

● **SYMPOSIUM: Environmental Inspection and Innovation of Environmental Governance**

Introduction: Environmental Inspection as Innovation of Environmental Governance;
From Qualitative Research to Quantitative Research

..... Jiannan Wu
Environmental Inspection and the Organizational Adaptation and Expansion of Local
Environmental Bureau: Evidence from S County, H Province

..... Yuyi Zhuang, Rong Hu & Yu You

Abstract Over the past several years, China's central government has conducted environmental inspection nationwide. But, few studies have investigated how environmental inspection operates at the grassroots level, and how local governments respond to environmental inspection. Taking S County in H Province as a case, this paper illustrates how local governments respond to top-down pressure. This study found that S county government made three strategic organizational adaptations. First, S county set up leading groups at the county-level and distributed responsibility among officials and departments by grids. Second, as the responsible unit, the local Environmental Protection Bureau played the role of coordinator and was, thus, able to integrate more horizontal inter-departmental resources to implement environmental protection policies. Third, the local Environmental Protection Bureau adopted a temporary measure to deploy special units to respond to the environmental inspection. By taking these organizational adaptations, the local Environmental Protection Bureau received more support from government, and environmental protection was given higher priority among various government agendas. Some of these temporary, "campaign-style" measures also became normalized and institutionalized, benefiting environmental protection work in the long run. The latest central administrative reform, a new Ministry of Ecological Environment, will help make these adaptations more institutionalized.

Key Words Environmental Inspection; Organizational Adaptation; Bureaucracy; Intergovernmental Relations

Does Central Environmental Protection Inspection Improve Air Quality? —An Empirical
Study of Differences-in-Differences Model

..... Zhangli Liu & Jiannan Wu

Abstract As a major institutional innovation in the field of Chinese environmental protection, the central environmental protection inspection has been carried out in-depth across the country. Based on an analysis of its implementation, this study conducted differences-in-differences analysis to investigate the effect, if any, of inspection on air quality. It was found that the status and trends of air quality of inspected cities and neighboring non-inspection cities were very similar, and the cross-regional flow of pollutants and spillover effects may exist. Therefore, the net effect of central environmental protection inspection was not significant. Although compared with uninspected cities not adjacent to them, cities subject to the central environmental protection inspection had significantly reduced concentrations of PM₁₀, SO₂, CO, and NO₂, but the impact on PM_{2.5} and O₃ pollutants was not significant. The control of secondary pollutants such as PM_{2.5} and O₃ is more complicated and needs further attention. In addition, the impact of different processes of the central environmental protection inspection on air quality was different. In the context of the extension of the national environmental supervision system from “supervising enterprises” to “supervising local governments”, the paper expands our understanding of the implementation and effects of central environmental protection inspection as an innovation.

Key Words Central Environmental Protection Inspection; Air Pollution Governance; Policy Effect

●SYMPOSIUM: The System Design and Impact of Property Tax

Introduction

..... Yapeng Zhu
Urban Residents' Willingness to Pay Property Tax in China: A Simulation Analysis under Different Exemption Schemes

..... Ping Zhang & Yilin Hou

Abstract Based on the theoretical model of willingness to pay property tax (WTP), this paper constructs four different indicators to measure tax willingness. Using data from the China Family Panel Studies (CFPS), this study compared the willingness of residents to pay property tax in different regions and with different income levels, capturing such factors as region, housing type, number of homes owned, home purchase loan, and social economic status. There were three findings. First, different regions and families have large differences in willingness to pay a property tax, highlighting the local characteristics of property tax and the necessity of differential designs. Second, under

different exemption schemes, the fiscal effects of property tax were different. Third, there was no theoretical or empirical support for a higher exemption amount. Over-generous exemptions do not necessarily generate a higher willingness to pay the tax. Based on the per person value exemption scheme, with a comprehensive consideration of the fiscal capacity of local property tax and the residents' WTP, the market value of one-third of per capita floor space in each locality, stands out as the most appropriate. In the context of currently high housing prices, tax rates can be appropriately increased and should be gradually reduced through gradual reforms.

Key Words Property Tax; Willingness to Pay; Value Exemption; Simulation Analysis

Does a Comprehensive Property Tax Policy Have a Negative Impact on Residents' Willingness to Purchase Houses? —Evidence from Shanghai

..... Huiping Li & Xu Zheng

Abstract The property tax is significant to the regulation of China's real estate market. The existing studies focus on the impact of a single property tax policy scenario, especially the current property tax policy. By comparing the different impacts of the current property tax scenario and the future comprehensive property tax scenario, this study examined the impact of property tax on the willingness to purchase houses. It used a total of 901 random sample survey data from 11 districts located in the central city areas instead of the faraway suburbs. We found that the probability of buying a house was lower if residents had a lower acceptance of property tax, expected housing price to rise, or owned other properties. Generally speaking, property tax would discourage purchase willingness. Residents aged 18—25 and 41—50, with income of 30 thousand to 1 million, or with an undergraduate degree would change their purchase willingness if there was a comprehensive property tax. The findings of this study suggest the government needs to pay attention to the housing demands of different groups so as to ensure the residents' basic housing demands are not affected by the tax policy.

