The Asia Pacific Public Policy Network (AP-PPN) Annual Conference

Resilient and Inclusive Governance in the Age of Crisis

Programme Handbook
3 - 5 March 2021
The Education University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong

Enquiries
https://www.eduhk.hk/aps/appnn  appnn2021@eduhk.hk
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The Asia Pacific Public Policy Network (AP-PPN)

6th Annual Conference

Resilient and Inclusive Governance in the Age of Crisis

March 3-5, 2021

Hosted by
The Department of Asian and Policy Studies
The Education University of Hong Kong

Supporting Journals
Journal of Asian Public Policy
Policy Design and Practice
Policy and Society
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program 1-3
Presentation Schedule 4-16
General Information 17
Abstracts 18-108

Note: All time in the Conference Programme refers to HK time [UTC/GMT +8 hours]
# PROGRAM

**March 3, 2021**

**Pre-Conference Workshop for Early Career Researchers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-1400</td>
<td>Roundtable on ‘The PhD Journey and Post-PhD Employment’</td>
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<td>1500-1700</td>
<td>Roundtable on ‘Converting Research into Publications’</td>
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**March 4, 2021**

**Day 1 of the AP-PPN Conference**

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:15</td>
<td><strong>Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session I</strong>&lt;br&gt;Initiation of proceedings by Alex Jingwei He, Associate Head of Department (Research and Development), Associate Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong</td>
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<td>Welcome address by Tai-lok Lui, Vice President (Research and Development), Chair Professor of Hong Kong Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong</td>
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<td>Opening remarks by Michael Howlett, <em>Burnaby Mountain Professor and Canada Research Chair, Department of Political Science, Simon Fraser University</em></td>
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<td>9:20-11:45</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session I</strong>&lt;br&gt;Moderator: Alex Jingwei He, Associate Head of Department (Research and Development), Associate Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong</td>
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<td><strong>Plenary Session Speakers</strong>&lt;br&gt;Anthony B. L. Cheung, <em>Research Chair Professor of Public Administration, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong; Secretary for Transport and Housing, Hong Kong SAR Government (2012-2017)</em>&lt;br&gt;Raul Lejano, <em>Professor, School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University</em> and Wing Shan Kan, <em>Assistant Professor, Felizberta Lo Padilla Tong School of Social Sciences, Caritas Institute of Higher Education</em>&lt;br&gt;Richard M. Walker, <em>Chan Hon Pun Professor of Behavioural and Policy Sciences and Dean, City University of Hong Kong; Edmund Cheng, Associate Professor, Director, Political Analysis Lab, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong and Jiasheng Zhang, Research Assistant, Laboratory for Public Management and Policy, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong</em></td>
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<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>Panel Sessions (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>#1A</td>
<td>Public Trust, Perception and Compliance Amidst Uncertainty - Part I</td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Stuti Rawat</td>
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<td>#1B</td>
<td>Digital Governance, Information and Communication - Part I</td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Isabella F.S. Ng</td>
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<tr>
<td>#1C</td>
<td>Governance in times of Crisis</td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Olga Sazhina</td>
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<td>#1D</td>
<td>Older Adults, Population and Ageing Policy</td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Kee Lee Chou</td>
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<td>15:00-15:30</td>
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<td>15:30-17:30</td>
<td>Panel Sessions (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2A</td>
<td>Public Trust, Perception and Compliance Amidst Uncertainty - Part II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Siu Yau Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2B</td>
<td>Digital Governance, Information and Communication - Part II</td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Tareq Hossain Khan</td>
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<td>#2C</td>
<td>Other Themes of Governance and Public Administration</td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Weiwen Yin</td>
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<td>#2D</td>
<td>Resilience - Part I</td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
<td>Md Farid Hossain</td>
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March 5, 2021
Day 2 of the AP-PPN Conference

9:15-11:45  Plenary Session II
Moderator: Siu Yau Lee, Associate Professor and Acting Head, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Plenary Session Speakers
Paulin Tay Straughan, Professor of Sociology (Practice) and Director, Centre for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA), Singapore Management University and Micah Tan, Research Associate, Centre for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA), Singapore Management University
Kee Lee Chou, Chair Professor of Social Policy and Associate Vice President (Research), Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Xun Wu, Head and Professor of the Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Associate Director of GREAT Smart Cities Institute

Giliberto Capano, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Bologna, Italy and Director of UNIRES (Italian Centre for Research on Universities and Higher Education)

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<td>#3A Assessing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic-Part I</td>
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<td>Chair: Weiwen Yin</td>
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<td>#3B Health, Welfare and Social Policy-Part I</td>
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<td>Chair: Alex Jingwei He</td>
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<td>#3C Smart Cities and Urban Policy</td>
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<td>Chair: Fox Z.Y. Hu</td>
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<td>#3D Education Sector in a Changing Landscape</td>
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<td>Chair: Lina Vyas</td>
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<td>#3E Resilience-Part II</td>
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<td>Chair: Hanyu Xiao</td>
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<td>15:30-17:30</td>
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<td>#4A Assessing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic-Part II</td>
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<td>Chair: Sai Htong Kham</td>
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<td>#4B Health, Welfare and Social Policy-Part II</td>
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<td>Chair: Shaoling Guan</td>
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<td>#4C Environmental Policy and Regulation</td>
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<td>Chair: Chi Keung Woo</td>
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<td>#4D Community, Private Sector and Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic</td>
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PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

March 3, 2021
Pre-Conference Workshop for Young Researchers

12:00-14:00 Roundtable on ‘The PhD Journey and Post-PhD Employment’
Moderator: Alex Jingwei He, Associate Head (Research and Development) and Associate Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Participants:
Aditi Raina, Analyst, Infrastructure Finance, PPPs and Guarantees (IPG) Group at the World Bank, Singapore
Azad Bali, Senior Lecturer in Public Policy, Australian National University
Nick Or, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
Weiwen Yin, Assistant Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong
Yiran Li, Assistant Professor, Department of Government and Public Administration at the University of Macau

14:00-15:00 Break

15:00-17:00 Roundtable on ‘Converting Research into Publications’
Moderator: Stuti Rawat, Post-doctoral fellow, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Participants:
Jun Jie Woo, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore
Kris Hartley, Assistant Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong
Masaru Yarime, Associate Professor, Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Wei Yang, Assistant Professor in Global Health, Director of Institute of Gerontology, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, King’s College London
March 4, 2021
Day 1 of the AP-PPN Conference

9:00-9:15 Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session (I)
Initiation of Proceedings: Alex Jingwei He, Associate Head of Department (Research and Development), Associate Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Welcome Address: Tai-lok Lui, Vice President (Research and Development), Chair Professor of Hong Kong Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Opening Remarks: Michael Howlett, Burnaby Mountain Professor and Canada Research Chair, Department of Political Science, Simon Fraser University

9:20-11:45 Plenary Session I
Moderator: Alex Jingwei He, Associate Head of Department (Research and Development), Associate Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Plenary I Talks:
End of the Beginning or Beginning of the End: Facing the Paradox of Governance and Public Policy in the Age of Crisis
Anthony B. L. Cheung, Research Chair Professor of Public Administration, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong; Secretary for Transport and Housing, Hong Kong SAR Government (2012-2017)

Relationality: The Inner Life of Public Policy
Raul Lejano, Professor, School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University and Wing Shan Kan, Assistant Professor, Felizberta Lo Padilla Tong School of Social Sciences, Caritas Institute of Higher Education

Knowledge Illusion, Community of Knowledge and Citizens’ Extreme Attitudes in Politics and Public Policy
Richard M. Walker, Chan Hon Pun Professor of Behavioural and Policy Sciences (Chair Professor) and Dean, City University of Hong Kong; Edmund Cheng, Associate Professor, Director, Political Analysis Lab, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong and Jiasheng Zhang, Research Assistant, Laboratory for Public Management and Policy, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong
12:00-13:00 Break

13:00-15:00 Panel Sessions (1)

Panel #1A Public Trust, Perception and Compliance Amidst Uncertainty-Part I
Chair: Stuti Rawat

Freedom of Expression Matters: Explaining Citizen Perception of Government Performance after the 2019 Social Unrest in Hong Kong
Wei Li, Department of Government and Public Administration, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Rebuilding Public Trust in a Low Trust State – An Exploration in Hong Kong
John Poon, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

How Power and Trust Shape Government-NGO Collaboration?: The Case of Collaborative Anti-domestic Violence Project in Guangdong Province
Tian Gan, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University

Does Expert Opinion Matter for the Support of Genetically Modified Food? Evidence from China
Meng U Ieong, Department of Government and Public Administration, University of Macau and Shao Li, School of Public Affair, Zhenjiang University

Panel #1B Digital Governance, Information and Communication-Part I
Chair: Isabella F.S. Ng

Speaking Truth to Citizens in Combatting Pandemics: Administrative Capacity, Accountability, and Freedom of Information
Wilson Wong, Data Science and Policy Studies Programme, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Comprehensiveness and Consistency of Epidemic Information Disclosure at Prefecture Level in China: A Policy Diffusion Study
Xiaotong Li, Xun Wu, Lei Shi, Xinyu Lu, Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Liang Ma, School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China
Government Information Disclosure and Citizen Coproduction during COVID-19 in China
Yiping Wu, School of Public Economics and Administration, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics; Hanyu Xiao, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong and Fang Yang, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

Exploring Factors Influencing Performance of Crisis Communication: The Use of Government Microblogging during COVID-19 Pandemic in China
Yiran Li, Department of Government and Public Administration, University of Macau

Panel #1C Governance in Times of Crisis
Chair: Olga Sazhina

Behavioural Biases and Government Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic: Institutional Structure, Policy Design and Capacity Building
Xun Wu, Donald Low and Zilin Li, Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

When All Relevant Hands Must Be on Deck: Collaborative Public Management and the Challenge of Leadership in Nigeria’s Response to COVID-19 Crisis
Christopher Onyemaechi Ugwuibe, Department of Public Administration and Local Government, University of Nigeria

National System in the Perspective of Collaborative Governance Theory – Based on Emergency Response to Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia
Cui Xiangjie, Department of Administration, Nanjing Tech University

Indi Akurugoda, Department of Public Policy, University of Ruhuna and Manjula Karunaratne, Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna

Study on the Inter-Regional Cooperation Governance during COVID-19 Outbreaks: The Case of the Yangtze River Delta Region of China
Chen Jing, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University
Panel #1D Older Adults, Population and Ageing Policy
Chair: Kee Lee Chou

COVID-19 Policy Responses and Institutional Ageism: The Philippine Experience
Christian Joy Cruz, Division of Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Community Resilience and Anxiety among Chinese Older Adults during COVID-19: The Moderating Role of Trust in Local Government and Cognitive Reappraisal
Yan Wang, School of Public Affairs, Chongqing University

Problems Encountered by Elders in Residential Care Services in Hong Kong
Gigi Lam, Department of Sociology, Hong Kong Shue Yan University

