

● **SYMPOSIUM: Chinese Public Administration in the 21st Century**

Some crucial issues facing public administration as a developing discipline in China
..... Zhiren Zhou

On the “Chineseness” and “Publicness” of Chinese Public Administration
..... Yanling He

Abstract The intellectual history of public administration has never had a shortage of debate about research methods and the spirit of the discipline, and such debates are the response and responsibility of the public administration scholars to their era. Public Administration scholarship in China, in order to make a contribution to an historic period of major social change, needs to consciously examine the discipline of study, to reflect, to criticize and then to construct, the knowledge system and study path of Chinese Public Administration. Chinese Public Administration is a study “about China”, therefore, it must reflect characteristics of “Chineseness”. Chinese Public Administration also needs to increase its “publicness”, which is the core attribute of the discipline, so as to meet the needs of modern nation-building. Furthermore, Chinese Public Administration needs to seek, to understand and to construct within a knowledge acquiring path “as an insider”, and enter the Chinese context in order to capture real problems. As a result of these reforms, Chinese Public administration scholars will realize the value of striving toward an ideal that leads to a good system, good governance, and a great country.

Key words Public Administration; Chineseness; Publicness; Good Governance

● **SYMPOSIUM: Political Trust**

Political Trust, Interpersonal Trust and Unconventional Political Participation
..... Siqi Wang

Abstract Unconventional political participation is considered to be the most important political behavior of those Chinese citizens who choose to express their views but also

protect their interests. Research debates still exist regarding the relationship between trust (interpersonal trust and political trust) and unconventional political participation as a result of the lack of empirical evidence on this issue. This article uses data from the 2007 World Values Survey (WVS) in mainland China to study trust in two specific unconventional political participation actions: petitions and boycotts. The results show a significant, positive relationship between interpersonal trust and unconventional political participation. However, for political trust and unconventional political participation, a negative relationship was confirmed.

Key words Unconventional Political Participation; Interpersonal Trust; Political Trust

Which is More Important? A Comparative Analysis of the Influence of Political Participation and Subjective Well-Being on Political Trust in China

..... Mingyu Yang

Abstract: Performance legitimacy is considered the essential source of legitimation in contemporary China. Previous studies discovered that subjective well-being is, comparatively, the most important predictor for political trust in China. However, political participation activities also correlate with political trust. Citizens began to use various participation activities to voice their opinions on government policies which were raised by environmental NIBE problems in recent years. These observations appear to be in conflict with the metrics of performance legitimacy as used by the government. So is maintenance, or even enhancement, of subjective well-being still the most efficient way to gain public support? And which factors are most important in building political trust in China as between subjective well-being and political participation activities? In this paper we use the Asia Barometer Survey (2008) to analyze the above questions. Our chief discovery is that three variables have the greatest influence on political trust: evaluation of the state of economic development, satisfaction with institutional efficiency, and expectations regarding the resolution of the most important social problems. Their weights overwhelm all political participation activities. This indicates that economic development, provision of public goods and the solution of social problems are still the

most rational and efficient means to gain public support.

Key words Political Trust; Subjective Well-Being; Political Participation

●ARTICLE

The Fitness Study of Citizen’s Subjective Evaluation and Objective Measure of Public Service: Empirical Analysis Based on the Street-Level Police Service in H City

..... Li Zeng & Jiayuan Li

Abstract Civic engagement is the main concern of “public governance” in the era of democratic administration. To what extent citizen evaluation is reliable is a significant and important problem associated with the implementation of service-style government. Based on the practice of citizen evaluation of police service in H city, this research focuses on the correlative relationship between objective and subjective measures of public service. To provide theoretical support and strategic thoughts for the effective implementation of citizen involvement in the ratings of public service, this study explores the fitness of objective and subjective measures of public service from a comprehensive perspective and specific dimensions, respectively. We find that, at the comprehensive level, the objective measure of the performance of police service has an impact on a citizen’s subjective evaluation of the service. With respect to specific dimensions, the fitness for accurate measurement, as between both types of measures, varies. In other words, citizens have sufficient capacity of judgment on the macro dimension of public service, yet there is no definitive conclusion regarding the accuracy of public evaluation at the micro level. Thus, this research concludes that it is of paramount significance to determine appropriate services and subjects when designing citizen evaluation of public services, and the construction of a scientific and reasonable citizen’s evaluation system is still to be studied.

Key words Public Service Performance; Citizen’s Subjective Evaluation; Objective Measurement; Fitness

China’s Fiscal Decentralization and Local Education Provision; From the Fiscal

..... Liangsong Yang

Abstract: China’s local government, especially the county and township governments are the major suppliers of educational service, both the theoretical and positive literatures argue that China’s fiscal decentralization is bad for the provision of local education. In this paper, we discuss the effects of fiscal autonomy and sub-provincial decentralization on the provision of local education. Based on provincial data from 1995—2008, we find that provincial fiscal autonomy, and the share of county and township expenditure in provincial expenditure have significant positive effect on local educational spending, but county and township fiscal autonomy has a significant, negative effect on compulsory educational spending. We also find that fiscal autonomy and the share of county and township expenditure could affect each other. Therefore, fiscal decentralization could have a positive effect on education development, and we should pay more attention to county and township government on this issue. However, we should also notice the shortcomings of intergovernmental transfers, and realize that different fiscal decentralizations have distinct effects.

Key words Sub-Provincial Fiscal Decentralization; Fiscal Autonomy; County and Township Government; Educational Spending; Intergovernmental Transfer.

● THEORETICAL REVIEW

The Theory of Budgetary Competition: Studies from both Public Budgeting and Political Economics Hui Shi

Abstract As there is always more demand for public spending than there is money, competition turns out to be one of the basic features of budgeting. All budgets contain tradeoffs, holding competition is one key theme in the politics of expenditures. However, budgetary competition and expenditure tradeoffs seem to have long been ignored. Scholars in the field of both public budgeting and political economics have carried out some theoretical analyses and empirical studies separately on expenditure tradeoffs, but too much attention has been paid to the so called “guns vs. butter”

debates of developed countries. Conflicts between other spending and especially expenditure tradeoffs in China and other developing countries are surprisingly under-researched. Another serious problem is the lack of communication or mutual promotion of findings of different research fields, which in turn makes the construction of a systematic “spending/ budgetary competition theory” still up in the air. Facing the importance of, and the problems with, expenditure competition research, more contributions should be made to the construction of a mature theory system for both expenditure competition description and explanation, as well as to the quantitative analysis of the intense and various expenditure competitions situated in China.

Key words Expenditure Tradeoffs; Budgetary Priority; Budgetary Politics

●BOOK REVIEW

Critical Social Theory in Public Administration by Richard Box.
..... Gang Chen

The Origins of American Public Finance by Donald R. Stabile
..... Pengju Zhang

●SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Integrated Disaster Management: From the Perspective of Vulnerability Science
..... Peng Tao