

IBP 2021 Dissertations in the Social Sciences Shortlist

AUTHOR: Chao-yo Cheng

TITLE: *Autonomy in Autocracy: Explaining Ethnic Policies in Post-1949 China*

University of California-Los Angeles, 2019.

This dissertation brings together machine learning with fascinating expert interviews to investigate the underlying motivations for China to designate autonomous ethnic regions. Finding that questions of power consolidation and center-periphery arrangements are more decisive than demands by ethnic minorities, it deepens understandings of Chinese ethnic policy and suggests new directions for the study of ethnic management and authoritarianism beyond China.