

*Institutional Centralization: Adaptation of Party and Government in China, 2012–Present**

Wen-Hsuan Tsai and Wang Zhou

Abstract

The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) 2018 reform of party and government agencies introduced two models: merger and co-location. The merger model sees a party organization absorbing government departments with similar functions, creating a new party entity. In contrast, the co-location model places party and government units with related functions under one roof, without consolidating their operations. We argue that this political reform was designed to enhance institutional centralization in China. By implementing different models of party and government reform in various sectors, the CCP has demonstrated a flexible approach, shifting away from its earlier tendency towards either full integration or complete separation of party and government structures.

Wen-Hsuan Tsai is Research Fellow in the Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica.

Wang Zhou is Associate Professor in Zhou Enlai School of Government, Nankai University. Correspondence should be sent to zhouwang@nankai.edu.cn.

* We thank the following organizations for their research funding support: National Science and Technology Council (No. 113-2423-H-001-002) and Taiwan Social Resilience Research Center (No. 113L900302) from Taiwan; and Asia Research Center in Nankai University (No. AS2320) and National Social Science Fund of China (No. 21BZZ021) from the Chinese Mainland.