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# **Political and Ethnic Representation in Chinese Local Governance**

Analysis of the Roles of the Deputies of Leishan County People's Congress,  
Guizhou Province, China

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies  
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This thesis investigates the political and ethnic environment of local Chinese political actors and their representational dilemmas in the Miao-dominant area of Leishan County, Guizhou Province, China. The investigation is conducted via two research questions: how do the deputies of a Miao County People's Congress in China play their roles in representing the interests of the state towards the community, and how do they represent the interests of the community towards the state? The achievements of the deputies and the challenges they face in their dual representational roles are a focus of the analysis. The thesis provides insight into the governance and politics of a local government body dominated by an ethnic minority and the interplay of these dynamics with central government authorities presided over by Han Chinese.

The representative structure of the Leishan County People's Congress (LCPC) and its deputy membership is explored to understand how the deputies enact their roles in promoting, intervening in and restructuring development projects as both agents of and remonstrators to the central state. Case studies of village governance and cultural tourism are used to illustrate how the LCPC deputies are both coordinators and negotiators in a polycentric local governance structure.

The fieldwork was carried out in the ethnic area of Leishan County. Relevant data was collected through four interrelated research methods: focus groups, semi-structured individual interviews, purposive observation and document analysis. The quantification of pairwise ranking by the focus groups highlighted the achievements and challenges in the key functions required of the deputies. The data also led to two further areas for in-depth analysis: central-local relations, and the political and ethnic representation of the deputies.

The research found that when conflicts exist, political representation that favours the state prevails over community interests. At the same time, the deputies' representation of their ethnic communities is enhanced and augmented when they undertake to localise the national development policies and projects handed down by central authorities. Finally, the concept of polycentric governance enables a more precise understanding of the changing local governance systems in China among the diverse stakeholders present in the ethnic communities.



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## Table of Contents

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<b>Abstract</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Annotated Glossary</b> .....	<b>xi</b>
<b>Acronyms</b> .....	<b>xiii</b>
<b>Tables</b> .....	<b>xv</b>
<b>Figures</b> .....	<b>xv</b>
<b>Photos</b> .....	<b>xvi</b>
<b>Maps</b> .....	<b>xvi</b>
<b>Formulae</b> .....	<b>xvi</b>
<b>Diagrams</b> .....	<b>xvii</b>
<b>Boxes</b> .....	<b>xvii</b>
<b>Charts</b> .....	<b>xvii</b>
<b>Chapter One: Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 Overview</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 An introduction to the Miao ethnic group and Miao people in Guizhou Province</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1.3 Research questions</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>1.4 Purpose and contribution of this research</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>1.5 Focus and Perspective</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>1.6 Conceptual framework</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>1.7 Outline of chapters</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Chapter Two: Literature review: Governance and polycentric governance</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>2.1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>2.2 Governance</b> .....	<b>15</b>
2.2.1 Governance: Definitions .....	16
2.2.2 Good governance .....	19
<b>2.3 Local governance</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>2.4 Conceptual framework: Polycentric governance</b> .....	<b>23</b>
2.4.1 Theoretical background of polycentric governance .....	23
2.4.2 The development of thinking about polycentric governance.....	25
2.4.3 Polycentric governance as a theoretical tool of analysis.....	28
2.4.4 The significance of local governance in a polycentric system .....	33
<b>2.5 Decentralisation and polycentric governance</b> .....	<b>36</b>



