

T01P05 / What Can China's Water Governance Contribute to Policy Theory?

Topic : T01 / Policy Process Theories

Chair : Yahua Wang

Second Chair : Cecilia Tortajada (Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Third Chair : Asit K. Biswas (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Water governance is considered one of the most important public policy issues in China, with a tradition as long as the history of Chinese civilization. As a result of China's rapid industrialisation and urbanisation over the past three decades, the country's water policy has been constantly changing. There has been a remarkable transformation of water policy to confront the complexities brought by deteriorating water ecology, frequent water shortages and threats of flood. Water policy and associated governing practice play an important role in sustainable economic and social development in China, and water governance in China will continue to evolve and develop as China makes further progress towards a high-income economy.

Policy process research concerns stasis, change and complexity of interaction in public policy over time entailing actors, structures, cultures, institutions, and socioeconomic and biophysical conditions. The complexity of the policy process is understood by theoretical inquiry into practical reality, and development in policy theory requires constant attention to complex interactions that are defined by changing circumstances. Chinese water governance provides a unique lens to understand public policy, and yet it receives little attention in the study of policy theory. The proposed panel, entitled "What Can China's Water Governance Contribute to Policy Theory?", is co-organised by School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University, and Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. It aims to fill in this gap by highlighting the importance of Chinese water governance to the domain of public policy theory. Given that China provides unique contextual circumstances with high hydrological uncertainty, rapid economic development, an authoritarian political regime, and long-enduring Chinese culture, China's experiences with water governance have significant potential to contribute to modern policy theory, including that related to policy decisions, the policy process, policy evaluation and comparative policy analysis.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The panel, "What Can China's Water Governance Contribute to Policy Theory?", co-organised by School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University, and Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, seeks to inspire and enrich the understanding on policy science based on empirical studies of Chinese water governance. Given that China provides unique contextual circumstances with high hydrological uncertainty, rapid economic development, an authoritarian political regime, and a long-enduring culture, this panel aims to be an initial attempt to contribute the perspective of China water governance to modern policy theory, including theory related to policy decisions, the policy process, policy evaluation and comparative policy analysis.

We welcome papers with sound theoretical focus on the impact of Chinese water policy on policy process theories, which examines how transformation and innovation of present China's water policy inform robust theoretical implications for policy science. Under this call for papers, we suggest addressing themes, including but not limiting to:

- Policy decisions
- Policy learning
- Policy process
- Policy implementation
- Policy evaluation
- Comparative policy analysis
- Policy dissemination
- Selection of Policy Tools

T01P05 / What Can China's Water Governance Contribute to Policy Theory?

Chair : Yahua Wang

Second Chair : Cecilia Tortajada (Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Third Chair : Asit K. Biswas (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy)

Session 1 Understanding Policy Implementation in Complex Context

Thursday, June 29th 08:15 to 10:15 (Block B 3 - 4)

Discussants

Cecilia Tortajada (Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Hongyun Han (Institution Zhejiang University)

Context and Policy: The Underperformance of Water Users Association in Authoritarian China

Yahua Wang

Minghui ZHANG (School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University)

Jingning Kang

Policy Implementation and Water User Associations Development in China

Tingting Wan

Yahua Wang

Policy changes of water environmental pollution control in China as a learning process: where should it go?

Hongyun Han (Institution Zhejiang University)

T01P05 / What Can China's Water Governance Contribute to Policy Theory?

Chair : Yahua Wang

Second Chair : Cecilia Tortajada (Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Third Chair : Asit K. Biswas (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy)

Session 2 Policy Diffusing and Policy Learning with Chinese Characteristics

Thursday, June 29th 10:30 to 12:30 (Block B 3 - 4)

Discussants

Yifei Yan (University of Southampton)

Tingting Wan

Competing for Government Attention: Mechanisms for Diffusing China's Unprofitable Policy

Chen Sicheng (School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University)

Yahua Wang

Idea and Policy Making: Why policy Learning Ineffective in China's Water Rights Policy?

Yahua Wang

Chen Sicheng (School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University)

Understanding the Cooperation and Conflicts in Brahmaputra with a Quantitative Approach

Yifei Yan (University of Southampton)

Neng Qian (National University of Singapore)