

# THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING

## Departmental Research Seminar

### A Spatial Scale Model of Perceptions of Inequality and Support for Redistribution By



**Prof. Stéphane Côté**  
**University of Toronto**

**Date : 12 Oct 2022 (WED)**  
**Time : 9:00 am – 10:30 am**  
**Venue : Online via Zoom**

#### **Abstract**

The perception that economic resources are unequally distributed in society has been proposed to increase support for redistribution, but previous studies have returned mixed results. To advance our understanding, we adopt a socioecological approach to societal attitudes, specifically examining whether perceived inequality is associated differently with support for redistribution in distinct spatial scales (or size of geographical areas). Two exploratory studies and two (pre-registered) confirmatory studies reveal that spatial scale shapes the association between perceived inequality and support for redistribution. Perceiving more inequality in global areas relates to more support for redistribution, and this association is mediated by feelings of compassion for the poor and beliefs that society is unmeritocratic. By contrast, perceived inequality in local areas is unrelated to support for redistribution; support for redistribution in local areas is consistently high. The results show the importance of considering the spatial scale to fully understand how people respond to the economic inequality that they perceive in society.

**Prof. Stéphane Côté** is Geoffrey Conway Chair in Business Ethics, Professor of Organizational Behaviour, and Director of the Clarkson Centre for Business Ethics at Rotman. His research focuses on how emotional intelligence relates to well-being and performance, and how social class and inequality relate to prosocial and ethical behavior in social and organizational settings. He is an Associate Editor at *Administrative Science Quarterly* and a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, International Association of Applied Psychology and Society for Personality and Social Psychology. He teaches courses on emotional intelligence in the MBA and Commerce programs.

**All interested are welcome.**



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