

T07P14 / Policy Evaluation in Performance Regimes: A Comparative Perspective

Topic : T07 / Policy Design, Policy Analysis, Expertise and Evaluation

Chair : Liang Ma (Renmin University of China)

Second Chair : Bo Yan (Xi'an Jiaotong University)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Given the cutback and austerity of public finance around the world, governments are required by the public to improve policy performance. Public policies in various domains have been increasingly subject to external scrutiny and public accountability to retain social legitimacy and citizen trust. Public money is strictly supervised in developed democracies, and public projects and programs are also under similar control in less developed countries, either democratic or authoritarian. Policies and programs are not only evaluated in traditional mandatory and top down approach, but are also monitored by external and third-party entities including community groups, media, non-profit organizations, research institutions, and international organizations.

Policy evaluation is not isolated, but rather embedded in institutional contexts. In this regard, it is imperative to examine policy evaluation in performance regimes, which “refer not just to the practices of measuring and managing performance indicators but also to capture the embedded nature of these practices in almost all aspects of contemporary governance.” (Moynihan, et al., 2011: i141). The conflict values and goals, blurring boundaries and hybrid forms of organizing, as well as increasingly complicated and multiplied policy problems, make it methodologically challenging to measure and manage policy performance. Government agencies, private sectors, and non-profit organizations involved in policy implementation also strategically respond to performance regimes, which result in gaming, cheating, manipulation, goal displacement, and other unintended consequences.

Despite policy evaluation is performance-oriented and result-centric, public sectors in different countries and regions have developed distinct approaches due to different cultural, political, and social contexts. These approaches are rather different, but may share similar underpinning values and rationales. It is thus meaningful to examine and compare policy evaluations in different countries and regions. In this proposed panel, we call for submissions studying policy evaluation in performance regimes from a comparative perspective. Key research questions include: How do performance regimes affect policy evaluation approaches and instruments? What role do third-party entities play in policy evaluation? What policy experts can learn from policy evaluation practices in other countries and regions? In this proposed panel, we aim to gather the scholars in this field to exchange ideas and evidences concerning policy evaluation in different performance regimes across the world.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Policy evaluation varies across policy regimes, and it is promising to examine the intertwining relationships between policy evaluation practices and performance regimes. In this proposed panel, we aim to gather the scholars in this field to exchange ideas and evidences concerning policy evaluation in different performance regimes across the world. Theoretical/conceptual, methodological, and empirical studies are all welcomed, and both quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods are invited. Topics include but not limited to:

- Theoretical frameworks and models of policy evaluation in performance regimes.
- The impacts of performance regimes on policy evaluation practices.
- The challenges of policy evaluation concerning wicked problems.
- The role of third-party entities in policy evaluation.
- New and innovative policy evaluation instruments and tools.
- Policy evaluation in cross-boundary, hybrid, and networked environments.
- Case studies of policy evaluation practices in various policy areas, including but not limited to economic development, public education, healthcare, energy and environment, innovation, and social policy.
- Comparative analyses of policy evaluation practices across countries and regions.

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Session 1

Friday, June 30th 10:30 to 12:30 (Block B 5 - 2)

Discussants

Elaine Yi Lu (City University of New York)

Impact of Performance Regime on Local Government Policy Evaluation in Indonesia

Meita Ahadiyati Kartikaningsih (National Institute of Public Administration)

Aldhino Niki Mancner (National Institute of Public Administration Republic of Indonesia)

ROLES OF THIRD PARTY ENTITIES IN ENHANCING PARTICIPATORY APPROACH AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF POLICY EVALUATION IN MALAYSIA

RAFIDAH MOHAMED HASHIM (UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UITM))

JASMINE AHMAD (UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM))

Evaluation for accountability or improvement?: A cross-country comparison of performance regimes

Liang Ma (Renmin University of China)

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Session 2

Friday, June 30th 13:45 to 15:45 (Block B 5 - 2)

Discussants

Elaine Yi Lu (City University of New York)

Does the Local Government Follow the Strategic Intention of the Central Government in China? A Comparative Social Network Analysis of the Implementation of the Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship Policies

Bo Yan (Xi'an Jiaotong University)

Wei Li (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)

Can the US Keep the PACE? A Natural Experiment in Accelerating the Growth of Solar Electricity

Nadia Ameli (University College London, Institute for Sustainable Resources)

Granting Urban Residency to Rural Migrant Workers in China? Who Wins and Who Loses?

Wei Yifang (Institute of Social Development, National Development and Reform Commission)

Gu Yan (Institute of Social Development, National Development and Reform Commission)