

● **SYMPOSIUM: Incentives for Land Growth and Urban Development**

Introduction: Understanding Urban Land Relations from the Incentive of Land Growth

..... Yanling He

Land Transfers and Promotion in China: Pursuing Fiscal Revenue or Attracting Investment

..... Hongqin Liu & Shu Keng & Shengli Guo

Abstract Two competing hypotheses explain China's economic growth over the past decades: fiscal federalism and promotion tournaments. The first stresses raising fiscal revenue for local government, and the second focuses on the economic performance of local cadres. Despite the disagreement over the applicability of the two hypotheses, until this study, they had never been applied to the case of land – based government revenues. A prominent feature of land management in China's local governments is the combination of two separate land transfer markets: “discounted transfers for the industrial – used land” and “market – priced transfers for commercial – and residential – used land.” Fiscal federalism offers a revenue – driven explanation for the different markets while the promotion tournament hypothesis proposes a performance – led justification. In the study, we used land – transfer data from all of China's prefecture – level cities from 2003 to 2014 to verify the validity of the two hypotheses. The findings are two – fold. First, the total transfers of industrialland significantly increased the average area and price of the commercial – and residential – use land, thereby raising the total land revenue derived from land leasing. Secondly, land revenuesdid not significantly increase the value of fixed assets which would have increased economic growth. These findings show that fiscal federalism is the more powerful hypothesistoillustrate the different strategies of land management in today's China.

Key Words Land – Based Government Revenues; Land – Based Investment Promotion; Commercial – Used Land Conveyance Market; Industrial – Used Land Conveyance Market

Dose Land Management Rights Transfer Effected the Political Participation of Chinese Household?

..... Zhenqi Fu & Shuyun Chen

Abstract This paper investigates the impact of land management rights transfers on political participation based on survey data from 28 provinces in China. The results show

that the transfer of land management rights directly affected farmers' enthusiasm for participatory politics. The crucial inquiries were whether the farmer had transferred their land and whether the farmer had leased all of their land. If a farmer had turned in their land or transferred part of their land, their enthusiasm for political participation was enhanced by participating in the land transfer. Their participation in voting and their enthusiasm for the villager representative meeting will also be greatly enhanced. However, land acquisition did not change the farmers' intentions to participate in political campaigns. In contrast, those farmers who leased all their land lost their land management rights and their enthusiasm for political participation was significantly reduced. In the current social environment, this study provides a policy reference for promoting the reform of the farmland property right systems and the effectiveness of rural social governance by explaining the impact of land management rights on political participation.

Key Words Political Participation; Land Management Rights Transfer; Interest Connection; Type of Circulation

Competing Idea, Shared Perception and Policy – Making: The “Land Trusteeship Service” Policy Process as a Case

..... Xuan Dong, Sichen Chen & Qingguo Meng

Abstract If competing ideas for a change to existing policies were allowed to be presented, then it would be more likely that a new idea would be integrated into the established shared perception. This would make the new idea more competitive in the sense that policy makers would better understand the significance and value of the new idea. Taking policy making in the land trusteeship area as an example, this paper shows the process from idea articulation to policy formulation. Why did land trusteeship, a significant, practical innovation, take more than ten years to become policy? The three factors proposed by existing theories cannot answer this question. A theory proposed in this paper provides a more satisfactory answer. The trusteeship policy was the result of the process the Shandong Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperatives used in 2013. It was a new way of identifying competing ideas for land trusteeship as land transfers, but they were articulated as two different ways to achieve agricultural scaling.

Key Words Competing Idea; Policy – Making; Shared Perception; System of Classifications; Idea Articulation

● SYMPOSIUM: Local Government and Social Conflict Management

Introduction

..... Weiqing Guo
Local Officials' Informal Solutions to Wicked Problems: A Case Study of Married – Out Daughters in the N District

..... Weiqing Guo, Wenjie Zhang & Xiaoyun Chen
Abstract This article examines the capacities of dealing with and solving wicked problems by local governments in the Chinese context. This study selected and analysed the case of married – out daughters in the N district because it represents a typical scenario of wicked problem – solving. We argue that when dealing with wicked problems, local governments make use of a wide range of informal solutions which depart from as well as interact with formal laws and regulations. To unveil the innovation and creativity of solutions helps deepen our understanding of the complexity of local governance.

Key Words Wicked Problems; Solution; Local Governance

Research on the “Graded Response” Mechanism of Local Government in Handling Social Contradictions—A Case Study of Medical Disputes in M City

..... Jiajian Chen & Qiongwen Zhang
Abstract In the case of limited administrative resources and information asymmetry between government and society, it is difficult for local governments to deal with all kinds of problems efficiently and comprehensively; an information classification and response mechanism needs to be established. Taking the operation of a local government in dealing with medical disputes as a case study, this paper reveals that a local health bureau can distinguish simple, complex, and major medical disputes at different levels through two dimensions of event classification and impact assessment. Generally speaking, in dealing with medical disputes, local governments should not only “survey things”, but also “survey people”, in a comprehensive evaluation system. On this basis, local governments have adopted different coping mechanisms with different operators and different ways of management. This mechanism allows the government to concentrate administrative resources on solving difficult problems, while allowing minor issues to be dealt with simply. However, this mechanism weakens the effectiveness of the system, produces a “polarized” governance effect, prompts various bargaining behaviors, and contributes to the problem of institutionalization.