2.5.1 Decentralisation: Definitions and concepts .....	36
2.5.2 Decentralisation and central-local relations .....	37
2.5.3 Decentralisation and polycentric governance .....	38
<b>2.6 Ethnicity, political and ethnic representation .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>2.7 Research and debate on polycentric governance in China .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>2.8 Summary of the literature review and its relevance to the research questions .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Chapter Three: Governance in the ethnic areas in China .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>3.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>3.2 Historical perspectives on the local governance system in China's ethnic areas.....</b>	<b>49</b>
3.2.1 Local governance system in the Imperial Period in China .....	49
3.2.2 Local governance policies of Chinese Communist Party in the Republican Period .....	51
<b>3.3 Local governance system in ethnic areas in contemporary China.....</b>	<b>52</b>
3.3.1 Ethnic Regional Autonomy System .....	52
3.3.2 County governmental authorities.....	54
3.3.3 The Party and Party Committee of the County.....	55
3.3.4 The County People's Government .....	56
<b>3.4. The People's Congresses.....</b>	<b>58</b>
3.4.1 Roles of the People's Congresses .....	58
3.4.2 Roles of the deputies in the People's Congresses .....	60
3.4.3 Representative structure and representation of the deputies in the People's Congresses.....	61
<b>3.5 Local governance and democratisation in China .....</b>	<b>62</b>
3.5.1 Central-local relations in China.....	63
3.5.2 Local governance and democratic elections at grassroots level .....	65
3.5.3 Local governance and elite capture .....	67
<b>3.6 Ethnicity, politics and cultural tourism in China .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>3.7 Core concepts in Chinese local context: consensual democracy, interest groups and pluralism ...</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>3.8 Development interventions and projects .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>3.9 An introduction to Leishan County and its People's Congress.....</b>	<b>74</b>
3.9.1 Leishan County.....	74
3.9.2 Leishan County People's Congress (LCPC) .....	75
<b>3.10 Chapter summary .....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Chapter Four: Methodology and research methods.....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>4.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>4.2 Methodological considerations.....</b>	<b>80</b>
4.2.1 Positionality and reflexivity.....	81
4.2.2 Ethics approvals .....	85

4.2.3 Liaison officer as gatekeeper and intermediary .....	86
<b>4.3 A qualitative research supported by quantitative methods .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>4.4 Concepts, expressions and translation issues .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>4.5 Research methods .....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>4.6 Recruitment of the participants for focus groups and individual interviews.....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>4.7 Focus groups.....</b>	<b>91</b>
4.7.1 The procedure of arranging focus groups.....	92
4.7.2 Practical operation of focus groups by pairwise ranking.....	93
4.7.3 Synthesis of the four focus groups and explanation of the classification of each item into achievements and challenges .....	97
<b>4.8 Analysing data based on the normalisation and averaging of raw data.....</b>	<b>102</b>
4.8.1 Normalisation of the raw data “score” .....	102
4.8.2 Averaging normalised score.....	104
<b>4.9 Semi-structured individual interviews.....</b>	<b>106</b>
4.9.1 Design of the supporting questions for the research questions.....	108
4.9.2 Photos in the semi-structured individual interviews.....	109
4.9.3 Quantifying the findings in semi-structured individual interviews.....	110
<b>4.10 Purposive observation.....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>4.11 Document analysis.....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>4.12 Conclusion.....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Chapter Five: Representative structure and representation .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>5.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>5.2 Representative structure and representation of the LCPC deputies .....</b>	<b>121</b>
5.2.1 Age structure .....	125
5.2.2 Gender structure.....	127
5.2.3 Ethnicity .....	131
5.2.4 Education .....	132
5.2.5 Party status .....	135
5.2.6 Social class .....	137
5.2.7 Status of professionalisation.....	138
5.2.8 Regional representation .....	140
<b>5.3 Representation of the LCPC deputies in their political activities .....</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>5.4 Analysis of development projects in the submitted motions.....</b>	<b>146</b>
5.4.1 Motions submitted by numbers of deputies .....	146
5.4.2 Explanation of development projects in the motions .....	148
<b>5.5 Conclusion.....</b>	<b>152</b>

