Opposing Power argues that perceptions of regime vulnerability and mutual dependency by opposition elites shape the building of opposition alliances. When electoral autocracies are consistently dominant, opposition parties eschew fully fledged alliances. At best, they allocate only one candidate to contest against the incumbent in each subnational electoral district to avoid splitting the opposition vote. However, when multiple regime-debilitating events strike within a short period of time, thus pushing an incumbent to the precipice of power, opposition elites expect victory, accepting costly compromises to build alliances and seize power. Opposing Power shows how oppositions build these alliances through case study comparisons in East and Southeast Asia—between the Philippines and South Korea in the late 1980s, and between Malaysia and Singapore from 1965 to 2020.

**AUTHOR:**
Elvin Ong, Assistant Professor of Political Science, National University of Singapore

**COMMENTATOR:**
Jean Hong, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan

**CHAIR:**
Po Jen Yap, Professor of Law, HKU

This webinar is organized by the Centre for Comparative and Public Law, HKU and will be held via Zoom Meeting. Prior registration is required. Please click [HERE](#) to register. For inquiries, please email Phoenix To at pxto@hku.hk.