

● **SYMPOSIUM: Research on the Reform of Administrative System**

Introduction

..... Tianxiang Chen

A Review of the Super – Department Reforms from the Perspective of Top – Level Design

..... Yanqing Xu & Zhiren Zhou

Abstract Weak top – level design has been widely regarded as a flaw in the Super – Department reforms as well as the main cause of its failure to meet popular expectations. Based on the literature, we constructed a normative framework for top – level design with four elements, including: holistic planning, facing the fundamentals to achieve breakthroughs, relying on related top institutions, and packaging arrangements in advance. Applying this framework to the two rounds of Super – Department reforms over the past 9 years, we found that although the reforms met the requirements of holistic planning and packaging arrangements in advance, they fell far short of expectations in the other two aspects as well as other important aspects. Future top – level design should focus on the following: restructuring government functions by searching for breakthroughs on the boundary of public power; deepening structural integration within the super departments; transforming strategies and guiding principles into operational objectives and criteria for evaluation; strengthening process planning and management; and, promoting transparency and information disclosure.

Key Words Institutional Reform; Super Department; Functional Restructuring; Top – Level Design; Process Management

Competition of Models or Models of Competition? – A Comparative Study of Local Innovations of the Administrative Licensing Reform

..... Hui Ding & Yapeng Zhu

Abstract In building a more service – oriented government, local governments, with the support of the central government, have developed two models of administrative licensing reform: the Public Service Center model and the Administrative Licensing Bureau model. By comparing the processes of administrative licensing reforms in two districts of a city, this paper findsthere was no linear evolutionary relation between these two models; rather, they are alternative options with distinctive advantages and applicability. Although local governments chose different approaches and models of reform to meet local demands and the institutional environments, their choices were also shaped by the logic of competition between local governments. In the absence of the direct intervention of a higher administrative authority, local governments often compete through two mechanisms. The avoidance mechanism describes a local government

choosing not to follow the same policy path that their neighboring competitors took. The other is the emulation mechanism which describes the local government caught up in cross – regional competition that strives to overtake the leading competitors through innovation based on emulation.

Key Words Administrative Licensing Reform; Administrative Licensing Bureau; Administrative Service Center

Achieving Reform under the Rule of Law: Insights from Administrative Licensing Reform
..... Yuqing Liang & Zhilan Li

Abstract As a core dimension in the reform and opening up process, the development of the rule of law has posed new challenges to the deepening of reform in China. Traditionally, the incremental approach to reform hinged upon the initiatives of local governments to innovate and experiment within, and despite, national administrative or legal parameters. This paper shows how, via a case study of the Administrative Licensing Reform and the Administrative Licensing Law of the People’s Republic of China, the increased emphasis on ‘reform in strict accordance with the law’ under the recent call for deepening the rule of law may incur unintended difficulties in the reform process. In particular, we identified the specific ways the Administrative Licensing Law of the People’s Republic of China has in practice increased the risk of local reforms, so that a strict adherence to the law may have discouraged much necessary bottom – up reform innovations. The paper suggests that a new legal framework should be considered to provide guidance for reform pathways and innovations under the deepening of the rule of law.

Key Words Deepening the Rule of Law; Reform Pathways; Administrative Licensing Law; Local Administrative Licensing Reform

The Behavioral Logic of the Symbolic Implementation of the Power and Responsibility List System on District and County Government: A Case Study of Y District of A City
..... Gang Xu & Xuefei Yang

Abstract The power and responsibility list is important step in restricting government power, promoting county governance, and strengthening the construction of a clean basic government. However, this study found that in implementing this reform governments adopted coping strategies such as copying, simplification, and wait – and – see strategy choices. The overall result of these strategies, as found in this case study of the Y District in A City, was a symbolic implementation of the responsibility list. This result can be attributed to the inert psychology of an executor working in the relatively weak ecology of a new institution which manifests as the behavior logic leading to the symbolic implementation of the list. Extricating district and county governments from conventional dependence will take courage and boldness but it is the key to

implementing the power and responsibility list system.

Key Words Power and Responsibility List System; Symbolic Implementation; Institutionalization; Reflexivity

Research on the Reform and Performance of Administrative Examination and Approval Based on the Concept of Limited Government—The Zhejiang, Henan and Chongqing Provincial Power Lists

..... Sheng Chen, Mengjia Wang & Xia Li

Abstract Reform of administrative examination and approval is a top priority of the new central government. Changing government functions are a key measure to the improvement of the China's modern governance capacity. Despite its policy priority, there are few studies on reforms in this area at the provincial level. Using Zhejiang, Henan and Chongqing provinces as its research objects, the study explored and analyzed the implementation status and performance of the law of administrative examination and approval reform. This study found: the administrative examination and approval reform has realized the transformation of government functions and its characteristics were limited government, rule of law, service and innovation. The purpose of the reform was to promote decentralization, supervision and service, and stimulate the vitality of the market in order to increase the number of new business units and investment projects. Accordingly, this paper suggests the relationship between government and market in the process the administrative examination and approval reform was one of limited government. Due to the decentralization of power and "the need for governance", local administrative examination and approval processes will likely have many differences so a deepening and standardization of the reform may be necessary.

