

T15P02 / Public Policy in Africa: A Political Economy Perspective

Topic : T15 / INEQUALITIES AND PUBLIC POLICY

Chair : Mireille Manga (IRIC, University of Yaoundé II)

Second Chair : Siphamandla Zondi (University of Johannesburg)

Third Chair : Saidou Abdoul Karim (University of Thomas Sankara)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Since its emergence in the United States in the early 1930s and France during the 1970s, academic interest in studying and researching public policy has followed different trajectories. Top-ranked economies cover most publications on public policies within and beyond the African continent. Most specifically, African scholars' contributions to public policy theoretical debates and research have remained little or quasi-invisible, especially at the global level of international journals' databases. There is also little evidence of African terrain. This panel would like to contribute to filling this gap, thereby asking why such gaps, and looking at policy implications.

The panel seeks to systematically question, understand and explain the economic divides in producing public policy research and publications at the international level. Indeed, although objects and subjects may be ontologically distinct, the production of public policy research is analyzed as a public policy per se through three directions. First, it addresses the role (activity) of funding and sponsoring in contributing to the visibility of academic publications and contributions to the field. Second, it tackles the individual and collective actions of governmental and non-governmental agencies, researchers, heads of political science departments, and faculty members in sponsoring, promoting, and sourcing academic publications in public policy. Third, it interrogates the types of literature promoted and used in researching and analyzing public policies in Africa.

This panel is an interdisciplinary venue. It is open to contributions from different political and social sciences fields using public policy as an area of research in Africa: economics, anthropology, political sociology, public administration, political economy, international relations, etc. It is open but not limited to concrete case studies or empirical papers addressing the research and production policies of public policy research papers or books in African universities. In particular, we would happily welcome articles that focus on researched topics within specific universities or countries and publishing mediums, sponsorships, the role of governmental and non-governmental agencies in sponsoring research in public policies, etc. Last but not least, proposals may also focus on specific studies while describing how they use or not contemporary literature or theories on public policies.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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Session 1

Wednesday, June 28th 10:20 to 12:20 (POD361)

Thinking a green world beyond extractivism in Central Africa: towards the implementation of community public policies and transfer of skills.

Jean Claude Boula (University of Yaoundé II)

Yves Patrick MBANGUE NKOMBA (University of Yaoundé II, Faculty of Laws and Political Science)

Throughout Central Africa, natural resources are central to the livelihoods of populations and a lever for the economic development of states. However, the negative effects of strong extractive dynamics and the observed overexploitation of these resources are becoming worrisome. While environmental issues are increasingly prominent in the debates, state and non-state actors in these countries are more concerned with issues related to the ecological transition, in a region of Africa that is facing many environmental, climatic and ecological challenges. On the basis of this observation, if the exploitation of natural resources is rather growing and registered in most of these States as an instrument of economic and industrial emancipation, it should be noted on the other hand in that view of the urgency of the environmental and ecological stakes of these activities, the need to think or to increase the initiatives of a green world in Central Africa prey to the disproportionate appetites growing towards the exploitation of natural resources becomes an imperative. Therefore, promoting a community development model that is ecologically sustainable and environmentally acceptable in this region of Africa should be one of the priorities of the new common extractive public policies of these States, with the transfer, diffusion and circulation of skills as a guideline for implementation. This issue is in line with the rather conflicting relationship between extractivism and the environment, thus raising the question of how to think about the construction of community environmental public policies by reducing the negative impacts of the overexploitation of extractive natural resources in Central Africa? The answer to this question will be possible from the actor approach. The focus here is to grasp the games that are played between different actors involved in the making of this particular public policy. Specifically, the theory of the strategic actor, as a precept of governance, makes it possible to create and read the categories of actors interacting in a collective action, the strategies and means of action, their motivations and forms of legitimacy (Certu, 2001). To do this, the reports of meeting and conferences on the subject and our empirical data will form the basis of our argument.

(Virtual) Fiscal citizenship and fiscal governance of road money in Cameroon

Prisca ASSIENE

The advent of a new financial regime for the Cameroonian state in 2007 gave meaning to the role of civil society actors in the public finance management process. It has become a pledge of action that structures the socio-political and economic relationship of citizens to the management of money from the road sector. This role described through citizen budgetary control thus marks the evolution of the position of CSOs as representatives of the public in the process of fiscal management of public action. From this point of view, public finance management requires the progressive implementation of decentralisation in the management of public affairs. This decentralisation requires budgetary and financial education of actors as a determining factor in their positioning in the fiscal field. It thus constitutes a determining political resource likely to highlight their capacities to act in the process of managing public finance linked to the road. This positioning as an actor greatly informs their capacity to act and their circulation in the sequential field of financial management. Indeed, the problem of fiscal management of roads in Cameroon is very much alive. It has a well-defined aspect, that of consent to the road tax which is here the expression of the user's participation in the construction of the public good. It also deals with the meaning and legitimacy of taxes, their methods of

collection and the ways in which taxes are contested, often visible in the successive strikes by motorists, as in 2008 during the mood movement due to the increase in fuel prices. The result of this participatory development observation is that citizen involvement structures the field of action of civil society organisations in the process of fiscal management of the road resource in Cameroon. In other words, if we consider citizen engagement through the mobilisation of CSOs around fiscal management, this amounts to questioning the privileged registers of action (confrontation or cooperation) of CSOs and their relationship with the State as structuring elements of this analysis. Seen from this angle, the first hypothesis suggested will be to consider that the relevance of actions carried out by civil society remains dependent on their capacity for participation and expertise in the monitoring of public finance management related to roads.

