Thoughts on the Big Questions of Chinese Public Management

A talk by

Dr. Matthew S. Mingus
Professor and Doctoral Director,
School of Public Affairs and Administration
Western Michigan University

6 p.m. Thursday, March 26
Putney Lecture Hall, Fetzer Center

Dr. Mingus’ primary research interests are comparative federalism, decentralization, and comparative public management. He has spent extensive time in Canada, China, and Iraq. His research for this talk was completed while he was on sabbatical and served as a visiting professor in the School of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China in Chengdu.

In this presentation, Mingus will make the case that there are big questions which are extremely relevant to today’s Chinese public management. He will discuss the relevance of Behn’s questions on micromanagement, motivation, and measurement to China, and propose alternate wording of Behn’s questions for the Chinese context. Such a discussion within the Chinese academic community and government is much needed because China is the world’s second largest economy and their civil service has had significant time to mature. A key challenge to this discussion is the immense scope and depth of the Communist Party of China, which makes it difficult to focus solely on public management.