Key Words Property Tax; Willingness to Purchase Houses; Housing Demand

●SYMPOSIUM: Youth Drug Abuse and Governance

Introduction: The Occurrence Logic and Governance Path of Youth Drug Abuse

..... Zhiqiang Wang

Social Exclusion and the Drugs Sub Culture: The Dual Causes and Solutions for Drug Abuse Among Youths

..... Rui Peng & Zhiqiang Wang

Abstract Drug abuse has become a global social problem, and the drug situation is not optimistic in China. The problem of drug abuse among young people is serious. Based on the “push and pull theory” analysis, this article divides the dual causes of drug abuse among youth into four kinds of “push” factors, including economic exclusion, identity exclusion, social relationship exclusion, and cultural exclusion from the perspective of social exclusion. The “pull” factors are divided into three aspects: the fit of values, the demand of social interaction, and the strengthening of cultural pressure from the perspective of the drug subculture. Meanwhile, this article analyzes the mechanism of interaction between the dual reasons of drug abuse. Finally, with the goal of achieving social integration, this article proposes a comprehensive model for eliminating the “reverse push and pull” of young drug users from the support path of a social support network and the path of propaganda and education.

Key Words Youth; Drug Abuse; Push-Pull; Social Exclusion; Drug Sub Culture

Drug Problems among Rural Youth under the Three-Dimensional Framework of “State-Village-Individual”: A Case Study of a Village in H Province

..... Shaozhen Lin

Abstract Rural drug addiction in China has largely been ignored by scholars. This paper fills the gap by presenting a case study of A village in H Province. Following Yan Yunxiang’s view of the individualization of Chinese society, the drug-taking behaviors of rural youth are put into the three-dimensional framework of “state-village-individual”. By doing this, we can explore how the market logic used to govern local crises, weakened traditional authority, and insufficient personal efficacy, co-affect the occurrence and governance of the drug problem among rural youth during a period of rural social change and youth individualization. This paper argues that rural drug policies need to link drug-related injuries with social, material, and health inequalities. After strengthening the social welfare and fostering support system of the village, it would be helpful for individual rural drug users to improve their ability to cope with social risks and thereby reduce the rate of drug abuse.

Key Words Rural Youth; Drug Problem; State-Village-Individual; Individualization

● ARTICLES

Responsive Advocacy: An Explanatory Framework for NGO Effective Action in Policy Advocacy—A Case Study of T city and S city

..... Jiaxuan Yang & Tao Sun

Abstract This article explores the key factors for effective NGO action in the policy advocacy process. The article introduces an ambiguity-conflict model to explain the relationship between NGO action and the change of government action. By comparing the policy advocacy of two NGOs in T city and S city, this study found the relationship between the policy situation of the government and NGO policy advocacy. NGOs respond to government policy requirements and provide clear action plans to steer the government's policy so that it can advocate for policy by means of the power of government policy implementation. In this process, the government can obtain professional policy programs to promote the implementation of its own policies, and NGOs can use the power of government authority to overcome obstacles in the advocacy process. The article explains NGO policy advocacy from the perspective of policy process and provides a new understanding of policy advocacy and relationship between government and society.

Key Words Policy Advocacy; NGO; Ambiguity – Conflict Model; Relationship between Government and Society

How Did Local Public Service Innovation Come into Being? —Case Study of “One-Stop Service For Enterprises”

..... Liuzhao Huang, Limei Gu & Huping Shang

Abstract In China, although the source of various public services is the central “top-level design”, implementation relies on the creativity of local governments according to local conditions. In this regard, the level of innovation of local governments has become a sign of the supply capacity of local public service. But this kind of innovation is not arbitrary, it depends on the mechanism of science. This paper constructs an analysis framework of Environment-Process, taking the “One-stop Service for Enterprises” of Xiamen J District Administrative Service Center as an example, and exploring the question of “Why can innovation be generated? How can it be generated?” Local public service innovation is a multi-stage political process, consisting of issue construction, scheme design, and scheme implementation, reflecting the multi-game and strategic interaction of different actors in a specific space-time field. It also presents a regular pattern. This includes a dual drive of problems and achievements, a combination of external learning and internal optimization, the self-progressive and self-reinforcing of superior political resources and external legitimacy resources, which finally drives the continuous generation of local public service innovation.

Key Words Public Service Innovation; Generative Mechanism; Political Process; One-Stop Service for Enterprises

● THEORETICAL REVIEWS

Discussing the Different Paths of Bureaucratic Reform from the Aspect of Task Ambiguity
—A Constructive Analysis of Literature

..... Yun Xiao & Junyuan Zhao

Abstract As national governance objectives become more complex and multiply, the task ambiguity faced by bureaucratic organizations is now becoming an inevitable scenario for public agencies around the world. External changes have increased the difficulty of management and execution and challenged government efficacy based on certainty of bureaucratic management, which triggers the restructuring of bureaucratic organization. This study found that the different standpoints in dealing with ambiguity determine the different pathways of bureaucratic reform. The target system which votes for elimination of ambiguity is creating an internal control-incentive system to strengthen the bureaucracy. The planned ambiguity theorists who advocate using ambiguity for management purpose are driving the reform of elaborate bureaucracy. For one thing, bureaucracy has a malleable structure which enables it to adapt to different managerial purposes. For another, it is believed that elaborate bureaucracy may be a better way to deal with ambiguity by focusing on the process, increasing discretion, and putting more emphasis on qualitative analysis.

Key Words Bureaucracy; Ambiguity; Organizational Task; Organizational Management

● BOOK REVIEWS

Exploring The Functional Power Restriction and Supervision Theories with Chinese Characteristics: A Review of *Placing Power in Check and Building a Clean Government Through the Rule of Law*

..... Tianxiang Xu

● SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Research on Street-Level Bureaucrat's Action from the Perspective of Order

..... Weiwei Dong