Transition of Family Relationship or Adaptation of Filial Piety Practice? Impacts of Family Planning Policies on Old-Age Support among Chinese Elderly
Zilin Li, Division of Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Hanh Le, Administration Science and Personnel Organization, National Academy of Public Administration

15:00-15:30 Break

15:30-17:30 Panel Sessions (2)

Panel #2A Public Trust, Perception and Compliance Amidst Uncertainty-Part II
Chair: Siu Yau Lee

Transparency, Interests and Policy Compliance Experimental Evidence from Clean Energy Policies
Wenhui Yang, Department of Government, University of Texas at Austin

What determines public acceptance of the government policy of digital contact tracing? A qualitative analysis towards the TraceTogether devices in Singapore
Lin Zhu and Alfred M. Wu, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
Two-Way Risk Communication, Public Value Consensus and Citizens’ Policy Compliance Willingness about COVID-19: Multilevel Analysis Based on Nudge View
Bin Guan, School of Management, Lanzhou University

Panel #2B Digital Governance, Information and Communication - Part II
Chair: Tareq Hossain Khan

Government Communication during the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Case of Ghana
Joseph Antwi-Boasiako, Department of Public Administration and Health Services Management, University of Ghana

The Precision Value of Anti-epidemic Prevention and Control in Digital Government: Orientation, Paradox and Approach
Qian Wu, School of Government, Beijing Normal University

GIS-based Big Data Platforms for Healthy Sustainable Cities: Challenges and Opportunities for Citizen Empowerment
Veronica Qin Ting Li and Masaru Yarime, Division of Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Government-Enterprise Cooperation in Big Data Governance of Local Governments in China: A Data Life Cycle Perspective
Miao Zhao, School of Public Administration, Inner Mongolia University and Yinxi Liu, Zhou Enlai School of Government, Nankai University

Panel #2C Other Themes of Governance and Public Administration
Chair: Weiwen Yin

Developmental States as Emerging Donors: Japan and South Korea’s Statecraft in Aid
Jisun Yi, Center for International Development Cooperation, Kyung Hee University

Administrative (de)Centralization and Pension Benefit for Urban Employees in China
Jinbao Zhang, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong

Quality of Government, Relative Income, and Subjective Well-Being: Cross-National Evidence of the Perils of Poverty
Jesse Campbell, Department of Public Administration, Incheon National University
Human AI Interaction in Public Sector: Literature Review
Gleb Papyshhev, Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Panel #2D Resilience Part I
Chair: Md Farid Hossain

Research on the Resilience of the BRICS Cooperation Mechanism under the Background of the COVID-19 Crisis
Jiajing Zhang, School of Government, Beijing Normal University

A Research on the Resilience of the World Health Organization With the Cases of Six PHEICs
Tianxue Li, School of government, Beijing Normal University

Mapping a 20-Year History with Leximancer: Themes and Concepts of Community Resilience Research
Yangyang Fan, School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

How Public Policy Guides Resilient Community Building—Based on the Analysis of 2000-2020 Policy Text
He Lanping and Jingyi Cao, School of Public Administration of College of Management and Economics, Tianjin University
March 5, 2021
Day 2 of the AP-PPN Conference

9:15-11:45 Plenary Session II
Moderator: Siu Yau Lee, Associate Professor and Acting Head, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Plenary II Talks:
COVID-19 and Older Adults: The Need for Targeted Interventions for Well-being
Paulin Tay Straughan, Professor of Sociology (Practice) and Director, Centre for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA), Singapore Management University and Micah Tan, Research Associate, Centre for Research on Successful Ageing (ROSA), Singapore Management University

To Claim or Not to Claim: Towards a Better Understanding of the Take-up Rates of Welfare Schemes Targeting Hong Kong Older Adults and the Stigma Attached to Them
Kee Lee Chou, Chair Professor of Social Policy and Associate Vice President (Research), The Education University of Hong Kong

Evidence-Based Policy (EBP) during an Unprecedented Pandemic: The Case of Face Masks
Xun Wu, Head and Professor of the Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Associate Director of GREAT Smart Cities Institute

In the Light of Facts: Policy Design Concepts and the Challenges of COVID-19 Crisis
Giliberto Capano, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Bologna, Italy and Director of UNIRES (Italian Centre for Research on Universities and Higher Education)

12:00-13:00 Break

13:00-15:00 Panel Sessions (3)

Panel #3A Assessing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic - Part I
Chair: Weiwen Yin

Legitimate but ‘Not for Me’: The Role of Validation in Rural Migrant Micro-Entrepreneur Understanding of COVID-19 Business Support Policies in Shanghai
Emily Carol Blalock, Department of Public Administration, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Impacts of COVID-19 Policies on Domestic Migrant Workers in China: A Case of Migrant Carers in PRD
Wing Kit Chan and Miaozhen Hou, School of Government, Sun Yat-sen University

COVID-19 and Shift to Virtual Health Care in India: Factors Affecting Users’ Adoption of Telemedicine Technology for Routine Consultation
Vanita Singh, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

COVID-19, Lockdown, and Access to Sanitary Pads in India
Karan Babbar, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and Niharika Rustagi, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Panel #3B Health, Welfare and Social Policy-Part I
Chair: Alex Jingwei He

Does the Establishment of National Healthy Cities Improve Public Health in China? An Empirical Analysis Based on the PSM-DID Method
Genli Tang, School of Public Affairs, Chongqing University

Publicly funded Health Insurance Schemes in India: Are we Protecting the Poor or Starving the Public Sector?
Bijoya Roy, Centre for Women’s Development Studies

Does Welfare Policy Lead to Peace? Data and explanations from Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh
Tareq Hossain Khan, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

The Advancement of Welfare Politics for the Poor in a Game of Elite Competition
Vera Yuen, Faculty of Business and Economics, The University of Hong Kong

Panel #3C Smart Cities and Urban Policy
Chair: Fox Z.Y. Hu

The Effects of Public-Private Partnership in Artificial Intelligence on Innovation for Smart Cities in China
Xiaohui Jiang, Division of Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Facilitating Data-Driven Innovation to Address Sustainability Challenges: The Regulatory Sandbox Approach in Smart Cities
Masaru Yarime, Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Smart City Policies in Hong Kong and Singapore: Rebranding the Development Narrative for an Era of Crisis
Kris Hartley, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Technological Companies as Stakeholders in Smart City Projects: Trade-offs and Models of Collaboration
Elizaveta Dorrer, Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Smart City Policy Coherence and Interplay across Government Levels in China: A Bibliometrics-Based Discourse Network Analysis
Mushan Jin, School of Energy and Environment, City University of Hong Kong

Panel #3D Education Sector in a Changing Landscape
Chair: Lina Vyas

Preparing for Workforce Transformation in Singapore: The Role of Technical and Vocational Education and Training
Sreeja Nair, Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design

The Effects of Multiple Welfare Programs on Education Expenditures and Time Use: Evidence from Middle School Students in China
Xi Zhao, Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong

Exclusion of Underprivileged Students from Free Education: The Challenge of Implementing Online Teaching and Learning Policies in Sri Lankan State Universities during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Indi Akurugoda, Department of Public Policy, University of Ruhuna and Manjula Karunaratne, Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna

Female Leadership in Peru’s Local Educational Management Units (UGEL) in a Context of the Health Emergency Crisis Caused by COVID-19: A Qualitative Approach
Guiselle Marlene Romero Lora, Juan Carlos Rivero Isla and Brenda López Chávez, School of Management, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru
Panel #3E Resilience-Part II
Chair: Hanyu Xiao

The Politics of Community Resilience: Public Attention and Land Resumption Controversies in Hong Kong
Pak Wan Major Pau, Department of Government and Public Administration, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Effect of China's Comprehensive Disaster Reduction Demonstration Community Practice: Case Study of the Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan Urban Agglomeration
Yiyun Xie, Zhou Enlai School of Government Management, Nankai University

Residents' Life Resilience: A Theoretical Analysis Framework and Empirical Test
Zhao Weihua, Department of Sociology, Beijing University of Technology

15:00-15:30 Break

Panel Sessions (4)

Panel #4A Assessing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic-Part II
Chair: Sai Htong Kham

Expedited Energy Transition toward Renewables by COVID-19 in India
Tarun Sharma and Yuan Xu, Department of Geography and Resource Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Artificial Intelligence Risk Space in a COVID Infected Indian Construction Industry
Vishnu Sivarudran Pillai and Kira Matus, Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Md Farid Hossain, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong
Panel #4B Health, Welfare and Social Policy - Part II
Chair: Shaoling Guan

TheLosers of Automation: Emerging Supporters for Welfare Policies in China
Ziteng Fan, Institute for Global Public Policy, Fudan University and Jing Ning, School of Government, University of International Business and Economics

Research on the Improvement of Social Policy for Practitioners Based on the New Employment Pattern
Haihong Wen, School of Public Policy and Administration, Xi'an Jiao Tong University

Effects of Disabled Person Employment Training Program on Income Generation
Wei Li, Zhang Yi and Tianran Ni, Department of Government and Public Administration, Department of Government and Public Administration, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Community Inclusion for Taiwanese with Mental Illness: Patients', Families', and Mental Health Halfway House Staff's Feedback to Policy-Making
Fang-pei Chen, Department of Social Welfare, National Chung Cheng University

Panel #4C Environmental Policy and Regulation
Chair: Chi Keung Woo

How Does Government Attention Affect the Performance of Environmental Governance? An Empirical Test on the Intermediation of Environmental Regulation and Mediation of Promotional Incentive
Huina Wang, School of Political Science and Public Administration, Huaqiao University

Policy Interventions Supporting Clean Energy Innovation in Countries with Limited Resources and the Role of Public Policy Makers
Viktória Dőme, Weronika Cycak and Kira Matus, Division of Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Technological Innovation on Climate Action: A Quantitative Analysis of The Kyoto Protocol
Yoomi Kim, Department of Public Administration, College of Social Sciences, Ewha Womans University

Has International Climate Regime Promoted Climate Justice? Evidence from Clean Development Mechanism Projects in China
Jingyuan Xu, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University
Regulatory Forbearance: Environmental Reform in Guangdong, China
Wai-Hang Yee, Department of Politics and Public Administration, The University of Hong Kong

Scientific Integrity and Limits of a Moorland: The Case of Santurbán
María Piedad Villaveces Niño, Investigación, Avanciencia (Asociación Colombiana para el Avance de la ciencia)

Panel #4D Community, Private Sector and Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic
Chair: Kris Hartley

Institutional Diversity in Response to the COVID-19 Emergency: The Four-Quadrant Model
Jingjing Yan, School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

A Comparative Study of the Response Measures and Coping Strategies of the COVID-19 Outbreak in China and Japan
Raymond C. F. Yiu, Division of Public Policy The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and So Morikawa, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo

How Tolerating Decision Errors Can Improve Early Response during COVID-19
Xiaohu Wang, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong; Hanyu Xiao, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong; Bo Yan, Department of Public Administration, Xi’an Jiaotong University and Jingyuan Xu, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University

Community Capacity Building in the Transboundary Crisis: A Refined Analytical Framework
Zexin Yan, School of International Relations & Public Affairs, Fudan University and Yuda Shi, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Beyond the Technology: IT Companies and Chinese Civil Society’s Response to COVID-19
Yan Xiaoxiang, Department of Government and Public Administration, University of Macau and Yiran Li, Department of Government and Public Administration, University of Macau
GENERAL INFORMATION

Time limit of each presentation
Each presentation should be 15 minutes long. Panel chairs are responsible for time management and for managing the Q&A session.