(Virtual) La circulation des politiques de gestion décentralisée des forêts au Cameroun : Entre diffusion émotionnelle, traduction bricolée et hybridation des recettes de politiques forestières locales.

Dieudonné TOUKEA (Université de Dschang)

La Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le Développement (CNUED) qui s'est tenue à Rio au Brésil en 1992 a donné naissance à plusieurs instruments internationaux de protection de l'environnement. Ce sommet a aussi permis l'adoption de la Déclaration de principes, non juridiquement contraignante, mais faisant autorité, pour un consensus mondial sur la gestion, la conservation et l'exploitation écologiquement viable de tous les types de forêts. Cette déclaration encourage en son principe (d), la participation des acteurs locaux à la planification, l'élaboration et à la mise en œuvre des politiques forestières. En réponse à cette préoccupation, le Cameroun qui avait connu une longue période de gestion centralisée des forêts, s'est attelé à traduire les recommandations issues de ce Sommet dans la pratique nationale. Cependant, après trois décennies d'expérimentation de cette gestion décentralisée des forêts, on constate la persistance de nombreuses dérives notamment: destruction des forêts communautaires, capture élitiste des ressources forestières, gestion opaque des forêts. D'où l'intérêt de s'interroger sur le processus d'importation de ces politiques de gestion forestière décentralisée. Cet article démontre que les phénomènes affectifs ont joué un très rôle dans le processus d'émergence mondiale des problèmes liés à la destruction des forêts. Tout comme dans la plupart des situations d'import-export, le modèle d'origine promouvant la participation des acteurs locaux à la gestion forestière, a été contraint à des ajustements ou adaptations face à des réalités du contexte où il était censé s'appliquer. Entraînant ainsi, une traduction bricolée et hybridation des recettes de politiques forestières locales.

Coupling Logic of Formal System and Informal System in Precision Poverty Alleviation in China —Based on the case study of village K, Z County, Hubei Province

Mo-zhu Wang (Central China Normal University)

liming zhang (Central China Normal University)

PU NIU (institution for China rural studies)

In an authoritarian country like China, the traditional informal system in villages (such as small civil society and NGO) not only plays the role of making the formal system more flexible and adaptable in the institutionalized anti-poverty process. Based on the IDA framework, this paper adopts in-depth case study to collect data, and uses grounded theory and thematic coding to analyze the data. Based on the case of precision poverty alleviation in K village of Z county, this paper explores how the formal system and informal system operate in the process of anti-poverty, and constructs five models of coupling formal system and informal system. The results show that the interaction between formal system and informal system is selected based on different action scenarios, systems, economic and social, and natural attributes, and different coupling modes will be generated when different variables are input into the action stage. This research not only helps to explain why authoritarian rule requires civil society and NGO, but also shows how informal practices with democratic characteristics can remedy the drawbacks of authoritarian rule.

(Virtual) PUBLIC POLICIES AT A CROSSROAD IN AFRICA: REVISITING SECURITY AND HEALTH POLICIES.

Danielle MINTEU KADJE (University of Dschang)

Since the late 1990s, public policy analysis has experienced a veritable scientific explosion on the African continent. Sectoral empirical studies have gradually built up a dynamic field of research, engaging scientific controversies and entering into discussion with the questions of policy makers. This "academic geography"

of public policies means to conceptualize the state in Africa across all configurations and the historical process of public policy requires that alliances and negotiations of state and non-state actors who configure public action, in restructuring of the public sectors. Public policies in Africa are at a crossroads because it becomes imperious to consider the dynamics of the top, bottom, inside and outside as well as the Construction and negotiation between state actors and non-state actors to capture configuration and transformation of States. Through security and health policies, this paper will analyse the “academic geography” of public policies in Africa.

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Session 2

Wednesday, June 28th 15:50 to 17:50 (POD361)

WHEN THE POLICIES OF LAND RESERVES FAVOR THE LAND INVASION OF THE NEO-LORDS OF LAND AND LAND CRIMINALITY IN THE CAMEROONIAN PEASANTRY

Jean Emmanuel Minko À Bitegni (Université de Maroua)

WHEN THE POLICIES OF LAND RESERVES FAVOR THE LAND INVASION OF THE NEO-LORDS OF LAND AND LAND CRIMINALITY IN THE CAMEROONIAN PEASANTRY.

