do not tend to support higher education because an educated citizenry is seen as a threat to their survival. The case of China, past and present, challenges this conventional wisdom. Imperial China, the most enduring authoritarian system in world history, thrived in large part precisely because of its sponsorship of higher education. The durability of the contemporary PRC may also hinge in no small measure on its support for higher education.

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