P01 / Theories and Dynamics of Ethnic Violence in Public Policy

Topic : POLICY, POLITICS AND POLITICAL REGIME

Chair : Hamid Ali (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The complex dynamics of ethnic diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism in public policy play a central role in either fostering stability or exacerbating intergroup tensions. This call for papers seeks contributions that advance understanding of policies for ethnic management, examining how government policies impact both inclusion and exclusion in multicultural contexts. In particular, we aim to explore how policies addressing ethnic diversity affect the successes, challenges, and failures in achieving a cohesive and just society.

Building on theories of ethnic violence, this issue will explore how marginalization, resource allocation, and state behavior contribute to intergroup tensions. Ethnic violence is seldom spontaneous; it often stems from deep-rooted socio-political and economic disparities. Consequently, public policy shaped by dominant power structures can either mitigate or intensify these inequalities, impacting how resources are allocated and how diverse communities engage with state mechanisms.

Key Research Areas and Questions:

We invite papers that address the following critical areas:

1. **Ethnic Marginalization and Conflict in Public Policy**
How do power structures in public policy formulation influence ethnic inclusion or exclusion, and to what extent does ethnic marginalization trigger societal conflicts? This theme invites contributions that analyze how policies shaped by central powers impact ethnic groups, exploring whether these policies promote inclusiveness or foster marginalization and conflict.

2. **Decentralization as a Tool for Inclusion**
What role does decentralized governance play in managing ethnic diversity? Decentralization has been a key strategy in mitigating ethnic conflict by providing local autonomy and power-sharing opportunities. Papers under this theme should explore whether and how local democratization, autonomy, and inclusive incentives contribute to peace and unity in multi-ethnic societies.

3. **Comparative Perspectives: Global North and Global South**
How does the relationship between public policy access and ethnic conflict vary between the Global South and the Global North? We seek studies that examine ethnic marginalization in public policy access across these contexts, exploring whether patterns differ between and within these regions. Special attention will be given to case studies from the Global South to understand unique approaches to ethnic diversity and conflict management.

4. **Policy Frameworks for Inclusion, Successes, and Failures**
What strategies and frameworks have shown success or failure in managing ethnic diversity within governmental and organizational settings? Papers that analyze the implementation of multicultural policies, inclusion and exclusion tactics, and their social impacts are particularly welcome. Additionally, we encourage case studies that shed light on both effective and problematic approaches to multicultural governance.

Submission Focus and Expectations:

We welcome contributions from diverse disciplines—including political science, public policy and administration, and economics—that analyze the interaction of public policy and ethnic diversity. Submissions should offer empirical research, comparative studies, or theoretical insights into how policies around ethnic diversity shape social cohesion, ethnic management, and conflict dynamics. The issue aims to contribute to a nuanced understanding of ethnic diversity policy, informing policymakers, scholars, and practitioners about the impacts of inclusion, exclusion, and decentralization on social stability and peace.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Theories of ethnic violence provide critical insights into the intricate interplay of factors that lead to

intergroup conflicts. Rather than being spontaneous, ethnic violence often results from deep-rooted socio-political and economic conditions. Scholarly literature identifies key determinants of ethnic violence, including deprivation, inequalities, resource allocation, and state strategic behavior. Each of these factors plays a crucial role in either mitigating or exacerbating ethnic tensions, often serving as catalysts for violence. Together, they form a theoretical framework that helps explain the complex dynamics leading to ethnic violence. This multidisciplinary perspective draws from political science, economics, and sociology to explore why and how ethnic conflicts emerge.

Ethnic Marginalization and Public Policy

Public policy, frequently shaped by the dominant ethnic majority, often reflects the power structures that govern resource allocation. Disenfranchised communities, in response, may advocate for equitable treatment or self-determination, either peacefully or violently. The proximity of ethnic groups to centers of power influences how public resources are distributed, exacerbating marginalization for some communities. Understanding the impacts of marginalization on public policy access is essential for guiding reforms toward inclusiveness, stability, sustainability, and social peace.

Decentralization has been a focal point in the study of ethnic conflicts. Research suggests that local-level democratization and autonomy can strengthen national unity in diverse societies by balancing the interests of various social groups. Decentralized governance provides inclusive incentives and can reduce the risk of violence at different stages of conflict through power-sharing and greater inclusion of minority groups.

Key Research Questions

This call for papers invites contributions that address the following pivotal questions:

1. To what extent does ethnic marginalization in public policy formulation trigger societal conflicts?
This question aims to explore how central power structures utilize and consolidate power, examining variables such as the empowerment or marginalization of ethnic groups. The role of these entities in either promoting inclusion or fostering exclusion will be a key area of focus.

2. How does the relationship between public policy access and conflict differ between the Global South and the Global North?
This second question seeks to examine whether ethnic marginalization and public policy access follow different patterns in the Global South compared to the Global North. Additionally, it will explore the heterogeneity within the Global South itself, challenging the assumption that democratic governance universally guarantees the non-violent resolution of ethnic conflicts.

Research Focus and Contributions

We particularly invite research that explores the structure of ethnic marginalization, including ethnic exclusion, separatism, and the role of junior partners in the executive branches of government as drivers of public policy implementation. While a broad range of topics and regions are welcome, special analytical attention will be given to case studies from the Global South to better understand the varied approaches to managing ethnic diversity and conflict in this context.

This call for papers aims to advance the understanding of the dynamics of ethnic violence and the role of public policy in either mitigating or exacerbating these conflicts. By exploring the intersection of ethnic marginalization and public policy, we hope to foster dialogue on how governance can be reformed to promote inclusiveness, stability, and peace.

For questions and submissions, please reach out to [email Hami.Ali: hamid.ali@dohainstitute.edu.qa or Faical Mansouri: faical.mansouri@dohainstitute.edu.qa].

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Session 1

Friday, July 4th 16:00 to 18:00 (B3)

Power Domination and Civil War in Sudan: A Power-Sharing Perspective

Almalaz Osman (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)

Bureaucratic Representation, Ethnic Marginalization and Conflict

Faical MANSOURI (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)

Hamid Ali (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)

Systemic discrimination of Muslims in Amsterdam and how to combat it. Governmental and civil society initiatives.

MEZIANI Yamina (University)

Barriers to Rights: The Practices of Securitization on Rohingya Refugees in South Asia

Umut Korkut (Glasgow Caledonian University)

Monika Verma (Palacky University)

Decolonizing Public Policy Discourse in the Curriculum: A View from the Middle East and North Africa

Ashraf Abdelhay (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)