

**Presentation at the 2022 Kashiwajima, the Annual Convention of the Japan Association for Asian Studies**

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**Title and Abstract:**

**Global Dynamics and New Political-Economic Tensions in Asia – The Trouble with Global Production Networks**

Henry Wai-chung YEUNG  
Distinguished Professor  
Department of Geography and GPN@NUS Centre  
National University of Singapore  
Email: [henryyeung@nus.edu.sg](mailto:henryyeung@nus.edu.sg)

This presentation offers several observations on the key political-economic challenges arising from the US-China trade war since mid-2018 and the Covid-19 pandemic since 2020. Through the conceptual lens of the theory of global production networks, I examine their most significant implications or “trouble” for East and Southeast Asia in the post-pandemic 2020s: (1) greater significance of Asia as a major end market, (2) pro-ecosystem approach to capability development, supply ecosystems, and market access, and (3) strategic partnership through global production networks as the organizational key to resilience building. I end with a discussion of some relevant research agendas and policy practice on technology, resilience, and politics for future interdisciplinary studies of global production networks and global value chains.

**About the speaker:**

Professor Henry Yeung is Distinguished Professor at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. As a leading academic expert in global production networks and the global economy, his research interests cover broadly theories and the geography of transnational corporations, East Asian firms, and developmental states. He is the first geographer based in Asia to receive both the 2018 American Association of Geographers Distinguished Scholarship Honors and the UK’s Royal Geographical Society Murchison Award 2017. In November 2022, he will be conferred the 2022 Sir Peter Hall Award for Lifetime Contribution to the Field by the Regional Studies Association in London: “acknowledging and celebrating excellence in the field of regional studies”. Professor Yeung has published 6 monographs and 1 textbook (3 editions), 7 edited books, 105 journal articles, and 50 book chapters. His most recent books are *Interconnected Worlds: Global Electronics and Production Networks in East Asia* (Innovation and Technology in the World Economy Series, Stanford University Press, 2022), *Strategic Coupling: East Asian Industrial Transformation in the New Global Economy* (Cornell Studies in Political Economy Series, Cornell University Press, 2016), and *Global Production Networks: Theorizing Economic Development in an Interconnected World* (with Neil Coe, Oxford University Press, 2015). He is among the top 20 most cited geographers in a recent November 2020 study of top 2% of world scientists, led by Stanford’s John Ioannidis, in 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-fields. For two decades since 2001, Professor Yeung has been editor of two top journals in Geography – *Economic Geography* and *Environment and Planning A*. He is also past editor

of *Review of International Political Economy* (2004-2013) and serves on the editorial boards of 19 other journals.