

● **SYMPOSIUM: Chinese Public Administration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Development Of Chinese Public Administration Study: Narrative Transformation

..... Fanbin Kong

● **SYMPOSIUM: Work-life Balance**

Introduction

..... Kinglun Ngok & Yapeng Zhu

Work-life Balance as a Social Policy Issue: The Experiences from Europe and their Implications for China

..... Kinglun Ngok & Xueyong Yan

**Abstract** With the speeding-up race of life and increasing pressure of work, the conflicts between work and life has become salient, which pose a new social risk to threaten people’s wellbeing. In the past three decades, welfare states in Europe have explored many policy options to reduce the conflicts between work and family/individual life, and promote work-life balance. The explorations in Europe have brought about positive impacts on the life of working men and women. Along with the further socio-economic transformations, China is also facing the social problem of work-life conflicts. However, work-life balance is still a new social policy issue compared with Europe. The studies of and policy options for the work-life balance is at the beginning stage. It is necessary for China to learn from the experiences in Europe and explore their implications for China. It is believed that European experiences in balancing work and life are beneficial for China to cope with the social risks resulted from socio-economic changes, explore new social policy directions, and therefore enhance the wellbeing of our people.

**Key words** Work-life Balance; Family Friendly Policy; Flexible Work; Social Risk; Social Policy

Work-Family Conflicts in China: Current Situation, Features and Solution  
..... Yunxiang Liu & Yapeng Zhu

**Abstract** In the context of rapid demographic transition, family care burden in China is getting heavier. At the same time, the marketization of the economy produced a trend of work intensification across occupational groups. As a result, the work - family conflict encountered by workers in China is so serious that we are pressed to study and solve it. In the past, the study of work-family conflict have mostly tested West-based theories using U. S. and Europe samples. Whether these theories will be equally powerful when applied to China is questionable. In this article, we first describe the work - family conflict in contemporary China; after giving distinctive characteristics, we conclude that the work-family conflict Chinese workers are experiencing is much more intense, and have a complicated cause, does not fit well into West-based theories and thus cannot be modeled on them.

**Key words** China; Work-Family Conflict; Labor Time; Family Care

Work-Family Reconciliation Policies Of Scandinavia and The European Union: A Critical Review  
..... Sevil Sümer

**Abstract** This Chapter reviews the development of work-family reconciliation policies of the European Union. It starts with an analysis of the patterns of female employment and fertility levels in selected European countries and a brief presentation of the policies prevailing in the Scandinavian countries that have inspired the changes in EU policies. This is followed with an historical account of the development of EU policies on work-family reconciliation. Finally, drawing on data gathered through an EU-funded cross-

national research project Transitions: Gender, Parenthood and the Changing European Workplace, an argument for the necessity of universal benefits and well institutionalised policies will be developed. The overall thesis developed is that we need a clearer focus on the gendered division of care work in order to achieve more gender equality and a better work-life balance for both mothers and fathers in the labour market.

**Key words** Scandinavia ; European Union Policies; Work-family Reconciliation; Gender Relationship

Gender equality and policies towards women as mothers in the contemporary Norwegian welfare state

..... Nina Berven

**Abstract** Although “work-life balance” can mean different things in different (national) contexts, I shall in this chapter look at contemporary and common Norwegian policy programs for families with young children and study empirically how families adapt to these policies. Although programs are formally gender neutral, it is nevertheless women to a higher extent than men who respond and adapt to such programs, and the title of my chapter reflects this observation. The text is structured in three parts. The first part provides an overview of current demographic and employment patterns in Norway. The second part deals with concrete policy programs towards families with young children, and relates these programs to the more general issues of welfare state policies and work-life balance. Building on these two parts, the third and last part of the chapter examines the relations between formal policy goals on the one hand and actual adaptations, as well as more general implications, on the other.

**Key words** Norway; National Policies; Welfare State ; Work-life Balance

●ARTICLES

Selective Response; Web-based Participation in Civil Participation: A Case Study of the

..... Hua Zhang, Zhihui Tong & Junqin Liu

**Abstract** There is an increasing amount of interest in the impact of Internet on agenda setting in China . The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of online platform on agenda setting in a local government ( Huizhou ) in Guangdong Province. According to proposes and degree of institutional , we propose the following three network participation patterns are: external pressure model ( accidental events model ) , mobilization model ( project type online platform model ) and the submit model ( message board online platform model ) . The results show that the online platform model not only impacts how different issues are received initially by government , but also the internal process of agenda setting in government. These results seem to provide some evidence ( at least in this case ) to suggest that citizens have started to get more involved in setting government agenda in China. This study also shows an interesting puzzle that while the amount of issues accepted by government in agenda setting has increased , however , government seems to follow a pattern of selective responses to these issues. While additional research should explore the cause and impact of selective responses , this study concludes with some suggestions for future research.

**Key words** Selective Response ; Civil Participation ; Online Platform ; Local Government Behaviour

● THEORETICAL REVIEW

Termination of Bureaucracy: The Review of Post-modern Public Administration Theory

..... Jinzhou Song

**Abstract** This paper reviews the main theoretical contribution in To Kill the King: Post-traditional Governance and Bureaucracy by David John Farmer , and some critical comments are offered on the Post-modern Public Administration Theory. The Language of Public Administration ; Bureaucracy , Modernity and Post-modernism is the landmark

of establishing the Language of Public Administration Theory. To Kill the King has constructed the general framework of the Post-modern Governance Theory in public administration. Especially, the epistemology of “thinking as play”, the methodology of “justice as seeking” and the praxis of “practice as art” give us a profound theoretical implication for reinventing public administration theory in China.

**Key words** Post-Modern Public Administration Theory; Termination of Bureaucracy; David John Farmer’s Thought

●BOOK REVIEW

Envisage Democratic Knowledge: Reflection and Reconstruction of Bureaucrat Governance under Representative Democratic Government

..... Xue Li

Modes for Expert Participation in Chinese Policy Changes: A Review on Expert Participation in Policy Changes

..... Lihua Yang & Pengyun Shen