<b>Chapter six: Achievements and challenges in representing the interests of the state towards the community .....</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>6.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>6.2 A general introduction of the four functions of the deputies in representing the interests of the state discovered in the focus groups.....</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>6.3 Analysis of the achievements and challenges in representing the interests of the state .....</b>	<b>156</b>
6.3.1 Function 1: Promoting the strategy of the Party .....	156
6.3.2 Function 2: Enforcing laws and policies of the state .....	161
6.3.3 Function 3: Implementing livelihood projects .....	164
6.3.4 Function 4: Developing political representation .....	165
<b>6.4 An analysis of the four functions from the individual interviews .....</b>	<b>172</b>
6.4.1 A general introduction to the four functions in individual interviews .....	172
6.4.2 Analysis of the individual interviews .....	173
6.4.3 The deputies' views of the Ethnic Regional Autonomous System (ERAS) in representing the interests of the state.....	176
<b>6.5 The roles that the deputies play in a structure of polycentric governance in cultural tourism in Xijiang village.....</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>6.6 Conclusion.....</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Chapter Seven: Achievements and challenges in representing the interests of the community towards the state .....</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>7.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>7.2 The functions in representing the interests of the community as revealed in the focus groups..</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>7.3 The deputies who are from and seconded to the community.....</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>7.4 Analysis of the achievements and challenges in representing the interests of the community in focus groups.....</b>	<b>189</b>
7.4.1 Function 1: Promoting the voice of community .....	189
7.4.2 Function 2: Localising policies of the state .....	196
7.4.3 Function 3: Implementing livelihood projects .....	198
7.4.4 Function 4: Developing ethnic representation .....	201
<b>7.5 An analysis of the four functions from the individual interviews .....</b>	<b>202</b>
7.5.1 A general introduction of the functions based on the points.....	203
7.5.2 Analysis of the achievements and challenges in representing the state in individual interviews.....	203
7.5.3 The deputies' views about Ethnic Regional Autonomous System (ERAS) in representing the interests of the community in individual interviews .....	207
<b>7.6 The roles that the deputies play in a polycentric governance structure in the cultural tourism of Upper Lande village.....</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>7.7 Conclusion.....</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Chapter Eight: Discussion and conclusions: The dilemmas of the political and ethnic representation of deputies in the local governance system .....</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>8.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>8.2 Political representation: The role that the deputies play in representing the interests of the state towards community .....</b>	<b>217</b>
8.2.1 Political representation with the dominance of the Party through its cadre management and responsibility system .....	218
8.2.2 Political representation in the triangular relations between the Party, the County People’s Government, and the County People’s Congress .....	220
8.2.3 Political representation: Representing the interests of the state .....	222
<b>8.3 Ethnic representation: The roles that the deputies play in representing the interests of the community towards the state.....</b>	<b>224</b>
8.3.1 Ethnic representation: Representing the interests of the community.....	225
8.3.2 Ethnic representation: Extension of recognition of politics .....	228
8.3.3 Ethnic representation: Representative structure and universal representation.....	230
<b>8.4 Political and ethnic representation: A win-win situation? .....</b>	<b>231</b>
8.4.1 The role dilemmas of political and ethnic representation.....	233
8.4.2 Interests of unanimity and conflicts .....	237
<b>8.5 Contribution: A better understanding of the evolution of local governance system through the structure of polycentric governance.....</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>8.6 Contribution: Pairwise ranking in focus groups used in a real world research context</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>8.7 Conclusion .....</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>Final words: Recommendations .....</b>	<b>247</b>
<b>Part I: Institutional and governance systems that can assist the deputies play their roles better .....</b>	<b>247</b>
1. The deputies can play their roles better in an institution based on cooperation .....	247
2. The deputies can play their roles better in a model of good governance .....	248
3. The deputies can play their roles better with the status of professionalisation .....	248
<b>Part II: Institutional issues need to be considered in policy-making .....</b>	<b>249</b>
1. Central control .....	249
2. Limited autonomy.....	249
3. Elite capture .....	250
4. Insufficient representation of women deputies .....	250
5. Missing representation .....	251
<b>Appendices.....</b>	<b>252</b>
Appendix 1: Low Risk Notification (PN 331) of Massey Human Ethics Chairs Committee .....	252
Appendix 2: Letter of Certificate for Field Research by Institute of Development Studies of Massey University .....	253

Appendix 3: Photo of Letter of Recommendation.....	254
Appendix 4: Data summary of Focus Group 1 .....	255
Appendix 5: Data summary of Focus Group 2 .....	256
Appendix 6: Data summary of Focus Group 3 .....	257
Appendix 7: Data summary of Focus Group 4 .....	258
Appendix 8: Demographic information of the deputies who participated in the interviews.....	259
<b>References .....</b>	<b>261</b>

### **Biangan**

Village development model worker.

### **Daitouren**

Pacesetter in area of village development.

### **Ganbu**

Cadre; public employees who work in governmental organs, the army or people's organisations and who play a leading role or conduct administrative work.

### **Haozhaoli**

Charisma; the collective ability of a group such as deputies who possess the influential ability of a policy who/which can inspire and guide the people to follow.

### **Livelihood Projects**

A series of projects implemented by the government such as poverty-relief, promotion of employment, education and aid, social security, economy housing, infrastructure, environmental improvement, medical care etc..

