

• SYMPOSIUM: ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IN CENTRAL
– EASTERN EUROPE

Introduction

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Responses to the Crisis of Local Autonomy in Estonia: Centralisation VS.
Multilevel Governance Perspective

..... Georg Sootla 4

Abstract After the collapse of Soviet system the dual system of local government was introduced in Estonia. This became possible largely because of deep economic and political crisis. Estonia tried to resolve the emerging capacity problems by municipal amalgamations, but did not succeed. The centralizing trends were persistent emerging at the start, but with the strengthening of politico-administrative system it becomes dominant in the development of intergovernmental relations (IGR) in 21st century. This is conducive to the change of dominant pattern of central local relations -- to the transformation of fused system of IGR. The inability of local elites to oppose to those trends was caused by political reasons as well as by drawing on traditional outdated understanding of local autonomy. Strategies of both -- central and local elites -- cannot provide perspective solution to imbalance of central local relations. Estonia should develop the pattern and values of multilevel governance which enable Estonia to be involved into intensive Europeanization process and into the formation of Baltic Sea integrated region.

key words Dual System, Fused System, Multi-level Governance

Healthcare Reform in Hungary (1990 – 2010)

..... Sándor Gallai & Balázs Dobos 25

Abstract This paper offers a comprehensive outline of health reforms in post-1990 Hungary. First, it highlights the legacy of the regime change and the main characteristics of the new political arrangements. Then it presents the most important developments of the health sector discussing both institutional and financial changes. Particular attention is devoted to disputed policies and deficiencies. The authors argue

that even in cases of best practices there is a marked difference between laws and reality. The authors also demonstrate that the nature of political competition among the parties has left its mark on the health reform and led to a situation in which a government that enjoys qualified majority in parliament is politically bound to avoid the introduction of certain policy options.

Key words Health Insurance ,District Medicare ,Hospitals Financing ,Privatization

Talking the Talk of the European Union?

A Public Choice Approach to the Selection of Bureaucrats in Romania

..... *Diana Camelia Iancu & Mihai Ungureanu* 65

This paper deals with the selection of bureaucrats in the Romanian public administration basing its inquiry on the Public Choice Theory. This paper can be divided into two parts; the first one (A). the theoretical one, the authors present: A1) the Weberian approach on bureaucracy; A2) a review of the public choice theory on bureaucracy; and formulate: A3) a theory of institutional change and public bureaucrats selection. The part ends by A4) describing the research methodology. In the second part (B), the applied one, the authors perform an in-depth examination of the civil service legislation of 1990 – 2009. The authors’ contribution to extending knowledge in the field of civil service research consists in their refinement of Reid and Kurth theory of organizational change (1988) , (1989) and in the application of this refined theory to the Romanian case. The new theory predicted that Romanian politicians faced inefficiency in maintaining a highly politicized civil service while accessing the European Union and, for that reason one should observe a de-politicization of the public bureaucrats’ selection system up to January 2007, followed by a re-politicization after January 2007. The authors’ documentary research confirmed the prediction.

Key words Bureaucracy, Civil Service, European Union, Bureaucrats’ Selection, Politicization, Public Choice Theory

Russian Federalism

..... Galina Gribanova 92

Abstract Federalism is the institution settings of designing the relationship of “center-regions”, which include the vertical power relation between the center and regions, and the horizontal power relation among the executive branch, the legislature and the judicial branch. The degree of centralism of vertical power is the key criterion to distinguish a unitary state from a federation. Russian starting from 1990s until today has been the period of transformation into a federalism, which gone through the five phrases—from the parade of sovereignties, the federation treaty, the new Constitution of the RF, the “regional feudalism” to the “quasi federalism”. In the different phrases of transformation from the unitary state into the federalism, the central control and the regional autonomy is the focus of the transformation and reformation all the time. The reformation did not change the tradition of central control, but enhanced the central control on regions and decreased the capacity of regional autonomy. Therefore, the Russian federalism is “quasi federalism”. But the political control from the center is affected by the economic development of the supranational level and the tradition of Russian politics. The Russian transformation enhanced the capacity of regional autonomy, impelled the “new” regionalism.

