



## **The Whole-of-Society Approach: The Immigration Integration in Yiwu, China in a Multi-Level Governance Perspective**

### **Synopsis**

This lecture investigates how immigrants from the Muslim world are integrated into the mainstream society of a county in East China which is a key manufacturing and trade hub in the global economy--Yiwu. Using data collected from face-to-face interviews and on-site observations, as well as archival records of government policies and media reports, we develop an analytic framework of "the whole-of-society" approach, based on the idea of multi-level governance and distinctive governance, which underscore the experimental efforts of a relatively smaller-sized but developmentalist government to strike a delicate balance between economic development and national security in a country without a national immigration legal framework. We find that, at the department level, the entire local police force proactively reaches out to foreigners through creative and high-tech methods to serve several purposes including contributing to international trade; at the countywide level, the entire local government, centered around the goal of economic development, provides a variety of services to foreigners, which further draw them closer to Yiwu in a country-level competition over international trade and FDI with global cities in China; at the society level, the entire Yiwu society, through social work institutions, attempts to integrate foreigners into Yiwu's social fabrics.



**Tianlong You**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Yunnan University, China**



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