

T08P09 / Critical Policy Perspectives in Asia

Topic : T08 / Policy Discourse and Critical Policy Research

Chair : Piyapong Boossabong (Chiang Mai University School of Public Policy)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The technocratic policy approach is not the only one that influences the development of policy studies in Asia. Critical policy perspectives are also shed light on as a consequence of the limitations of the aforementioned approach in the real-world policy. Such perspectives are not simply categorized, but their commons are on making a critique of top-down policy making. They raise a question on the legitimacy of the conventional policy experts and their nuts and bolts. According to Fischer (2016), critical policy perspectives can be perceived as the 'postpositivist' movement in public policy founded on an interpretive understanding of social science. They depart from Marxism and Habermas's critical theory, which attempts to critique scientism and technocracy. Their role is "to monitor or be on the alert for social shifts and to discursively explore and interpret their meanings through processes of critical deliberation and argumentation" (Ibid, p.98). He gives an example of the argumentative perspective as one of critical perspectives, which is now focused by some Asian scholars (e.g. Fischer & Boossabong, forthcoming; Li & He 2016). Without too specific conceptualization, this panel welcomes a wide-range of critical lens on policy studies in Asia (e.g. the perspectives that critique mainstream policy approaches and pay attention to the bottom-up policy making, the governance turn in public policy both in national and local scales, the role of local knowledge in policy analysis etc.). The paper should address; how and why critical policy perspectives are emerged in different Asian contexts? Are they useful?, and if so, in which way? It is also worth learning their success and failure in either making a critique or proposing the alternatives.

References

- Fischer, F. 2016. What is critical? Connecting the policy analysis to political critique. *Critical Policy Studies*, 10(1), pp.95-98.
- Fischer, F. and Boossabong, P. forthcoming. Deliberative Policy Analysis. *Oxford Handbook of Deliberative Democracy*, ed. J. Dryzek. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Li, Y. and He, J. 2016. Exploring deliberative policy analysis in an authoritarian country. *Critical Policy Studies*, 10(2), pp.235-246.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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Democracy, ed. J. Dryzek. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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Session 1

Wednesday, June 28th 14:00 to 16:00 (Block B 1 - 1)

Discussants

Ya Li (School of Public Administration, Beihang University)

Beyond technocratic policy analysis: considering how and why norms and local knowledge influence public policy in Asia

Piyapong Boossabong (Chiang Mai University School of Public Policy)

Deliberative and Interpretive Policy Analysis in Taiwan: A Critical Review

Liang-Yu Chen (Leiden University Institute for Area Studies)

Narrative exploration of the transitions to sustainable consumption

Sunayana Ganguly (Azim Premji University, India)

Social Return on Investment (SROI) in Pro-poor Local Economic Development Policy: An Alternative Evaluation Method

Elivas Simatupang (Local Development Planning Board of Cimahi city)

Tutik Rachmawati (Parahyangan Catholic University - Indonesia)

David Julye Steven

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Session 2

Wednesday, June 28th 16:15 to 18:15 (Block B 1 - 1)

Discussants

Shunsaku Komatsuzaki (Hiroshima University)

Elaborating a Critical Study of Governance in Thailand: On Applying Metagovernance and Critical Realism

Theerapat Ungsuchaval (Mahidol University)

The Influence of Hierarchical Social System on Inter-local Collaboration Policy in Thailand: A Critical Perspective

Pobsook Chamchong (College of Politics and Governance, Mahasarakham University)

Examining the Limitations of Disability Policies in Bangladesh in the Income-generating Programs for 'Disabled' Bangladeshi People

Mst Shahina Parvin (University of Lethbridge, Canada and Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh)

Neoliberalism, play and childhood: The politics over public spaces in urban India

Harsh Mittal (Birla Institute of Technology and Science)

Navdeep Mathur (Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)