Key words Russia, Federalism, Regionalism, Autonomy

Development of Decision-support Models for Evaluation and Implementation of E-government Projects

..... Dalibor Stanimirović, Tina Jukić & Mirko Vintar 108

Abstract This paper reviewed and analysed critically methodologies and models which were used as support in evaluation and selection of e-government projects as well as in decision making process for outsourcing or insourcing of IT-related projects in the public sector. Basing the public administrative experience of Slovenia, we developed decision-support models for evaluation and implementation of e-government projects, and described its structure and utilization from the public sector’s point of view. Particularly, we focused on the potential use of MCDM to overcome those negative implications caused by outsourcing, and the application of AHP in selection

of criteria in the process of using the MCDM.

Key words E-governmen, Outsourcing, Decision-making supprt models

• ARTICLE

Rent Seeking and Economic Governance in Market Reform

..... *Tak-Wing Ngo* 130

Abstract This article analyzes the relationship between rent seeking and economic governance. It argues that the widespread practice of rent seeking in China is not merely caused by market irregularities or inadequate supervisions. Instead, it shows that the creation and allocation of economic rents is a constitutive part of the economic management system sanctioned by the state. Through a detailed analysis of the different forms of economic rent, the article suggests that the creation, distribution, and pursuit of rents are intricately linked to a number of institutional arrangements including restrictions to market access, preferential policies, and local protectionism. These arrangements shape the behaviour of economic actors in a chain of rent production, and make rent creation and rent seeking the most important mechanism of resource allocation alongside bureaucratic allocation and market exchanges.

Key words Rent-seeking, Marketization Reform, Economic Governance, Local Protectionism

How Women’s Motherhood Ideologies Interact with Social Policy: A Study on Two Generations of Women in Taiwan

..... *Shuyun Wu* 149

Abstract Studies exploring the issue of motherhood within Feminist research area have led to a growing understanding of work and care managements of mothers. However, hardly anything is discussed about the lives and experiences of mothers adopting policy perspectives. As a result, this paper examines how women’s motherhood ideologies interact with social policy in Taiwan. Drawing upon empirical evidence that involves in-depth interviews with 47 working mothers, inclusive of two different age/class groups, this paper addresses the continuities and changes in the interlinked experiences between what they believe and what they actually do. This

article concludes that without understanding women's ideologies of motherhood, it would be difficult to answer how current policy with regards to supporting working mothers can be further complemented.

Key words Motherhood, Social Policy, Framework Analysis, Taiwan

• THEORETICAL REVIEW

Risk Allocation in Public Private Partnerships: Rhetoric, Reality and Lesssons
..... *Cheng Chen* 175

Abstract Since 1980s, Public private partnerships (PPP) has become the alternative mode of public service provision in various countries, for its claim for optimum risk allocation between the public sector and the private sector and therefore achieve more efficient and accountable service than that in traditional government provision mode. However, PPP confronted criticisms due to the failures in risk allocation in worldwide experience in these 30 years. The rhetoric of ‘achieving public interest and value for money through optimum risk allocation’ was seriously challenged. This article firstly reviews the concepts, origin and development of PPP, and explains the meaning of risk allocation and its implication for PPP. Secondly, the article discusses the conflicts between theory of risk allocation and its application in practice from three aspects: the measurement of risks, the transfer and allocation of risks, the pursuit of public interest throughout the risk allocation process. The article concludes with discussing the worldwide lessons for PPP development in China.

Key words Public Private Partnerships, Risk Allocation, Public Service Provision

• BOOK REVIEW

Seeking the Beauty of Balance -- Collaborative Governance: Reinventing the Logic of Public Services
..... *Feng Wang* 195

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