### **Minimum Subsistence Security System (MSS)**

A national policy practiced over China to guarantee those aging, or disabled, or patients, or widows, or anyone who has no job, and who has no any source of income in both urban and rural areas, have the lowest income to live.

### **Oversight**

The legal power executed by deputies in People's Congress for the supervision of the work of government, court and procuratorate; to have oversight over (something).

### **Paiban**

Clap the board; have the final say.

### **Pufa**

Activities taken by deputies to educate people in awareness about legal issues; popularising the laws.

**Renovation of unsafe housing**

A national project practiced over Chinese rural areas to grant financial support to those farmers who haven't the economic ability to improve their living houses which are in disrepair.

**Sangnong issues**

The issues related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers. In Chinese, the first character of each of the three words is the same as nong.

**Spiritual work**

Political consciousness raising; such work conducted by deputies to the villagers for specific political objectives.

**The Party**

Chinese Communist Party.

**Xiadao**

Second or to be seconded. It is used to describe those officials or future deputies who are transferred to work at a lower or grassroots level.

**Yifuliangyuan**

Government, court and procuratorate. The deputies of People's Congresses at different levels often use this term to describe their oversight over the government, the court and the procuratorate.

**Zhualuoshi**

Carry through on a project.

**Zuzhi**

Organisation, such as governmental personnel department or unit within the Party; any Party or government institution.

## Acronyms

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<b>CGB</b>	County Government Bureau
<b>CGG</b>	Commission of Global Governance
<b>CCP</b>	Chinese Communist Party
<b>CPC</b>	County People's Congress
<b>CPG</b>	County People's Government
<b>CPPCC</b>	County People's Political Consultative Conference
<b>CPRs</b>	Common-pool resources
<b>ERAS</b>	Ethnic Regional Autonomy System
<b>FG</b>	Focus groups
<b>GRP</b>	Government of the Republic Period
<b>LCPC</b>	Leishan County People's Congress
<b>LPC</b>	Local People's Congress, including People's Congress at provincial, prefectural, county and township levels
<b>LPG</b>	Local People's Governments, including People's Governments at provincial, prefectural, county and township levels
<b>NPC</b>	National People's Congress
<b>NPM</b>	New public management
<b>NRCMC</b>	New Rural Cooperative Medical Care
<b>PC</b>	People's Congresses at national and local levels
<b>PCC</b>	Party Committee of the County
<b>PCLC</b>	Party Committee of Leishan County
<b>PG</b>	Prefectural Government
<b>PPC</b>	Provincial People's Congress
<b>PPF</b>	Preferential policies for farmers
<b>RCA</b>	Representing the community: averaged value



<b>RCTA</b>	Representing the community: total averaged value
<b>RSA</b>	Representing the state: averaged value
<b>RSTA</b>	Representing the state: total averaged value
<b>TPG</b>	Township People’s Government
<b>TPC</b>	Township People’s Congress
<b>VC</b>	Villagers’ Committee
<b>VPB</b>	Village Party Branch

## Tables

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Table 1: Articles of polycentric governance in top ten disciplinary categories in China .....	45
Table 2: Frequencies of key words in articles which appear 20 or more times .....	45
Table 3: Representing the interests of the state: Achievements .....	98
Table 4: Representing the interests of the state: Challenges .....	99
Table 5: Representing the interests of the community: Achievements .....	100
Table 6: Representing the interests of the community: Challenges.....	100
Table 7: Average value of achievements in representing the interests of the state .....	105
Table 8: Averaged value of normalised data of achievements and challenges.....	106
Table 9: Items from one part of the interview of Deputy 18.....	114
Table 10: Representative structure of the 153 deputies in the 16 <sup>th</sup> LCPC.....	124
Table 11: Representative structure by age from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to the 16 <sup>th</sup> LCPC.....	126
Table 12: Representative structure by gender from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to the 16 <sup>th</sup> LCPC.....	127
Table 13: Representative structure by ethnicity from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to the 16 <sup>th</sup> LCPC .....	131
Table 14: Representative structure of deputies by education from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to the 16 <sup>th</sup> LCPC .....	133
Table 15: Party status of deputies from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to the 16 <sup>th</sup> LCPC .....	136
Table 16: Representative structure of deputies by social class from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to the 16 <sup>th</sup> LCPC.....	137
Table 17: Representative structure by regional representation from the 13 <sup>th</sup> to the 16 <sup>th</sup> LCPC .....	140
Table 18: Motions submitted by the numbers of deputies from 2012 to 2014 .....	147
Table 19: Development projects in the motions by category submitted by the 16 <sup>th</sup> LCPC deputies.....	149
Table 20: Categories of motions submitted in 2013 and the government’s responses .....	150
Table 21: Four functions in representing the state: Achievements and challenges.....	155
Table 22: Representing the interests of the state: Points of achievements and challenges .....	173
Table 23: Four functions in representing the community: Achievements and challenges .....	186
Table 24: The proportion of the LCPC deputies from and seconded to the community.....	187
Table 25: Representing the interests of the community: Points of achievements and challenges.....	203