Format of proceedings
For panels of four papers or more the Q&A Session will commence at the end of all presentations. For panels with fewer than four papers, it is left to the discretion of the Panel Chair as to how they would like to conduct the proceedings.

Organisation and conduct
Barring the Plenary Session, which is in the form of a Zoom Webinar, all other Panels are conducted as Zoom Meetings. Participants are requested to keep their video cameras turned and mics muted upon joining. All attendees are requested to log on using their complete name.

Mode of Presentation: Submission of Slides
Presenters will share screen while presenting their slides. However, to guard against technical glitches during the session, presenters are requested to kindly share their presentations with the organizers by February 28, 2021. They should do so by emailing their presentation to apppn2021@eduhk.hk with the subject indicating: “Slides: Title of the Paper”

Submission of Paper
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In case of any further questions please email Dr. Stuti Rawat (srawat@eduhk.hk).
Policy seems, at times, to follow a different logic than the official or codified prescription. The literature has, variously, attributed this to the complex workings of implementation, practice, or informal process. In this article, we work out an explicit generative theory for these phenomena, which is to locate the underlying logic within the working and reworking of relationships among policy actors. We use the term, relationality, to refer to this condition, where the relational co-constitutes policy alongside more formal processes of policymaking. We use the example of a recent initiative in Hong Kong to use a voucher instrument for service delivery for the elderly. We see how the relational lens helps us better describe the phenomenon of policy, as well as develop prescriptions for policy reform.
The Hong Kong protests of 2019 revealed a bitterly divided society, with people holding opposing views toward various economic, social, political and cultural issues. The persistent contention over these issues raised questions about effective ways to moderate citizens’ extreme attitudes toward public policies. Cognitive science offers a viable lens through which to understand the formation of and change in citizens’ extreme attitudes. In particular, it shows that people tend to overestimate the quality of their own judgments and the depth of their explanatory knowledge in regard to many complex social issues, a phenomenon that scholars call the “knowledge illusion.” People’s knowledge illusion can also be shaped by obtaining relevant information from various communities of knowledge, such as friends, community leaders, experts and online communities. In the U.S., Fernbach et al. (2013) showed that the knowledge illusion could be reduced when subjects were asked to explain a policy in the form of causally related steps (mechanistic explanation), in comparison to when a group of subjects listed out the pros and cons of a policy (enumerating reasons). In this project, we examined the knowledge illusion and communities of knowledge in Hong Kong by replicating and extending this U.S. study.

The replication adapted and extended the original study in a number of important ways. Policy areas relevant to Hong Kong were selected, covering the constitutional setting (Basic Law), socioeconomic well-being (land and housing supply) and cultural diversity (the LGBT issue of same-sex marriage). The sample sizes were increased to ensure sufficient power in the experiments, which involved 7,256 subjects. Three between-subject survey experiments were conducted, in which subjects were asked about the three policy areas:

Study 1 examined the effects of mechanistic explanation and enumerating reasons interventions on the knowledge illusion, with a control group included. The findings indicated that mechanistic explanation and enumerating reasons interventions strengthened extreme positions across the three policy areas.

Study 2 examined whether the effect of position extremity on political donation decisions would be influenced by mechanistic explanation and enumerating reasons interventions. The findings indicated that both of these interventions strengthened the relationship between political extremity and political donation decisions, making people more likely to donate to relevant advocacy groups across the three policy areas.

Study 3 examined whether different types of knowledge communities (friends, community leaders, online and experts) shaped citizens’ extreme attitudes. The findings indicated that there was no difference between communities of knowledge in influencing policy extremity across the three policy areas.
Contrary to expectations, and across the three experimental studies in three policy areas, the findings consistently showed that the knowledge illusion was strengthened rather than reduced by the interventions, and that communities of knowledge did not influence policy extremity. These findings are at odds with those of most studies conducted elsewhere. Given these unexpected findings, co-variates were examined to identify if the effects were moderated by age, political orientation and policy understanding. These sensitivity tests confirmed the main findings and, in some cases, pointed towards entrenched extreme policy positions.
While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the lives of all, older adults have been especially hard hit. This is true not just in terms of the vulnerability of older adults to the virus, but also in terms of how older adults have managed to cope with the sweeping measures put in place by governments across the world to contain the outbreak. As the pandemic shows little sign of abating especially in the Western world, it is imperative to investigate how public policy across the subfields needs to be bolstered to ensure for the well-being of older adults during this crisis. This paper hence assesses how the well-being of older adults in Singapore has been affected by the pandemic, and in so doing assesses the Singapore government’s policy responses to the pandemic in terms of mitigating the impact on older adults. We draw on data gathered from the Singapore Life Panel (SLP), a population representative monthly survey with a monthly response rate of about 7,500 respondents tracking the lives of Singaporeans aged 55-75 (in 2020). While the SLP has been running since 2015, additional questions were fielded in the months from April to July 2020 and in November 2020 to understand specifically how the pandemic impacted well-being among older adults in Singapore.

Results from the study illustrate that older adults experienced a significant decline in overall subjective well-being across all domains except health when the circuit breaker (Singapore’s lock-down) began. The decline in well-being was greatest within the domain of satisfaction with daily activities and jobs, and second greatest in the domain of satisfaction with one’s social life and family. Additionally, individuals living alone experienced significantly greater declines in subjective well-being than those with co-residents, as well as significantly greater increases in feelings of social isolation. Other factors that impacted the extent to which respondents experienced declines in well-being include the level of trust respondents held in the government, whether or not respondents were able to use various forms of communications technology, and whether or not respondents had received government relief in the form of financial aid.

The findings imply that while government responses to the pandemic in Singapore have managed to ensure the well-being of older adults in general, several gaps still exist. Thus, public policy responses to COVID-19 must be more targeted to mitigate the impact on older adults. For instance, one significant area that policymakers should focus on is in developing interventions...
aimed at reducing feelings of social isolation among older adults living alone during the pandemic, a condition increasingly common and of concern among older adults. Encouraging technological literacy in terms of enabling older adults to leverage upon communications technologies to keep in touch with loved ones is suggested as one such intervention. In sum, while policy interventions implemented at a general level do support most older adults, the specific needs of some older adults necessitate more targeted interventions.
The Covid 19 pandemic has represented an incredible challenge for Policy Design concepts and theorizations. Most of the literature (not only in social sciences) that has been flourishing on various dimensions of the Covid 19 experience (from governance arrangements to crisis management, from the organization of health policy to communities reactions, from democratic effectiveness to inter-institutional relations) has paid attention to concepts like resilience, preparedness, robustness, adaptation, learning, improvisation, agility and policy capacities. All these terms belongs to the tradition of Policy Design studies and most of them can be considered the pillars of the renewed attention to Policy Design in Public Policy Studies. After one year from the beginning of the pandemic there is enough empirical evidence to review the most relevant concepts of Policy Design to understand whether and how they are analytically useful to understand the varieties of first and second responses to Covid 19 outbreak that have characterized governmental design in comparative perspective. Furthermore, this review is very fruitful also in prescriptive terms and thus to allow Policy Design to become pivotal in advising policy-makers towards the future pandemics.
Panels and Abstracts

Panel #1A Public Trust, Perception and Compliance Amidst Uncertainty-Part I

Freedom of Expression Matters-Explaining Citizen Perception of Government Performance after the 2019 Social Unrest in Hong Kong

Wei Li, Department of Government and Public Administration, Chinese University of Hong Kong

What explains varied citizen perception of government performance? Extant studies do not have conclusive answers to this question. The process approach evaluates whether and to what extent the government operates following certain principles concerning processes, such as democratic development, open and participatory policymaking process, a responsive and fair implementation of public service program (e.g. Bali and Abdullah 2017; Emrah Kanat and Ozkan 2009). A content approach is to investigate whether and to what extent citizen perception of government performance can be explained by the perceived quality of public services and policy outcomes (e.g. Rothstein and Teorell 2008; Wang 2010). Other studies look into the impact of citizen’s normative attitudes, such as political beliefs and trust in government, on perception of government performance (e.g. Van de Walle and Bouckaert 2003; Christensen and Laegreid 2005).

Using the most recent survey dataset by the Center for Quality of Life, this study adopts both content and process variables to explain government performance perception by citizens. Different from previous studies, I construct the perception of Life Satisfaction index, Perception of Freedom of Speech Indices, Perception of Societal Politicization Indices, to measure citizen’s perception of government processes and content. I found that these variables have significant association with citizens’ perception of government performance. Other variables of personal health status, economic well-being, demographic factors of gender, age, income, household size, marital status, number of children, residence location, working status, education, have no significant effect on perception of government performance. The two variables that measure freedom of expression have the largest effect on the dependent variable. Comparing with previous surveys on citizens perception of government performance in Hong Kong, I interpret this result in the context of social unrest and citizen distrust towards government taking place right before the survey (Zhen Hongtai and Yin Baoshan 2019).
Public trust has been vital for essential governance and it has been placed as the top agenda in public administration internationally. However, public trust in the Hong Kong has been seriously eroding since 2019 due to social unrest arisen from the extradition law amendment. The Hong Kong national security law passed on 30 June 2020 in tandem with a series of sanctions and policies imposed by the international community to the mainland China and Hong Kong authorities have put Hong Kong in a highly vulnerable and dangerous situation.

From the perspective of public trust, the research of this paper adopts an explorative and pragmatic approach to identify the problems to the current situation so as to identify policy suggestions, social changes and recommendations. The research is based on surveys, expert interviews as well as findings from public polls, reports and media articles locally and internationally. It shows that the erosion of the city’s core values and ineffective bureaucratic governance system are among others the top reasons for the situation in Hong Kong. It is argued that rebuilding trust with citizens and improving governability, legitimacy and accountability with concrete and immediate actions should be put at the forefront of the agenda of the Hong Kong Government in the short term.
How Power and Trust Shape Government-NGO Collaboration?: The Case of Collaborative Anti-domestic Violence Project in Guangdong Province

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The roles of power and trust in shaping government-NGO collaboration have received continuous attention, yet little is known about how these two elements interact dynamically for most research focuses on their independent roles rather than their interplays. Although a few scholars have noticed the relationship of power and trust, they still cannot reach a consensus on whether these two elements are contradictory or complementary, especially in shaping government-NGO collaboration. This paper attempts to present the case of collaborative anti-domestic violence in Guangdong Province, China to explore how power and trust interact and play roles when governments and NGOs seek to establish collaborative relationships.