Abstract

This communication intends to decipher the policies of land reserves in the way it causes the land tensions of elitist class in the cameroonian peasant world since the announcement of land reform policies by President Biya during the agropastoral fair in Ebolowa in 2011, in a context where the State has control over land and land tenure. In this approach, the State has considered policies of land reserves in the peasantry for large scale agropastoral and agro-industrial projects. One thing that has led to multiple land tensions. These land tensions between the cameroonian socio-political elite have contributed not only to the emergence of the elitist land conflict in rural Cameroon but also to the use of the practice of land criminality as a socio-political technology for maintaining power. A situation that favored the solicitation of vast lands in the rural field by a certain indigenous and non-indigenous elite, called the neo-land lords. The latter are made up of politicians, financials, customary people and executives of various State and private institutions for agropastoral and agro-industrial activities. A reality that has contributed to impoverishing the indigenous populations and leading to their frustrations. This disappropriation of land by these political, financial and customary elites vis-à-vis the indigenous populations has been decisive in the fabric of land criminality-understood here as the set of activities, actions and behaviors that are illicit, illegitimate and illegal in land acquisition, land exploitation. This contribution intends to mobilize rural governmentality, explanatory and empirical elements, centered on ethnographic material to participate in the transformation of the State in Cameroon into power State.

Keywords : Land invasion, Land neo-lords, Land criminality, Cameroonian peasantry, Policies of land reserves.

Integrating Traditional Medicine and Healing in National Healthcare in Nigeria – A Theoretical Review

Olumayowa Idowu (Clemson University)

ifeanyi ogbekene (CLEMSON UNIVERSITY)

Integrating Traditional Medicine and Healing in National Healthcare in Nigeria – A Theoretical Review

Abstract

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 3 is to “Ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being for all at all ages”. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the United Nations expects all countries and all stakeholders to act in a collaborative partnership to implement the action plan forward in 2015. However, the attitude, and actions of Nigerian political leaders and the unelected bureaucrats in the health sector, leading to the sustained poor state of the health sector and the sustained emigration trend of Nigerian healthcare professionals, tend to show that this goal is not likely to be achieved in 2030 or any time

in the nearest future. It is a widely accepted fact among researchers, scholars, and policymakers that a healthy population is one of the prerequisites for economic growth and prosperity. The Nigerian health sector has been ailing for many decades, and the political elites have failed to come up with effective policies to address the situation due largely to their non-patronage of Nigerian hospitals for treatment. As a matter of socioeconomic class and a clear demonstration of their lack of confidence in Nigeria's healthcare sector and infrastructure, they and their families travel abroad for treatment. The neglect of the healthcare sector in Nigeria is largely a product of endemic corruption, which has continued to increase in scope, volume, and complexity. High levels of illiteracy and poverty, an inadequate number of skilled healthcare professionals, poor healthcare delivery, inadequate access to healthcare due to financial requirements and distance to healthcare facilities, are among the factors that affect individuals' health conditions in Nigeria. Given the poor state of Nigeria's health sector and the prevailing conditions of poor remuneration for healthcare professionals, job dissatisfaction, poor healthcare infrastructure, poor economic situation, insecurity of life and property, etc., Nigerian physicians and nurses are incentivized to migrate to developed countries like the US, the UK, Canada, etc. Therefore, health inequities in Nigeria are expected to worsen with the migration of Nigerian healthcare professionals to developed countries. However, traditional medicine continues to be a more affordable and accessible source of treatment for primary healthcare among the poor but largely still lacks standardization and proper integration into the healthcare delivery system. This paper aims to use a theoretical review of journal articles and media news reports to explore the growing influence and contributions of traditional medicine to the health and wellness of Nigerians and how policymakers in Nigeria and international development agencies and partners can develop policies and strategies to standardize and integrate traditional medicine practices into the mainstream healthcare delivery in Nigeria as part of the process of addressing the problems in the health sector and moving towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Rebuilding the state: Fiscal Federalism in Sudan

Hamid Ali (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)

it is fitting that the modern history of Sudan is tightly intertwined with the call for federalism, starting with the Southerners' push for regional autonomy since independence. In this paper, we examine the design and practice of one dimension of federalism – the ability of citizens to govern their fiscal affairs at the local level and how the central government designed and implemented fiscal relations with the states, focusing largely on intergovernmental transfers over the past decade. We documented the evolution of the institutional framework and fiscal trends over several decades. Severe fiscal fragility meant that transfers to states varied substantially over time and heavily oil exports facilitated higher transfers, the loss of the South sharply curtailed them. The study shows the underlying differences in standards of living across states to set the scene for understanding the distribution per-capita transfers. The results suggest that the current system in Sudan does little to offset existing inequities across states and may exacerbate them. If fiscal federalism is to support the rebuilding of the state in Sudan, it must address disparities and empower citizens to engage in determining their local public choice of taxing and spending.