

**IFA-Hong Kong Seminar  
1:00pm on Friday, 17 January 2020  
KPMG's office  
8th Floor, Prince's Building  
10 Chater Road, Central  
Hong Kong**

**What is a Tax Audit in China?  
by Wei Cui**

---

Scholars and practitioners commonly equate tax audits in China with tax inspections (*jicha*). This talk offers a close empirical examination of the history of Chinese tax inspections, and highlight several ways in which they differ from tax audits as normally understood in the West. It then turns to the bigger and competing revenue management (*shuiyuan guanli*) system in Chinese tax administration, and considers how tax audits feature in routine revenue management. Overall, there is evidence that China tax administration has largely dispensed with the audit-deterrence approach commonly observed in advanced economies, and successfully developed an alternative system for revenue extraction.

*BRIEF BIO*

Wei Cui is a Professor at the Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, and currently directs UBC's Centre for Asian Legal Studies. Before joining the UBC law faculty, he practiced tax law for over 10 years in New York and Beijing. He has held visiting professorships at the law schools of Michigan, Northwestern, Columbia, and Melbourne Universities, among other institutions. As an academic, Professor Cui has authored over 90 academic and professional articles and is a co-author of *Value Added Tax: A Comparative Approach* (Cambridge University Press 2015). His talk will be based on a current book project, provisionally entitled "Foundations of China's Modern Fiscal State."