Theoretically speaking, power has three types of sources: authority, resource control, and discursive legitimacy. Meanwhile, trust is usually divided into two types: affect-based trust, and cognition-based trust. Yet, these fail to answer the relationship of power and trust in shaping government-NGO collaboration. Another literature gap exists that fails to illustrate how these two elements interact to form such collaborations. This paper proposes a comprehensive framework that connects power sources and trust types to illustrate how these two elements interact to shape government-NGO collaboration.

Anti-domestic violence project, by nature, is a collaborative task, requiring multiple organizations and various forces to cooperate and collaborate together to prevent and stop domestic violence problems. However, when shaping government-NGO collaboration to complete the task, these participants usually face challenges such as power asymmetry, lack of trust, and the conflicts of power and trust. Pengxing is the case NGO who carries out the first anti-domestic violence project in Guangdong Province. In this project, Pengxing not only provides direct services (i.e. publicity and education on anti-domestic violence, interventions in domestic violence incidents), but also shapes collaboration successfully with local governments (i.e. the police office, sub-district office) by the interactions between power and trust elements.

Through semi-structured in-depth interviews, this paper codes key concepts out of transcripts, including: power sources, trust types, interacting mechanisms, collaborative obstacles, and others. The findings show that: 1) government-NGO collaborations do emerge through the interactions of power and trust, but these two elements do not ensure the collaboration formation between governments and NGOs; 2) power and trust sometimes solve the collaborative obstacles such as various goals and interests between/among stakeholders,
increasing time and costs in negations, and lack of collaborative initiative, while sometimes not for lack of proper collaborative mechanisms to coordinate these two elements; 3) power and trust are either contradictory or complementary, and the relationship types are up to the collaborative mechanisms established by collaborative partners; 4) Three collaborative mechanisms are identified: hierarchy-based, market-based and clan-based mechanisms, which link the sources of power and the types of trust.
Through experimental design, this paper examines in what extent expert opinion and the background of experts make influences on the public attitude toward genetically modified (GM) food in China. Our findings suggested firstly expert’s endorsement can increase policy support in GM food, but we find no influence when expert express opposition. Moreover, the influence of expert opinion is conditional on their background. Foreign experts are significantly more influential than local experts who have close connection with the government on public opinion. The general implications of the above findings for expert influence under authoritarian settings is that while autocracy can manipulate public opinion through hiring or sponsor experts in endorsing government policy, it is ironically the least likely method to receive policy support.
This paper examines the importance of building up administrative capacity of accountability and freedom of information for the fight against the COVID-19 crisis and other disasters through a comparative case study of Hong Kong and China. The availability of accurate and timely information to the public is widely taken as one of the effective and essential solutions to combat pandemics, such as SARS of 2004 and the latest COVID-19 crisis. In a pandemic, “speaking truth to citizens” is no less important than “speaking truth to power”. The valuable information would be utilized by medical professionals for formulating the appropriate treatment to the disease and contain its spread, and citizens for taking necessary preventive measures which can be as simple as wearing a surgical mask and maintaining social distancing. Unfortunately, information of the pandemic is seldom free and available in many countries and contexts. More ironically, to the very opposite, those information is often seriously guarded as state secrets or even replaced with disinformation by the state deliberately. The painful lesson of SARS does not seem to help to eradicate the problem and reverse this trend. The inability of “speaking truth to citizens” is less about experience learning but more related to capacity building and institutional reforms. Hence, a main research question of this paper is what would contribute to the administrative capacity of government in enhancing its share of information with the public in combating the pandemics effectively.

The major research thesis of this study is public accountability, including its politicization, bureaucratization, and professionalization, always play a leading role in determining the ability of civil servants and officials in speaking truth to the public. While political accountability would emphasize obedience to rule and orders, the existence and promotion of other competing modes of accountability, including bureaucratic and professional accountabilities, would be critical for the uphold of freedom of information in society for handling crisis and emergencies. In addressing this research question, it would integrate and apply the literature of several major streams including: administrative capacity and globalization, modes of accountability in public administration, and freedom of information and prevention of disaster and crisis. In the literature of administrative capacity and globalization, preparing the bureaucracy and civil service for unpredictability and uncertainty in crisis is always one of its key missions. For the literature of
development and freedom of information, scholars including Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has long advocated that freedom of information is one of the necessary conditions for preventing crisis and disasters such as famine. This paper makes an original contribution to the literature by linking the two volumes of literature with the theory of public accountability to identify the mode of accountability and the related institutional safeguards needed for ensuring “speaking truth to the citizens”. In the central analysis of the paper, through the analysis of the two contrasting cases of Hong Kong and China, it compares and highlights the positive side and the negative side of the accountability and freedom of information.
Comprehensiveness and Consistency of Epidemic Information Disclosure at Prefecture Level in China: A Policy Diffusion Study
Xiaotong Li, Xun Wu, Lei Shi, Xinyu Lu, Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Liang Ma, School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China

Government epidemic information disclosure plays an important role in guiding public awareness of epidemic severity during the outbreak of COVID-19. Understanding the diffusion pattern and the factors that contribute to the practices of information dissemination among city governments would help accelerate future response facing severe crisis. Daily news items were collected from government websites covering 18 provinces and 84 cities in China. Horizontal and vertical diffusion patterns of information dissemination were examined in this study. City characteristics associated with two dimensions, namely, comprehensiveness and consistency of information disclosure were further identified. The results show that the practices in epidemic information dissemination followed both a horizontal and vertical diffusion pattern in China. Cities with severer epidemic and higher government openness were more likely to have better performance in comprehensiveness and consistency of epidemic information disclosure. This study provides insights for research on local policy diffusion in countries with centralized political system during crisis.
Faced with information dilemma, authoritarian regimes are forced to disclose information to avoid blame when dealing with the increasing incurrences of public health emergencies. However, information disclosure becomes common yet little is known about the effect of information disclosure for citizen coproduction in emergency management. This study argues that information disclosure can yield substantial effect beyond the blame-avoidance strategy derived from the regime’s information dilemma. Focusing on the information disclosure practices during the recovery period from 19 January to 29 February 2020 in local China, and by employing a difference-in-difference method, this study finds that government information disclosure can significantly enhance citizen coproduction measured by the aggregated search query. Besides, weak government capacity and citizens' low trust in government significantly reduce the positive impact of information disclosure on citizen coproduction. This study uncovers the novel relationship between information disclosure and citizen coproduction during emergencies in authoritarian regimes.
One of the core elements of crisis management is to keep the effective communication between a government and its citizens. The public sector is therefore increasingly adopting social media to respond to the disasters. Yet we know little about what drives the government performance on the use of social media during crises response. In this article, using data on 332 prefecture-level cities in China as cases, we found three factors affect the performance of social media use during the pandemic: fiscal resources, policy support, and leadership. The negative binomial regression results show that fiscal resources and policy support are positively related to the government performance on the use of social media for crisis communication and emergency management. Performance is also found to be better for those places that leaders were younger or had medical science or mass media experience/background. While the severity of the pandemic has no significant effects on the performance. This study results have implications for agile government response in pandemic response.
Panel #IC Governance in Times of Crisis

*Behavioural Biases and Government Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic: Institutional Structure, Policy Design and Capacity Building*

Xun Wu, Donald Low, Zilin Li, Mengjie Long, Division of Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

The global COVID-19 pandemic provides unprecedented opportunities to study behavioural biases of public sector decision-makers and their impacts on the government responses to the pandemic. Based on empirical analysis of institutional structures and government responses to the pandemic, we find that, while the decision-makers are subject to the same set of the behavioural biases, such as probability neglect, affect heuristic, linearity bias, salience effect, present bias and commitment problems, the effects of such biases on policy responses at the institutional level are influenced by institutional structure based on the system of government (federal versus unitary) and the form of government (presidential versus parliamentary). Policy design and capacity building can help address behavioural biases and institutional deficiencies in responding to an unprecedented pandemic.
One unique feature of COVID-19 pandemic is that it is creating terrifyingly pervasive social, economic, scientific, technological, political and administrative effects. This “firing from all-fronts” mode of attack has jolted all walks of life into instinctive reaction, thus prompting institutions and organization’s into all manner of defensive responses. In this type of situation, the leadership role of the state is inexorably called into action. Relying on the heuristic insight of the New Public Management (NPM) theory, this paper sets out to investigate the institutional context of the apparently wobbling efforts of the Federal Government of Nigeria to forge synergistic platforms for inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration for tackling the incipient social challenges of COVID-19. For instance, the nation’s airwave is replete with reports of operational conflicts amongst tiers of government over responsibility sharing. Spectacularly, Kogi and Cross River States had openly repudiated their governmental responsibilities for managing the pandemic thereby running into collision course with relevant Federal agencies, particularly the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19. Similarly, there was confrontation between the Federal Government and River State Government over the latter’s iron-clad rules for the State’s lockdown. Furthermore, private sector volunteers for provision of humanitarian intervention, such as the Coalition Against COVID (CA COVID), operates more or less parallel administrative streams with the Presidential Task Force (PTF). All these speak to sloppy institutional contexts for collaborative administrative response to COVID-19 crisis. Accordingly, the paper seeks answers to a few pertinent questions: Is there adequate institutional capacity for mobilizing synergistic response to COVID-19? What are the specific inter-governmental bottlenecks in the way of collaborative management of COVID-19 crisis? Was inter-sectoral collaboration a significant feature of public management prior to the pandemic? What institutional mechanisms are required to predispose the country’s governance and administrative system to impromptu responses to national, regional or even global health nay humanitarian crisis?
The ‘national system’ refers to a working system and operating mechanism that pools relevant national forces and resources to tackle major projects in the national interest. It is China’s unique organizational and mobilization model. The national system has been widely used in emergency management of major disasters in China, but it has been little studied by academics and seldom analyzed from the perspective of management. The thesis uses the theory of collaborative governance as an analytical framework and the case of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia as a case study to analyze the organizational system, operational logic and future development of the national system in the emergency response to public health emergencies. It is found that the national government system is a process of coordination and linkage of all parties. The strong leadership of the CCP and the government as well as the ability of resource mobilization and coordination are the guarantee for the successful operation of the national government system. However, there are also problems of waste of resources, uneven distribution and insufficient power sharing among diversified subjects in the national system, so the national system in emergency management in the context of the new era should incorporate the theory of collaborative governance, shift from social mobilization to collaborative governance, exert the role of social and market forces in emergency management, and realize the modernization of China’s emergency management system and capacity.
Overriding the policy process (Bartsch, 2012) by strange actors could create confusions among the public and controversies in governance. When governments try to address societal problems out of the familiar way, the public support and the success reduce and unexpected policy failures (Howlett et al., 2015 and Hudson et al., 2019) occur. Within its strongly centralized power structure, the COVID-19 emergency response of the government of Sri Lanka indicates a high level of military involvement in the policy process. The government has kept its total faith on military forces towards preventing and controlling COVID-19. The current Executive President of Sri Lanka initiated a number of “task forces” headed by top military officials condemning the well-established mechanism of public health (GBDS, 2015) and disaster management authorities. The key responsibilities have been allocated to the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 headed by the army commander of Sri Lanka. Though the COVID-19 is a public health issue, the Ministry of Health has been kept under the purview of such military-led task force.

