

T03P10 / Political Economy of Social Policy Reform in China

Topic : T03 / Policy and Politics sponsored by Policy & Politics Journal

Chair : Qian Jiwei (East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

In this panel a selection of papers may be considered for the Policy & Politics journal.

Government social expenditure has increased very fast in China since early 2000's. The amount of government expenditure on three major areas, social security and social assistance, education and health care, increased by an average annual rate of 21.4 per cent between 2003 and 2013.

The size and huge variations of the country together with the dramatic experiences of economic development in the last six decades make China standing out as a very interesting case in social policy reform. On the one hand, there are significant portions of legacies of central planning system in the current welfare system. On the other hand, given the sheer size of China, regional differences in economic and social conditions are huge. In this case, having a better understanding of the changes and evolution of the Chinese social welfare system from the perspective of the political economy can be highly value-added to the existing social policy literature.

In this context, there are also several features in the recent round of the social policy reforms in China. First, while the spending on social areas has been increased very fast, financial coverage for many social programmes are still not sufficient enough. The quality of public services is still relatively low. Second, the welfare system is fragmented among different regions, between rural and urban areas and also between formal and informal sectors. Third, in some policy areas, policy initiations to expand coverage of social programmes can be very flexible and the expansion of welfare programmes can be achieved in a dramatically rapid speed. However, in some other policy areas, the policies and institutions are resilient and there are almost no significant changes in the recent decades.

This panel makes an attempt to understand social policy reforms in China from the perspective of political economy. Political institutions, incentives of political players as well as policy capacity have played important roles in the social policy making and implementation. The welfare system can vary in locations, in policy areas and also be path dependent. This panel is going to discuss the dynamics of the Chinese welfare system from the political and economic institutions.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Theoretical, empirical and policy papers from the perspective of political economy in all social policy areas in China are welcomed. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Welfare regime, institutional changes
- State capacity, legal capacity, fiscal capacity, policy capacity
- Central-local relation and local variation of social policies
- Political economy of the following policy areas

1. Education policy, education financing
2. Health reform, health policy
3. Social Security Reform
4. Social assistance
5. Poverty alleviation
6. Housing policy, affordable housing
7. Unemployment insurance and employment policy
8. Other social policy areas

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Session 1

Friday, June 30th 08:15 to 10:15 (Block B 3 - 1)

Discussants

Qian Jiwei (East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore)

Policy Re-framing and Entrepreneurship in China's Public Hospital Reforms: The Case of Fujian Province

Alex Jingwei He (The Education University of Hong Kong)

The Political Economy of Chinese Health Reform? A Health Financing Perspective

Shaolong Wu (Sun Yat-sen University)

"Allocation of Authority" in China's Social Policy Reform

Qian Jiwei (East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore)

The institutional account of public pension dynamics in China -from perspective of pension governance

lei zhang (southwestern university of finance and economics)

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Session 2

Friday, June 30th 10:30 to 12:30 (Block B 3 - 1)

Discussants

Qian Jiwei (East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore)

Reforms to Improve Education Accountability: Recent Experience from Beijing

Yifei Yan (University of Southampton)

Equity in Redistribution to the Elderly and Children: An Intergenerational Conflict in Hong Kong?

Alfred Muluan Wu (Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong)

Do women benefit from higher education? A study of female workers in the labour market of urban China

Jin JIANG (Lingnan University)

Qian Jiwei (East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore)

The Chinese All-Round Education Reform

Wendy Chen

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Session 3

Friday, June 30th 13:45 to 15:45 (Block B 3 - 1)

Discussants

Qian Jiwei (East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore)

Capabilities Development Among Elderly Chinese: a Comparative Study Between two Different Hukous

Birgitte Egeskov Jensen (Aalborg University (and Chinese Academy of Sciences))

Property Tax, Home Purchase Restriction, Expectation and Housing Prices: An Empirical Study of 35 Large and Medium-sized Cities in China

Cheng Ruijie (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy)

Determinants of China's land supply for affordable housing: A city-level analysis

Zhiyong Hu (The Education University of Hong Kong)

Qian Jiwei (East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore)

Shut them down, Take them over, or Certify them: Regulating Migrant Schools in China

Alexsia Chan (Hamilton College)