

T03P09 / Authoritarian Deliberation Revisited: What Does It Mean for Our Understanding of Democratic Governance?

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

Chair : *****

Second Chair : Baogang He (Deakin University)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

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

In 2011 Mark Warren and Baogang He introduced the concept of 'authoritarian deliberation'. Their paper and the ideas it contained were path-breaking in several respects. They demonstrated that democratic deliberation not only happened as a civil society subversive act within a politically authoritarian setting such as China, but that it was in fact promoted by the party as a strategy of (local) governance. The paper also showed that democratic process is not an all-or-nothing, universalistic affair, but that a working democracy must be seen as an uneasy and unstable assemblage of democratic (public participation, democratic deliberation) and repressive (disempowerment of marginal groups, erosion of human rights) elements against the background of different economic, political and cultural developments, some of which (such as political despotism or corporate hegemony) are in direct conflict with the ideal of democracy. Third, the paper situated this democratic assemblage firmly within processes of governance. That is, the concerted action of state and non-state actors gives rise to the complex and constantly evolving mixes of democracy and authoritarianism that we witness in most countries. Finally, the paper forced observers to take a diachronic view of democracy. Democracies continuously develop. In terms of Dryzek's criteria of franchise, scope and authenticity, they improve or they regress. In this panel we will explore these theoretical implications. We invite empirical studies of democratic governance in despotic or hegemonic settings, as well as more theoretical papers about democratic assemblage in a variety of political and economic settings.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite both empirical and theoretical papers about forms and democratic governance (democratic deliberation, public participation, 'tolerated' political protest) in 'undemocratic' settings. Such settings can be authoritarian political systems or liberal democracies in which democratic governance is used as an instrumental or expedient tool by political elites. In our panel we want to explore the hybrid nature of democratic governance in a world that is dominated by neoliberal rationality and despotism, as forms of political-economic organisation that are no longer bound by national boundaries.

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Session 1 Authoritarian Deliberation Revisited 1: What Does it mean for Our Understanding of Democratic Governance

Thursday, June 29th 08:15 to 10:15 (Block B 3 - 1)

Discussants

Democratic Deliberation in Chinese Urban Village Regeneration: Integrate the Village Committee and Villagers into the Urban Society

PU NIU (institution for China rural studies)

Beyond the forum: The deliberative potential of non-deliberative activities

Carolyn Hendriks (Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU)

John Boswell (University of Southampton)

Make things public? Revisiting the production of public space across the political boundaries in Wenzhou, China

Xi Chen (Newcastle University)

Deliberation and Conflict Resolution in Chinese Urban Middle-Class Neighbourhoods

Beibei Tang (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

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Session 2 Authoritarian Deliberation Revisited 2: What Does it mean for Our Understanding of Democratic Governance

Thursday, June 29th 10:30 to 12:30 (Block B 3 - 1)

Discussants

Baogang He (Deakin University)

Authoritarian Deliberation Revisited: The Case of Beijing's Hutong Service

Tingting Li (Civil Aviation University of China)

Ya Li (School of Public Administration, Beihang University)

Educational Inequality and Collective Action in Urban China

Zhen Lu (University of Sheffield)

Strong State, Smart Society: How does the presentation strategy of social demands affect the government response in China?

XUEJUN WU (National University of Singapore)

From Mass Line to Deliberative Democracy: How Chinese Political Elites Perceive and Practice Democracy

Kaiping Zhang (Stanford University)

Authoritative Pattern of Chinese Deliberative Democracy ——A quantitative analysis of the relationship between “authoritarian level” and “public concern” in Chinese public price hearing

Xuan Qin (Nanyang Technological University)