Normally, in events of disaster management and emergency situations, the military follows the guidance of relevant government authorities and do not override the public policy process. The military has not been trained in handling civil responsibilities and their lack of knowledge on infectious disease prevention and control is significant. At present, in Sri Lanka, the health professionals such as doctors, medical officers of health and public health officers are neglected and discouraged. Their expertise has been downgraded and the standard health regulations and procedures have undermined. Several contradictions have emerged between the health authorities and the military-led administration over COVID-19 prevention and control. Military forces have reportedly threatened the public during the quarantine process, hence the public support seems limited in controlling and preventing COVID-19 in Sri Lanka.

Despite the policies and institutions that have responsibilities and expertise respectively in administrating health issues and managing disasters, the government-sponsored military approach has been promoted through the media. Simultaneously, accurate information broadcast is banned by the government. The received foreign and local funds in response to COVID-19 are administered by the Presidential Secretariat despite the exclusive financial powers of the Parliament. Against this background, a developing public confusion and a risk of a rapid community spread of the pandemic can be identified.

This research examines why the government of Sri Lanka has taken a military approach in
response to COVID-19, and how such approach has become unsuccessful. Based on the opinions of health and medical officials, political representatives, military personnel, media heads and general public, the research explores the insights of interconnections and contradictions occur when military forces attempt to handle a pandemic excluding public policies and institutions. So far, the research reveals that the government heads intentionally promote a military approach in response to COVID-19 to disconnect from democratic governance, exclude the public from the policy process and to build an anarchist military regime to secure political power for a longer period of time.
Various non-traditional security issues, including public health emergency, pose severe challenges to a country and even the global governance. COVID-19 is a public health emergency with the fastest spread and the widest range of infection in the world since the 21st century. The negative externality, complexity and spatial spillover of COVID-19 determine that it is difficult to achieve effective prevention and control depending on a single area, and cross-regional cooperative governance has become a consensus. This study takes the social network analysis method to explore the cooperative relationship among 27 cities in the Yangtze River Delta region, generate a visual relationship network, intuitively show the spatial pattern of cooperation in the Yangtze River Delta region during the process of COVID-19 prevention and control. The authors analyze the network structure indicators, such as network centrality and agglomerating subgroups, to depict the structure of regional cooperation network and the characteristics of network participants in the Yangtze River Delta region. In addition, this study adopts the text analysis method to mine the policy documents, cooperation agreements and other text, sort out and analyze the theme content of the cooperative governance of COVID-19 prevention and control, and summarize the characteristics of the cooperative governance mode of COVID-19 prevention and control in the Yangtze River Delta region. The results show that the Yangtze River Delta region has formed a regional cooperative governance network through diversified, multi-level cooperation, Shanghai is in the absolute core position and has a strong influence because of its developed economy and science and technology, followed by Suzhou and Jiaxing. The Yangtze River Delta region takes artificial intelligence and big data as the main tools of governance, breaks the fragmentation governance based on information construction, and forms a new mode of cooperative governance of public health emergency.
The Philippine government convened the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), a policy-making body, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The IATF-EID instituted stringent social distancing measures, that include the temporary suspension of classes at all levels, prohibiting mass gatherings, and imposing community quarantine. One of the resolutions became controversial because of the directive disallowing all people at least 60 years old from leaving their homes (IATF-EID Resolution 12, 2020). Such directive had been met with criticism. It was viewed to be an impractical imposition for those who fall in the demographic age category but who are still physically able. Older people felt the policy to be ageist with its implicit negative construction of old age. The policy has since been relaxed, allowing OPs to leave their homes to obtain essential goods and services and to work in permitted industries and offices (IATF-EID Resolution No. 30, 2020; Buan, 2020).

From the government’s perspective, such a policy response was aimed at protecting the vulnerable sectors of society, foremost of which are those in the advanced old ages. The greater vulnerability of the OPs is evident in their disproportionate share of those who die due to the novel coronavirus. Four months after the onset of COVID-19 tracking in the country, 66% of deaths are among those 60 years of age and older. The increased vulnerability among those in the older ages is viewed to be the natural consequence of physiological aging as well as closely related to social and economic factors.

The diverging perspectives from the government and other stakeholders raise relevant questions as to whether certain provisions in the COVID-19 policy responses are ageist. Is there any evidence to demonstrate such a claim? Using the Longitudinal Study on Aging and Health in the Philippines (LSAHP) data, we find that older Filipinos is hardly a homogenous group in terms of health, economic well-being and access to information and communication technology (ICT). Most of them have a positive self-rating of their overall health with a considerable number not having any of the risky co-morbidities for COVID-19. On the other hand, most OPs are economically disadvantaged and report low access and use of ICT.

The findings of the study provide a clearer picture of the overall health and general condition of
older Filipinos that provide a scientific basis for policy pronouncements aimed to protect them. Such evidence-based policies will help avoid policy pronouncements such as home confinement, which are limiting and can harm older people of the stereotyping ageist beliefs. Indeed, heterogeneity should be recognized in the planning of program and policy interventions, particularly in this pandemic.

While the discussions generated by the directive has exposed the entrenched ageist beliefs, it has also unconsciously arisen public awareness about the older peoples’ indivisible rights. It has opened a window of opportunity for policymakers, scholars, aging advocates, and most importantly the older people themselves, to engage in improving research, advocacy, policies, and programs that would better the condition of the country’s aging population.
Community Resilience and Anxiety among Chinese Older Adults during COVID-19: The Moderating Role of Trust in Local Government and Cognitive Reappraisal
Yan Wang, School of Public Affairs, Chongqing University

The worldwide spread of COVID-19 has resulted in an enormous threat to public health, causing global panic, especially older adults suffering severe anxiety due to their vulnerability. With a questionnaire survey on 271 Chinese older adults in April 2020, we examined the role of community resilience in protecting older adults from anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic, and simultaneously considered the moderating role of trust in local government and individual cognitive reappraisal. The results indicated that community resilience was negatively associated with older adults’ anxiety, but this association was only for older adults with high trust in local government. Furthermore, this moderating effect depended on cognitive reappraisal, specifically, the association between community resilience and anxiety was significantly moderated by trust in local government only for those with high cognitive reappraisal. This study has implications for intervention designs that combine resilient factors related to communities, local governments, and individuals to relieve older adults’ anxiety during the pandemic.
Problems Encountered by Elders in Residential Care Services in Hong Kong
Gigi Lam, Department of Sociology, Hong Kong Shue Yan University

Hong Kong implements a policy for the aging population involving the core themes of “aging in place as the core,” “institutional care as backup” and “continuum of care.” Encouraging elders to live independently at home is a top priority, and elders who are not able to live at home independently are provided with various residential care services, namely Hostels for the Elderly, Homes for the Aged, Care and Attention (C&A) Homes for the Elderly and Nursing Homes (NHs). The purpose of this paper is to analyze the adoption of the publicly funded model of providing residential care services of elderly in Hong Kong.

Subsidized residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) clearly outperform private RCHEs in terms of space and staff provisions, but the supply of subsidized RCHEs cannot meet the demand. Hence, between 2007 and 2018, the average waiting time was 33 months for NHs and that for C&A homes was 23 months. Several viable measures to meet the demand are purchasing Enhanced Bought Place Schemes (EBPSs) from private RCHEs, subsidizing elders who opt for living in private RCHEs by providing them with Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and residential care service voucher (RCSV) and subsidizing elderly applicants who opt for living in RCHEs in Guangdong. However, these viable measures are problematic because of the inadequate quality of EBPSs and private RCHEs, which is attributed to the costing arrangement of public and private RCHEs that were established in the colonial period. The brief history of RCHEs also indicates a deviation from the original policy aim, namely aging in place, which was introduced in the Green Paper on Services for the Elderly in 1977.

The supply and quality of community and home care services should be thoroughly examined; effective community and home care services can prevent and even delay unnecessary institutionalization.

Another complementary solution is to devise a long-term plan for residential care services. To address disparities in quality standards in different RCHEs, adopting the combination of punitive and compliance models, such as conducting frequent inspections and implementing an accreditation system for private RCHEs is imperative.
Population aging undermines families’ capacity to support the elderly and calls for social engagements. Nonetheless, diverse supporting tasks are different by nature, as well as their demands outside families. Therefore, we need to understand how population aging influences old-age support within the family to inform policy design. A comprehensive understanding of this topic is essential for China, as filial piety determines children’s critical role. Previous studies confirm the positive relationship between the number of children and family support in China. However, there remain several caveats. First, they tend to equal intergenerational support with family support, although spouses also play an essential role, particularly in caregiving. Second, increasing discussions about the quantity-quality trade-off on having fewer children raises the importance of considering its’ different effects on the children’s ability and the opportunity cost of providing old-age support (time versus financial transfer). Moreover, previous investigations are mostly cross-sectional analyses, thus cannot exclude bias caused by endogeneity.

The incremental implementation of the family planning campaign over the early 1970s at the province level provides an opportunity for causal inference. In addition to the different provincial fertility rates, we expect heterogeneous exposure to the policies for females in different provinces and cohorts. Using the historical data on provincial age-specific fertility rates and China Longevity and Health Longitudinal Survey data waves 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2018, this research examines the effects of fertility decline on support from spouses and children separately and identified time and financial transfer. The study found that although the responsibility of providing in-hand support is shifting to spouses, children tend to compensate with the higher financial transfer. The findings question the concerns on family value’s cannibalization in China and argue that it is instead an adaptation of filial piety practices.

