

T02P33 / Comparative Public Policy: An Asian Perspective

Topic : T02 / Comparative Public Policy sponsored by Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

Chair : Wilson Wai Ho Wong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The main theme of the panel is comparative public policy from an Asian perspective which tries to focus on public policy and administration issues affecting Asian countries in a collaborative and globalized world. With this theme in mind, a main objective of this panel is to use Asia as a context for generating useful knowledge in comparative public policy which can be adopted for addressing policy problems by taking into consideration of differences across regions. Its concern matches the theme of the conference very well which recognizes and appreciates the importance and relevancy of the fact that public policy and administration is now functioning in a collaborative manner between government and non-governmental actors which must integrate between a regional context, which is Asia in this panel, and a globalized environment. In doing so, it would like to adopt a comparative perspective with an area focus of Asia to examine how actors, including cities, states and city-states, in Asia are managing their problems, reforms, and concerns in public policy and management in this increasingly challenging and complex environment.

With globalization, comparative public policy is a growing and revitalizing field in the study of public administration and public management. By being comparative, it is not arguing from an extreme angle that Asia is so unique that all Westernized and imported theories are totally irrelevant. It would like to draw attention to the importance of contextual factors of each country and region which inevitably lead to a gap, which is not necessarily unbridgeable, between existing generic theories and the theory and practice of that particular country and region. A comparative perspective is both necessary and desirable for building more comprehensive theories and promoting better practice, which actually have implications beyond Asia on all regions, including the West, the origin of many major theories of public administration and management being applied around the globe. In short, it would like to create public policy knowledge that can bridge regions by clearly identifying contextual variables and understanding their impact on our subject of concern rather than creating some unique knowledge about Asia which cannot travel outside the region.

The panel aims to provide a good opportunity for scholars and experienced practitioners with knowledge and interest on this area to present their findings for promoting cross-facilitation of knowledge. Consistent with the conference theme of being interdisciplinary, the panel encourages paper submissions from all disciplines, including economics, political science, public administration, and law, that are adopting a comparative approach with an area focus on Asia. Topics which explain and examine the theory and practice gaps between Asia and the West, identify the contextual factors leading to those gaps, and importantly, make suggestions for better theory building and integration and more useful practice are particularly welcome.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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The panel aims to provide a good opportunity for scholars and experienced practitioners with knowledge and interest on this area and would like to present their works to attain the above objectives of the panel. The panel

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Session 1

Thursday, June 29th 10:30 to 12:30 (Li Ka Shing LKS 1 - 2)

Discussants

Shamsul Haque (Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore)

Inclusive Development, Chinese Style

Hongchuan Wang (Tsinghua University)

Shaojie Zhou (Tsinghua University)

Convergence with Divergence in the Policy Diffusion, Learning and Transfer: Agencification, Quasi-autonomous Agencies and the Urban Renewal Authority in Hong Kong

Wilson Wai Ho Wong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Hau-yin, Raymond YUEN (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Capacity for Enforcement: Beijing's Food Safety Regulatory Reform

Wai Hang Yee (University of Hong Kong)

Providing Healthcare for an Ageing East Asia: A Comparative Study on Finance and Capacity

Mengqi QIN (Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, NUS)

Wing Kit Chan (School of Government, Sun Yat-sen University)

Are Policy Diffusion, Policy Learning and Policy Transfer Real? Explaining the Divergence behind Convergence in Global Public Policy and Management Practices

Wilson Wai Ho Wong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)