Key Words Medical disputes; Grading response; Local Governance; Polarization Effect

● ARTICLES

Professional Construction of Think – Tanks and Scientificization of Public Decision – Making: New Trends in Contemporary Public Policy and their Enlightenment

..... Zhenming Chen & Yuancan Huang

Abstract Professionalization is an essential characteristic and the biggest advantage of think – tanks. Data centers and laboratories are the technical foundation or platforms for the professionalization of think – tanks. Data analysis, behavioral experiments, simulation, and evidence – based testing constitute a series of important parts of the contemporary public decision – making chain, and are also new trends in global public policy theory and practice. At present, the professional development of new think – tanks with Chinese characteristics has made some progress, but the foundation of professionalization is still weak, and the construction of data centers and laboratories has not kept up. What needs to be done now is to embrace the new trends in contemporary public policy practice, strengthen the professional development of think – tanks, and improve public sector decision – making. This can be accomplished by promoting the reengineering of the government decision – making process, perfecting the state’s organizational, administrative, and supporting systems, accelerating the construction and use of data centers, strengthening the construction and utilization of laboratories, and promoting new models of evidence – based decision – making.

Key Words Professionalization of Think – Tanks; Scientific Decision – Making; Behavioral Experiments; Policy Simulation; Evidence – Based Decision – Making

Does Administrative Examination and Approval System Reform improve Local Government Performance? A Panel Data Analysis on Chinese 15 Sub – Provincial Cities from 2001 to 2015

..... Wensheng He, Yating Jiang & Xukang Tang

Abstract As an institutional arrangement, the administrative examination and approval system reformation (AEASR) is one of the most important reforms of China’s administrative system. Aimed at clarifying the relationships in the the market economy system between the government, the market, and society, it is also meant to enhance government administrative efficiency and release the vitality of the market. Based on a

study of panel data from 15 sub – provincial cities in China for the period 2001 to 2015 , this paper explores the impact of AEASR on government scale , government transparency , administrative normative and government management efficiency from the perspective of transaction costs and principal – agent theory. This study found that AEASR improved government performance to some extent. Reducing the administrative examination and approval matters had a significant impact on reducing the scale of government but it had no significant impact on government performance over the long – term. The service center can effectively promote government transparency and enhance government management efficiency. Thus , to further advance the AEASR , a restraint mechanism and participation mechanism should be built in to the system , and more attention should be paid to the level of “quality” rather than the “quantity” of the work performed.

Key Words Administrative Examination and Approval System Reform ; Government Performance ; Sub – Provincial Cities ; Panel Data

Marketization and Structures of Corruption : A Multilevel Analysis Based on Data of Duty – Crime Indictment

..... Hui Li & Xiaoguang Yang

Abstract The relationship between marketization and corruption is a controversial topic in the field of corruption research. Based on an analysis of the 2015 – 2016 China duty – crime indictment data , this study found that the degree of marketization will significantly affect the regional differences in the structure of corruption. Specifically , in a more market – oriented environment , the probability of officials being involved in transaction – type corruption is higher than auto – corruption. Therefore , marketization influences corruption by changing the structural characteristics of corruption rather than simply increasing or reducing the total amount. Our research also implies that the differences in China’s economic environments between regions have led to structural differences in corruption. Different regions must formulate specific anti – corruption strategies based on the forms of corruption they actually face in order to combat them more effectively.

Key Words Structures of Corruption ; Duty – Crime ; Marketization ; Multilevel Analysis

● THEORETICAL REVIEWS

Local Government Competition : A Literature Review

..... Dong Guo & Yefei Hu

Abstract Competition between local governments has been as an important perspective for understanding local reform and governance in China and has increasingly attracted the attention of academia. Where did this concept come from? How did its theoretical perspectives evolve? Is this issue still worth discussing? This study addressed these questions by making an in – depth literature review of the related theory of local government competition. First, this paper explains the concepts related to local government competition. Then, it presents the evolutionary process of the three theoretical viewpoints on local government competition, i. e. traditional federalism, market preserving federalism, and competition for growth. From there, it shows how the initial path of local government competition can be divided into three categories, i. e. fiscal/tax competition, institutional competition, and yardstick competition. Finally, it sorts out the economic and social consequences of local government competition. This paper proposes that the evolution of three theoretical viewpoints reflects academia’s effort to expand the applicability of fiscal federalism theories from western countries to developing countries like China. The existing literature shows that local government competition has brought positive developments as well as some negative results. This paper argues that the future development of local government competition research should combine local competition with national capacity issues, given the complexity of the situation, where competition and cooperation must coexist. Researchers should also examine the possible impact of competition on shaping complex inter – governmental relations.

Key Words Local Government Competition; Fiscal Federalism; Competition for Growth; Initiative Path

●BOOK REVIEWS

How to Realize Network Governance? A Review of *Network Governance and the Policy: Selected Essays, Volume I* and *Interactive Governance: Advancing the Paradigm*

..... Xin Zheng & Shoulong Mao

●SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Policy Instruction, Organizational Structure, Incentive Mechanism: A Study on the Governance of Chinese Public Hospitals

..... Na Tang