Social norms have been a critical informal institution for policy decisions. This study reemphasizes filial piety’s essential role in Chinese society and reveals the actual dynamics of family relationships and old-age support arrangements within families under the background of population aging. Therefore, policymakers should recognize the different needs of spouses and children to design a more efficient old-age support system. Besides, the research also calls for attention to the more urgent needs of service expansion than financial security.
Vietnam’s population officially entered the aging stage in 2011 with 7% of the population aged 60 years and over. The speed of population aging is very fast and will reach the age threshold by 2030. To address this issue, the Vietnamese government has put its priority on the elderly people - a vulnerable group in the society in its population related policies. However, little research on developing effective population policies in the context of population aging in developing countries exists. This research contributes to the panel by addressing the following questions: (1) How the population policies in Vietnam are developed in the context of population aging?; (2) What are the Factors influencing the transformation of flexible population policies in Vietnam? The study is based on both official reports and documents provided by government agencies, especially the Directorate of Population (Ministry of Health), and in-depth interviews with senior public managers and civil servants in a number of ministries (e.g., Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice) and local authorities (e.g., Hanoi, Vinh Phuc, HCMC) those participate in the process of population policy development in Vietnam. Our research results show that developing a flexible population policy leads to the effectiveness of policy implementation in practice. Also, the research finds that strategic thinking of policy makers has the strongest impact on population policy. The study includes a number of recommendations for developing effective population policies in the context of population aging in developing countries.
The outcomes of policy rest on how recipients accept it. Without adequate voluntary compliance, policies are unlikely to be implemented. Using a conjoint experiment in 193 villages in China, we examine the sources of compliance for clean energy policies. The results reveal that institution of transparency increases policy compliance in the nondemocratic context, where policy information is typically inadequate and unreliable. Citizens are more willing to comply with policies when governments subsidize the adoption of those policies. Furthermore, combining with a natural experiment, we demonstrate that exposure to policy problems enhances the positive effects of transparency and interests on policy compliance. Yet the roles of transparency and interests are less salient when citizens distrust governments. Our results provide unique evidence for understanding the role of transparency in various contexts.
In the era of COVID-19, governments are playing a more important role than ever in policymaking to lead their nations in winning the pandemic fight. In this case, the public acceptance of government policies is essential for successful policy implementation. This paper uses the case study method to figure out what determines the public acceptance of policies in the crisis era. More specifically, the research focuses on the transformation of the public attitude towards the government-promoting wearable contact tracing device from backlash to acceptance in Singapore, and researches on the factors that enabled this transformation. The paper finds ten possible factors based on literature from three main actors, which are the government, the social media, and the public, and test the relationship between these factors and the public attitude.

During the pandemic, tensions exist between the government and the public about efficiency and privacy—the government tries to push towards the efficiency of contact tracing by digitally recording individuals’ travel routes while the citizens worry about their privacy. In Singapore’s case, the government launched in March the TraceTogether, a mobile app that can record individuals’ contact via Bluetooth, but was unsatisfied with its low download rate. The government therefore proposed in June the TraceTogether token, a wearable device that has the same function as the app to increase the effectiveness of contact tracing, and planned to send out to every citizen in Singapore. This decision gained huge backlash from the citizens, worrying about their privacy issues. However, with the combined factors from the government, social media, and the public, citizens gradually accept the token and is now (December) lining up for the token. Particularly for the factors, for the public, I will test 1) public trust towards government’s capacity, 2) public compliance under Singapore’s strong state culture, 3) public’s concern about the pandemic expansion, 4) public’s eagerness to open up society, and 5) public’s knowledge about the token; for the government, I will test 6) government’s transparency, which is the clarification and explanation about the token and 7) government’s prior trial among senior groups; and for the social media, I will test 8) social media’s publicity of the safety of the token, and 9) social media’s publicity of the long line of people receiving the token. Additionally, I will test 10) the conformity effect of the public when they find people around them are receiving tokens.

This research is timely and meaningful—academically, it offers a more nuanced portrait of the public’s mentality and factors important to them during the crisis, and practically, it suggests
governments some key points they need to be aware of if they want to gain more public acceptance for better implementation.
COVID-19 has spawned a surge in the number of public epidemic prevention policies. But what more important than active policy-making is how to increase citizens’ policy compliance willingness. Based on public value theory and nudge theory, this study adopts multilevel mediation and moderation model to analyze the relationships among the government’s two-way risk communication, public value consensus, nudge, and citizens’ policy compliance willingness. A sample of 2,616 citizens nested in 86 Chinese cities were collected. The study found that: 1) Local government’s two-way risk communication strategy significantly increases citizens’ willingness to comply with COVID-19 prevention policies; 2) The transmission mechanism of this relationship lie in the mediating role of public value consensus. The establishment of public value consensus implicates that the government and its citizens have reached a shared common sense about “what need/need not to be done” and “what should /should not be done”; 3) The positive influence of two-way risk communication on public value consensus is positively moderated by government’s nudge intervention. Findings of the nuanced relationship would provide a further reference for scholars to unlock the “black box” of public values, It also has certain theoretical and practical significance on exploring the strategies to prevent COVID-19 from behavioral aspects, especially in a time of the ongoing global pandemic.
With the novel nature of the Covid-19, different researches are being carried out in various fields of which public administration is no exception. Public administration as an applied field offers more insights on how governments are responding to the pandemic. One key approach to managing the pandemic is the through effective government communication. As novel as the Covid-19 situation is, how countries have utilized communication strategies to fight against this Covid-19 pandemic have also not yet been documented in the literature. Using a qualitative document analysis approach, this paper seeks to answer two questions; what communication strategies have been used by the government of Ghana to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic? How has these communication strategies been effective in fighting against the Covid-19 pandemic in Ghana? The study identified that the government of Ghana have been using frequent Presidential addresses, Minister’s Press Briefings, designated Covid-19 Website, and Social and Traditional Media to provide information to the citizens. These communication strategies have been used by the government to “Spread Calm, Not Fear” and to drive the entire population with the government in the fight against Covid-19. Documenting the experiences of Ghana in the literature will greatly contribute to knowledge especially as Ghana has been one of the highlights during the Covid-19 pandemic.
The basic goal of the Chinese government to deal with the new epidemic situation is to achieve the precision of prevention and control, which is based on the comprehensive acquisition of information, the sharing of information in many subjects, the restoration of information in all directions and the protection of information from many sources. Modern information technology enables the governance of digital government and creates a favorable opportunity for the government to deal with the precision of prevention and control of the new crown epidemic situation. Moreover, the precision of digital government anti-epidemic prevention and control is the basic principle and important experience of successful prevention and control of epidemic situation during the special period of epidemic situation, and has certain value orientation, including the basic contents of truth, efficiency, safety, openness and so on. However, in reality, there is a certain value paradox in the precision of digital government anti-epidemic prevention and control, such as data distortion, data isolation, information island, data risk, these problems need to be solved effectively. The value route of digital government anti-epidemic prevention and control precision is four measures: data reduction, data opening, information sharing and privacy protection.
GIS-based Big Data Platforms for Healthy Sustainable Cities: Challenges and Opportunities for Citizen Empowerment

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With the rise of technologies such as mobile Internet, big data and geographical information systems (GIS), real-time interactive data platforms have been created for a myriad of policy purposes, including for health monitoring, urban planning, and sustainable development. However, such data platforms are often designed without the consideration of their implications for the platforms’ users. Big data platforms are highly complex, making them susceptible to inaccessibility, misinterpretation, and data privacy issues. Therefore, it is important to carefully design data platforms that are easy to update, use, and understand.

One approach is to allow the users of the data platform to also be co-creators, not only by receiving their input on the collection of data and the design of the platform itself, but by incorporating useful knowledge and data that the users may have as well. In fact, there are already examples of such platforms actively involving community members by crowdsourcing data and using open-source programs. There is an immense potential for big data GIS platforms to empower citizens to make decisions that could benefit not only themselves but also their communities.

With this in mind, we sought to answer the question: what are the opportunities for citizen engagement using interactive big data platforms for health and sustainability issues in Hong Kong? We studied local COVID-19 dashboards and PRAISE-HK, a mobile application for monitoring and predicting the geographical distribution of air pollution and its health effects, as prime examples. Our research methodology included distributing an online survey to COVID-19 dashboard users, observing user experience workshops for PRAISE-HK, and conducting phone interviews with the developers and individual users of both types of data platforms. Through this approach, we were able to understand the various stakeholders’ perspectives on how the platforms could engage and empower citizens in the health issues of COVID-19 and air pollution.

There were several key findings from our study. For one, many users are actively engaged in seeking detailed but mostly impersonal data on COVID-19 and air pollution, and they use the data to inform their everyday decisions. For another, despite COVID-19 being a more immediate health threat and air pollution being a longer term socio-environmental challenge, there are users who perceive both issues as equally important and need real-time spatiotemporal data for both, especially from vulnerable subpopulations such as asthma patients. Finally, users are generally willing to provide otherwise sensitive data for improved app functionality as long as the data is
anonymised. The results suggest that real-time big data platforms can be used not only to reflect the urgency of sustainability and health challenges, but to allow citizens to share useful data and make informed decisions to combat these crises.
With the advancement of the national big data strategy, all sectors of society have realized the importance of data in government governance, and the governance of big data in government has therefore become a key issue of concern from all walks of life. In the process of big data governance practices, local governments in China have issued relevant big data policy documents in response to the national big data strategy, and have made many explorations and attempts in the development and utilization of government data resources to accelerate the progress of government data governance practices, hope to achieve government digital transformation. In the practice and exploration of big data governance of local governments, due to obstacles and difficulties such as institutional mechanisms, departmental data islands, technical limitations, lack of professional talents, and data governance costs, the effectiveness of data governance varies from place to place, and some areas even invest a lot of resources in vain. Facing the above-mentioned data governance dilemma, local governments have chosen to cooperate with enterprises to develop and utilize government data resources. Enterprises participating in big data governance of local governments can complement each other's advantages and promote each other. It is foreseeable that government-enterprise cooperation will become an inevitable trend in the development of big data governance of local governments in the future.

The research topic is framed as the government-enterprise cooperation in the big data governance of local governments, the reason is that with the gradual deepening of government-enterprise cooperation practices in big data governance of local governments, the academic community still lacks systematic attention and in-depth research on this issue. Therefore, explore the current status of government-enterprise cooperation in big data governance of local governments, analyze the relationship and interaction between government and enterprises in big data governance from a theoretical level, and explore a way to maximize the value of data resources has become urgent and important.