Key Words Limited Government; Administrative Examination and Approval; Power List; Performance

● ARTICLES

Research on Generational Differences of Perceived Fairness and the Influential Factor in Contemporary China

..... Baobin Ma & Ru Jia

Abstract Based on the 2014 data from the "Evaluation and Improvement Strategies of Social Justice in China" national survey, this paper describes the generational differences of perceived fairness in contemporary China. Roughly speaking, younger citizens' perceptions of fairness are gradually decreasing. Those respondents born in the 1980s had a comparatively low perception of fairness as a group. The perception of fairness improved slightly for those born in the 1990s, however. Overall, the trend was generally U-shaped. Using the sequential logistic analysis method to analyze the main factors influencing generational differences of perceived fairness, this study had two

findings. First, at the macro level, the process of modernization had a significant impact on generational differences in perceived fairness through three paths including material wealth, critical spirit and recognition of marketization. Second, at the medium level, the major policies of political reflection and economic reform, such as the Cultural Revolution and the Reform and Opening up, had a significant impact on the generational differences in perceived fairness. The significant association between public life course and generational differences of perceived fairness indicates the natural law of life cannot offset the impact of population change and the public's general perception of fairness will undergo profound changes in the future.

Key Words Perceived Fairness; Generational Differences; Modernization; Life Course

The Spillover Effect of Minimum Wage on Wage of Urban Employees: An Empirical Analysis Based on Macro and Micro Data

..... Zhongwei Sun

Abstracts Minimum wage is a basic social policy for regulating income distribution. Previous studies have focused on the role of minimum wage for wage growth of migrant workers, while ignoring the impact on the wages of urban workers. Using city level panel data from 2001 to 2011 and China health and Nutrition Survey data from 2000 to 2011, this paper found that raising the minimum wage will help promote urban employee wage growth. Furthermore, the spillover effect of the minimum wage was more obvious after 2004. We also found a minimum wage had a greater effect on the wages of office workers with urban hukou and a high school degree. This shows that the effect of a minimum wage was not only limited to rural migrant workers, but also increased the income levels of urban workers.

Key Words Minimum Wage; Urban Workers; Wage; Spillover Effect

The Diffusion of Participation and Contribution Decisions on Enterprise Annuity

..... Lei Guo & Yan Zhou

Abstract According to diffusion theory, an individual firm's decisions on Enterprise Annuity participation and contribution will be affected by its peers' decisions in order to avoid uncertainty or maintain competitive parity. Building a dataset consisting of Enterprise Annuity participation and contribution data from A - stock market listed firms in China for 2008 - 2014, this study empirically tested the effects after controlling for the following internal factors: contributions to the Basic Pension, ownership, tax, human resources and firm operation. The results show (1) industrial diffusion and regional diffusion played significant roles regarding firm decisions on Enterprise Annuity participation and contributions; (2) a firm's probability of participation in an Enterprise Annuity positively related to industrial and regional participation rates, wherein regional

diffusion had a stronger effect; and, (3) a firm's contribution rate in Enterprise Annuity positively related to industrial and regional contribution rates, wherein industrial diffusion and regional diffusion had the same effect. The paper also suggests industrial and regional communication for Enterprise Annuity.

Key Words Diffusion; Enterprise Annuity; Participation; Contribution

● THEORETICAL REVIEWS

The Three Logics of Chinese Urban Administrative Divisions Adjustments: A Literature Review

..... Lin Ye & Yuze Yang

Abstract Since the Reform and Opening Up, Chinese cities have experienced extensive and frequent adjustments of administrative divisions, which have significant influences on cities themselves, regions and even countries. However, these changes have not systematically researched by academics. Based on the existing literature, this study focused on the three major logics behind the adjustments of urban administrative divisions in China—power – oriented political logic, economy – oriented development logic and public – service – oriented governance logic. The main strategies used include the rise of new cities through county – to – city upgrading, the expansion of cities through city – county mergers, and the adjustment of the relationships between city and county through the city – leading – county pattern and the province – leading – county pattern. These strategies have had significant effects on local economic development, urbanization and public service. On the basis of the existing research, this paper suggests future research should analyze the conditions of urban administrative division adjustments, define its connotations, evaluate its effects more comprehensively and focus more on the role and function of the government and other actors.

Key Words Adjustments of Urban Administrative Divisions; County – to – City Upgrading; City – County Merger; City – Leading – County; Province – Leading – County

● BOOK REVIEWS

How Is Public Value Created? ——A Review of *Creating Public Value: Strategic Management In Government and Recognizing Public Value*

..... Xu Guochong & Zhai Wenkang

● SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

A Study on the Mechanism of the Effect of Government Support Behavior on SMEs' Innovation Performance

..... Ye Zheng