## Figures

---

Figure 1: Organisational structure of Leishan County People’s Congress (LCPC).....	76
Figure 2: Activities of the LCPC deputies .....	141
Figure 3: Total and averaged values of each function for representing the state.....	156
Figure 4: Representing the interests of the state: Points of achievements .....	174
Figure 5: Representing the interests of the state: Points of challenges .....	175
Figure 6: The roles that the deputies play in the cultural tourism in Xijiang Village .....	179
Figure 7: Total and Averaged values of each function for representing the community .....	189
Figure 8: Representing the interests of the community: Points of achievements .....	204
Figure 9: Representing the interests of the community: Points of challenges.....	206
Figure 10: The roles that the LCPC deputies play in the cultural tourism in Langde Village .....	211
Figure 11: Triangular relations between the PCC, the CPC and the CPG.....	221

## Photos

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Photo 1: The research assistant is preparing the writing cards for FG 4 (left) .....	93
Photo 2: The research assistant is delivering the writing cards and the participants are thinking (right) ...	93
Photo 3: The participants of FG 4 keep thinking (left).....	94
Photo 4: The participants of FG 4 keep writing (right) .....	94
Photo 5: The achievements identified by the participants of FG 4 in representing the state (left) .....	94
Photo 6: The researcher facilitates the participants of FG 4 in categorising the achievements (right) .....	94
Photo 7: The participants of FG 4 watch the words put on the wall and smile (left).....	95
Photo 8: The participants of FG 4 watch and read the words put on the wall (right).....	95
Photo 9: The researcher writes down the items categorised by the participants in FG 4 (left).....	95
Photo 10: The full categorised items with score and ranking in FG 4 (right).....	95
Photo 11: Scores and ranked achievements and challenges in representing the state in FG 4 (left) .....	97
Photo 12: Scores and ranked achievements and challenges in representing the community in FG 4 (right) .....	97
Photo 13: The interview with the chairman of a TPC (left) .....	110
Photo 14: The interview with one Miao female deputy (right) .....	110
Photo 15: The 12 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the members of the LCPC 16th Permanent Committee (left) .....	116
Photo 16: The chairmen of township People’s Congresses (right).....	116

## Maps

---

Map 1: Location of Guizhou in China.....	74
Map 2: Guizhou province and the location of Leishan County.....	75

## Formulae

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Formula 1: Min-max normalisation .....	103
Formula 2: Average Value.....	105

## Examples

---

Example 1: Achievements and challenges in representing the interests of the state in FG 4.....	103
Example 2: Diagram 2: Representing the interests of the state: Challenges in FG 4 .....	104
Example 3: Enforcing laws and policies of the state in the achievements of representing the state .....	105
Example 4: References of “justice and fairness” in representing the community: Achievements (RCA).....	111
Example 5: References of “national policies” in representing the community: Challenges (RCC).....	111
Example 6: Multi-dimensional responses (Deputy 18).....	113

## Diagrams

---

Diagram 1: Representing the interests of the state: Achievements in FG 4.....	96
Diagram 2: Representing the interests of the state: Challenges in FG 4.....	96
Diagram 3: Representing the interests of the community: Achievements in FG 4.....	96
Diagram 4: Representing the interests of the community: Challenges in FG 4.....	97

## Boxes

---

Box 1: Development of cultural tourism in Xijiang village.....	178
Box 2: Development of village governance/cultural tourism in Langde village.....	208

## Charts

---

Chart 1: Deputies' visits to the constituency per month.....	190
Chart 2: Deputies' visits to the government per month.....	190