This article plan analyzes the goals, interests, and cooperation models of the local government and enterprises in different stages of big data governance from the perspective of the data life cycle. The actual foundation and policy basis are the basic part of this research, which defines the research theme and direction of this research. The core part first analyzes the interest demands and interest relationships between the government and the enterprise at each stage of big data governance of local government, and on this basis, it analyzes the actual state of the government-enterprise cooperation model at different stages of big data governance of local government, and
analyzes the problem characteristics and causes, explore the internal mechanism, and use the experience of foreign government-enterprise cooperation as a reference, finally put forward the improvement strategy and perfect path of government-enterprise cooperation in big data governance of local government, and build a government-enterprise collaborative governance mechanism based on the data life cycle perspective.
Japan and South Korea, the two Asian OECD DAC member countries, are often considered the ‘teacher’ and the ‘student’ in the aid-giving tradition and equally sharing a legacy of ‘developmental states’. But we argue that their fundamentals for aid policies and practices are disparate. The school of ‘(East) Asian aid model’ emphasizes the commonalities in aid performances of major Asian donors and captures them as the collective force that provides an alternative to Western aid practices. However, this approach fails to explain the institutional sources of the aid variations observed at the policy-performance levels but also those at the policy-making process among Asian donors. In this article, these two countries’ aid processes remain largely state-centric and the rivalry between foreign affair and financial ministries prevails in the development aid field. However, through the theoretical lens of bureaucratic politics, the varied ‘value systems’ and the resulting political dynamics among bureaucrats in the policy process are identified, which, in turn, help explain the diverging policy and institutional choices between Japan and South Korea in recent decades. On the arena of collective decision-making within state institutions, the two countries’ preferred ways of doing so are different in terms of norms, (organizational and procedural) structures, and interactions (or policy coordination): Whereas Japan’s aid process values ‘consensus’ over ‘efficiency’, that of South Korea speaks to otherwise. These respective value systems justify and affect particular types of aid organization and coordination mechanisms within aid administrations, therefore, even shaping the diverging current and future directions of Japanese and South Korean ODA.
The ongoing debate as to the effectiveness of centralization and decentralization is one of the most critical issues in public administration and welfare state research. This study contributes to this debate by exploring the influence of administrative systems on pension income in urban China. This study examines whether administrative (de)centralization produces higher level of welfare provision and the redistributive effect among age groups. Using data from China Household Finance Survey (CHFS) and ordinary least squares methods, this study finds that decentralization yields higher pension income than centralization, while the redistributive effect among age groups in centralized administration is larger than the effect in the decentralized system. The study contributes to the debate that welfare provision in China is a model of “race to the top” and the argument that redistributive effects of centralization is applied in China.
Quality of Government, Relative Income, and Subjective Well-Being: Cross-National Evidence of the Perils of Poverty

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Due to its size and functional scope, the quality of government in a given country can have a large impact on the well-being of its citizens. However, as some citizens are more dependent on government services than others, the effect of quality of government on citizen well-being may not be evenly felt. Using a large survey of citizens in 41 countries and national estimates of corruption, institutional quality, and impartiality, I test both the direct effect of quality of government on citizen subjective well-being as well as whether this effect is conditioned by relative income. The results suggest that relative income has a strong, positive effect on subjective well-being whereas quality of government does not have an effect in the average case. However, the results also suggest that the effect of quality of government is moderated by relative income such that anti-corruption, institutional quality, and impartiality have less impact on subjective well-being as income rises. These results and post hoc analyses are consistent with the theory that relatively wealthier citizens can limit their exposure to poorly performing government whereas poorer citizens cannot, and thus that quality of government matters more for poorer citizens than for richer ones. I discuss the implications of my study, one of which is that those who have the most power to improve the quality of government also have the weakest incentives to do so.
Tools powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) are being actively utilized in the public sector. From credit scoring to traffic management, these applications are playing the role of expert systems advising bureaucrats on what the best decision is. Based on such interactions between humans and computers certain governance decisions are being made. However, the actual process of interaction between a bureaucrat and an AI-powered machine is rarely becoming an object of academic inquiry.

While human computer interaction has been an object of investigation in social sciences for some time, the studies of the interactions between humans and AI systems in the public sector are very scarce. This research seeks to close this gap by investigating the interplay between AI-powered tools and policy decision making by focusing on the process of human AI interaction in the public sector. A comprehensive literature review on the topic will be conducted in order to describe the state-of-the-art in this research field, determine what research methodologies are usually applied for such investigations, and describe empirical examples used in such studies.

The main research question to be addressed in this paper is: What is the process of human AI interaction in the public sector and how its study can inform public policy?
The review has the following objectives:
To describe the theoretical foundation of understanding of human AI interaction in the public sector.
To determine what methodological approaches are currently applied to the academic study of human AI interaction.
To show how the study of human AI interaction in the public sector can inform public policy.

The methodology to be applied in this research paper is systematic literature review as it will allow the authors to conduct an unbiased review of the literature on human AI interaction in the public sector. The importance of this research is determined by the fact that most research projects on AI in the public sector are too normative, investigating potential hypothetical impacts of AI implementation and its efficacy on a larger institutional scale, while not paying attention to the process of the actual interaction between humans and AI agents on an individual level.

The outcomes of the research are expected to reveal the trajectory of development of human AI interaction in the public sector research field and suggest its blind spots. These findings would
be relevant for those investigating the application of AI-powered tools in policy settings. The paper will have broader policy implications as it will serve the purpose of both being a comprehensive literature review on the process of human AI interaction in the public sector, as well as a piece showing how closer investigation of such process can inform future policy making.
The resilience of international mechanism is an important guarantee for them to survive crises and realize the sustainable development of themselves. Under the COVID-19 crisis, the BRICS cooperation mechanism is facing challenges from both the internal and external environments. On the one hand, the relationship between the BRICS countries has been deeply affected by the evolution of geopolitics and the international structure. On the other hand, the BRICS cooperation is still making new progress in both mechanism building and participating in global governance. The analysis of the resilience of the BRICS cooperation mechanism in the context of the COVID-19 is a typical case study of the resilience of informal international mechanism, and it also contributes to putting forward corresponding policy recommendations for the development of the BRICS cooperation mechanism and the ability of the mechanism to cope with risks.

Based upon the existing research, this article categorizes the resilience of the international mechanism into internal resilience and external resilience. Internal resilience is mainly reflected by self-organizing ability, and external resilience is mainly reflected by self-repairing capability. At the same time, we believe that the international mechanism can achieve self-repair and improve the level of self-organization through the process of adaptation and learning. In this process, its resilience has gradually increased. The above analytical framework is used to analyze the resilience of the BRICS cooperation mechanism in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. The results show that the BRICS countries can improve their internal resilience by strengthening strategic mutual trust, improving the coordination and operation mechanism, and promoting the formalization of the institution. The external resilience can be enhanced by optimizing the overall structural design of the BRICS mechanism, expanding cooperation fields, building a global partnership network through ‘BRICS+’ and actively participating in global governance.

The BRICS is an international mechanism representing the interests of emerging economies and developing countries. Active participation in global governance, including global health governance, has expanded the scope of cooperation among BRICS countries, and is an effective way for BRICS countries to strengthen institutional construction. It is also conducive to improving the resilience of the BRICS cooperation mechanism to cope with crises.
A Research on the Resilience of the World Health Organization: With the Cases of Six PHEICs

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The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has aggravated the uncertainty and complexity of globalization, and revealed many flaws in global health governance. As one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the World Health Organization (Referred to as WHO) has a special status in international health cooperation, which has attracted much attention and aroused many controversies in epidemic prevention and control. By so far, the WHO has announced six “public health emergencies of international concern” in history, and its outcome depends on the ability and response mechanism of governments and IOs. Although the World Health Organization has repeatedly faced dilemmas in responding to major public health emergencies, it succeeds in tackling with the aforementioned crises in general, still plays a leading role in the global public health governance system, and has shown greater adaptability and organizational resilience to the complex and changing international environment. Therefore, it is necessary for us to rethink how international organizations turn crises into opportunities from the perspective of international organization resilience, and give full play to their own institutional advantages in the post-crisis era to improve governance effectiveness and efficiency.

This article starts with the literature review on organization resilience. Then it adopts a multi-case study method and takes the six public health emergencies the WHO undergoes as examples to sort out its response mechanism in this background, with the focus upon the forms of its mechanism resilience. This article provides policy suggestions for improving the governance effectiveness and efficiency of the WHO and the reform of global public health governance regime.

This article innovatively applies resilient governance to the research of global health governance with the World Health Organization as a case study. It is of practical significance for the WHO to strengthen its own resilience building to deal with crisis management, resolve its own institutional dilemma, democratic deficit dilemma and the alike, and improve the global health governance.
Purpose: Community resilience has gradually become a hot topic under the uncertain times, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. So, it is necessary to make clear about the conception and the development process of community resilience in order to implement the empirical research about it in the field of public administration.

Design/ methodology/ approach: This article presents a study using Leximancer (a textual data analysis software for text mining and artificial learning) to track the history of community resilience research that were collected in the database of Web of Science and Scopus. The title and abstract of 583 articles were analyzed by Leximancer for an overall review of the last 20 years research of community resilience. Additionally, in order to better understand the development of this topic, we divided the dataset into two stages after an initial overall (2001-2020) analysis: the first one is from 2001 to 2015 years, and the second stage is from 2016 to 2020.

Findings: After excluding the non-lexical and weak semantic information according to the standard exclusion words in Leximancer, results reveal that 7 themes (resilience, community, framework, health, capital, disaster, climate) including 56 concepts were shown in the overall map, which clearly shows the two main fields research on community resilience (public health, ecosystems) and the framework of community resilience; 5 themes (community, resilience, framework, model, resources) including 38 concepts were shown in the map of during 2001 and 2015 years, which illustrate the concept model and framework about the community resilience; 5 themes (resilience, capital, development, change, approach) including 44 concepts were present in the map of during 2016 and 2020 years, which emphasized the correlation between community resilience and social capital, and it also shows that how to respond to change through community resilience under the context of uncertain times.

