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Prof. Erik Baark is Professor at the Division of Social Science and the Division of Environment at the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology. He completed a PhD in information and computer science at the University of Lund (1986) and a Dr.phil. in history at the University of Copenhagen (1998).

His primary research interests are related to innovation systems and science and technology policy in China and other East Asian countries. His research on China includes analysis of information systems and IT development and high technology entrepreneurship during recent policy reforms. He has also published extensively on innovation in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta.

He has published numerous books, including *Lightning Wires: Telegraphs and China's Technological Modernization 1860-1890* (Greenwood Press, 1997), and articles in leading international area studies journals such as *The China Quarterly* and innovation research journals such as *Research Policy* and the *International Journal of Technology Management*. He has been a consultant for the HKSAR Innovation and Technology Commission and international agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.