Originality/ Value: Through the Leximancer, this article shows the map of the development of community resilience research in the past 20 years, and provides the future direction about empirical research of the community resilience in the field of public administration.
How Public Policy Guides Resilient Community Building—Based on the Analysis of 2000-2020 Policy Text
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The development of China’s urbanization has entered a high-risk stage. As the basic unit of urban governance, communities are faced with the coupling and superposition of traditional governance risks and emerging technology risks. The uncertainty of grassroots governance is extremely magnified by the complex risk environment. What are the characteristics of existing grassroots governance policies in dealing with a highly uncertain governance environment and how to deal with them in the future are two sides of grassroots governance policies from the perspective of risk. This article uses risk society theory to try to understand the connotation, sources and manifestations of multiple coupled risks in the current complex environment of grassroots society. Through policy text analysis and the ‘4R’ theory of resilient communities, it examines the trend of existing grassroots governance policies to guide the construction of resilient communities. In the grassroots governance of a risky society with the goal of resilient communities’ construction, the dynamic balance analysis in the process of resource coordination and tension between vertical integration and horizontal diversification of resilient communities in the whole process of risk absorption, release, and reconstruction is combined to explore the empowerment and application of smart technology in the process of achieving dynamic balance of resilient communities, which helps to answer how resilient communities realize the grassroots governance for a risk society. The trend of grassroots governance for the construction of resilient communities and the reshaping of grassroots governance for a risk society by resilient communities form a two-way interactive cycle to improve the governance capabilities of grassroots to respond to a risk society.
COVID-19 pandemic has destroyed lives and the economy of the world and the wake has left businesses struggling to re-open in urban China. In response, the central state has placed fiscal reforms targeted at entrepreneurs at the forefront of their policy agenda. However, little research has evaluated entrepreneur understanding and adoption of policies, particularly, with the focus on rural migrant entrepreneurs. This case study employed an empirical approach to explore how rural migrant micro-entrepreneurs operating in two retail markets in Shanghai, understand policies meant to empower business owners to survive the pandemic. Ethnographic methods along with in-depth interviews were conducted to analyze their policy understanding and adoption during the pandemic. The data demonstrated that participants believe such policies are legitimate but ‘not for me’ because ‘I am getihu by myself’. This attitude is a legacy of hukou and requires them to look to themselves for survival, despite the desperate business environment. We maintain this understanding is confirmed through the tri-force theory of validation: recognition through agreement with significant others including other entrepreneurs and family; corroboration with life experiences in Shanghai; and resonance of their migration story as a self-sufficient entrepreneur surviving with their own capabilities and skills. Several theoretical and policy implications for rural migrant entrepreneurs were provided.
China claims itself as the most successful major power in suppressing the spread of COVID-19 while many developed countries in the West struggling to tackle the second or third wave of the virus. Despite the success in containing the outbreak of the virus and the self-claimed victory in economic recovery, not much attention has been paid to how these anti-COVID-19 policies affected vulnerable social groups. Domestic migrant workers who seek unwanted jobs in coastal cities are one of these groups. During the first few months of 2020, all coastal cities implemented lockdown policies, preventing many migrant workers from returning. Since the second season of the year, despite the pressure to resume normal in most industries, local governments continue to implement strictly lockdown policy in the care sector. Among others, the livelihood of migrant carers became particularly vulnerable in the face of these policies. This study focuses on the negative impacts of the anti-COVID 19 policies on domestic migrant workers, a vulnerable social groups in coastal China whose loss has not been thoroughly examined, with special reference to migrant workers in the Pearl River Delta. We will examine whether a migrant carer would face obstacle that is not shared by local resident in a few dimensions, including access or eligibility to PPE, compensation to income loss, COVID-19 related information, and personal freedom. Preliminary findings suggest that the issue of employment and loss of income is a top concern among migrant carers. The lockdown or suppression polices in tackling the virus have made migrant workers paid a price, despite the recovery of economy of these wealthy regions, no supplementary policies have been introduced to compensate their loss or to facilitate their reemployment. Reflections on policies and future development are provided duly.
COVID-19 pandemic mandated the transformation of health care delivery model from facility-based care to virtual care, across the globe. Worldwide, the health care planners and the governments are racing to adopt virtual health care practices. India released the long-standing guidelines for Telemedicine practice in India as a response to COVID-19 outbreak. The adoption of telemedicine on a large scale requires huge investments and its sustainability would depend entirely on the behavioral intention of its end users. The aim of this study is to examine the factors that can influence behavioral intention to use telemedicine for routine consultation among general population.

Using Technology Adoption Model (TAM) as a research framework, a sample of 336 individuals, in the age group of 18-70 years, were surveyed through online mode to understand their intention to use telemedicine. Data were analyzed using structural equation modeling. The results suggest that perceived ease of use is a significant determinant of intention to use telemedicine via its effect on perceived usefulness and attitude towards telemedicine use in healthcare. Prior experience and facilitating conditions significantly determine intention to use telemedicine through their effect on perceived ease of use. People who experience dissatisfaction with their current system of routine consultation will have higher perceived usefulness of telemedicine and thus higher intention to use it. The attitude towards telemedicine is significantly affected by privacy concerns and outcome beliefs. The study results have implications for health planners and governments implementing telemedicine for healthcare delivery. For the adoption of virtual care on a large scale and sustaining it for long term, implementer must ensure facilitating conditions, especially for poor people (internet availability and affordability, use of smart phones, user friendly interface); address privacy concerns, and ensure the quality of virtual treatment.
COVID-19, Lockdown, and Access to Sanitary Pads in India
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COVID-19 pandemic, and its accompanying lockdown, has severely impacted girls’ and women’s access to menstrual products in low and middle-income countries. In India, lockdown brought together a disruption to the supply of menstrual products with the suspension of its manufacturing plants (initially) and transportation. As per NFHS-4 data, around 56 percent of girls and women use sanitary pads in India (IIPS and Macro International, 2017). During the lockdown, only 15% of the girls had access to sanitary pads across India (BBC, 2020). Till date, there is no evidence of the impact of COVID-19 induced lockdown on the access to sanitary products (UNICEF, 2020). Thus, as a part of this study, we try to understand how the government-mandated intensity of the lockdown affected the distribution of sanitary items across 11 states of India. India is a unique setting for this study, given the variation in the severity of the national government’s measures imposed in various parts of the country. We have used the National Health Mission’s Health Management Information System (NHM-HMIS) data for the study. NHM-HMIS provides data on sanitary pads under three different heads across various districts and sub-district levels: (a) Number of adolescent girls provided sanitary napkin packs (b) Number of sanitary napkin packs sold to adolescent girls (c) Number of sanitary napkin packs distributed free to ASHA workers. Our empirical strategy exploits variation in the Indian government’s classification of districts into red, orange, and green zones where red zone districts had the strictest mobility restrictions and green the most lenient. We employ a difference-in-difference empirical strategy to understand the access to sanitary products in red zones compared to green zones. We find that sanitary item distribution was best in green zones, followed by orange and red zones. Our results show that menstrual hygiene management was overlooked during the pandemic, leaving girls and women in a vulnerable position of managing their menstrual needs. There is a strict policy requirement to focus on the access and distribution of sanitary products to girls and women, especially during a pandemic.
In a context of sustainable high-quality development and a surge in major public health emergencies, governments worldwide are paying increasing attention to public health issues. In China, the central government advocated a national campaign for the Establishment of National Healthy Cities (EONHC), and local governments have actively responded to promote this concept. However, the related performance consequences have not been empirically investigated. We aimed to verify whether this incentive policy can improve the level of public health and whether this governance method has long-term effects. In addition, we look for mechanisms with which the policy can improve public health. We examine the EONHC's effects on public health through a quasi-natural experiment involving 174 prefecture-level cities in China from 2004 to 2016 and using the PSM-DID method. The results show that: (1) The EONHC has effectively improved the level of urban public health; (2) The effects are clearly significant during the evaluation process and the year in which they are named Healthy Cities, but decrease annually after. The incentive effect is distorted, and it does not have a long-term effect; (3) The EONHC has a dampening effect on industrialization, reducing air pollution, causing short-term economic sacrifices and contributing to population growth; (4) The EONHC has a significant effect on improvements in public health levels in eastern cities but not in the central and western cities of China. We conclude by discussing the implications of the findings for further theory development and practical guidance.
Introduction and Objective:
To universalize health coverage in India, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY Scheme) has been given a major push since 2018. Public healthcare service delivery is undergoing a huge transformative process through demand-side financing schemes like state-funded insurance schemes, cash transfers and voucher schemes; as components to bring down the healthcare expenditure. For hospitals at the tier II and tier III towns, government has brought in new guidelines with greater private engagement. Together it has offered greater impetus to Public Private Partnership for the provisioning of clinical services. In this process, the private sector is seen as a means to leverage the health care provisioning and bear a ‘positive social impact’. These schemes bear an impact on access to and utilization of services for the vulnerable and marginalized groups based on different markers like gender, location, caste, class, religion etc. The dominant narrative says it will provide financial protection for healthcare services and address vertical (across populations), horizontal (between groups) and spatial inequalities (across geographical localities). This paper is based on documentary analysis and reviews growing body of evidence with comparative state-level experiences of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and other similar schemes.

Findings:
It focuses on the level of coverage in terms of services, region and population (women and other marginalized groups), and the extent to which schemes behave as an alternative to user fees. Under these schemes, out-of-pocket expenditure continues and many women across different age group and marginalized population cannot access health care due to lack of identity-related papers. The operation of such schemes show that the public sector is bearing more money through such schemes. These insurance schemes agreed to cover the COVID 19 related services but failed to provide adequate safety net in this moment of crisis. During the COVID 19 phase, the empanelled private providers exhibited corrupt practices of false claim.

Conclusion:
These studies show that the vision to bring about social justice and better equity in the health sector is marginalized again with the poorly resourced and functioning public healthcare systems and the profit oriented private hospitals. COVID 19 has further exposed the crack within such schemes in India. Chuma and McIntyre (2013) observe the need for a substantial subsidy through tax funding and donor funds in Asian countries for coverage of the poor and marginalized population, services and related cost. Despite the state funded insurance system, public healthcare systems need sustained improvement in the infrastructure, workforce staffing, quality
and availability of services. Quality and affordable private healthcare service providers being thin, reveals the myths of the private health care access and availability. Beyond the financial protection scheme, with the collapsing economy during COVID 19, the state’s stepping back from its direct provisioning of health care services has questioned the pursuance of market-led health care policy and highlighted the compromise of social justice.
Ending of civil conflict, even after the peace pact, is very uncertain and challenging. Empirical research shows that two-third of peace settlements turned into a war over the first decade (Collier, 2008: 105). Once violence is started, it usually follows a path-dependent process. The risk of war recurrence in post-conflict societies is higher than that in countries with no prior war history. Against this backdrop, this study examines whether social welfare policies contribute to sustaining peace in post conflict societies. It has asked: Are governments able to decrease the risk of recurrence of war in post-conflict societies through their welfare policies? I argue that governmental welfare programs can promote peace because welfare reduces grievances by offsetting the effects of discrimination and poverty in society. Although some scholars suggest with national data that a positive relationship exists between welfare spending and ending civil war, there has not been any empirical explanation of whether the safety net program is a significant predictor of peace sustainment. Based on qualitative approach and field data, this study has examined the impact of social welfare spending in the peace process in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh, in which a peace accord was signed in 1997 between the rebel group and the Government of Bangladesh. The peace pact resulted to an ending armed conflict and since then both parties have followed the peace pact with some ‘blame games’. The study reveals that about 84% of respondents of the ethnic minority communities, who have benefited from at least one social security program, support the ongoing peace process and hold a good/liberal idea about the government and the Bengali community, the majority group. On the other hand, almost all those who did not get any benefit are calling the peace process a new kind of oppression and domination. The study concludes that welfare policies can cut the base of the rebel recruiting channel and can make recruitment of rebels more difficult. In turn, it decreases the rebels’ ability to commit violence.
Dictators use selective social policies to share rents with elites and broad-based social policies to enhance political legitimacy. In electoral authoritarianism, the role of patronage and electoral pressure in inducing welfare change is emphasized. This paper proposes a novel alternative – elite competition. By studying the case of retirement protection in Hong Kong, this paper finds that, even in the lack of popular franchise, by allowing elites to compete, can still lead to advancement in old-age social protection. Even without coalition building and the need of patronage distribution to secure victory of the incumbent, elite competition drives candidates to consider societal input in formulation and eventually implementation of social policy. The mechanism and impact on social policy of elite competition theory argued is distinct from existing cases of cadre promotion in closed authoritarian regimes and competitive clientelism in electoral authoritarianism.
The COVID-19 pandemics have placed various challenges and opportunities for the AI industries in China. There has been a growing need for cloud computing for business and consumption due to the health crisis. On the one hand, it is said that a series of AI-related technology has been adopted by the Chinese government to combat the crisis including fever sensors, unmanned aircraft, and so on. On the other hand, recent years has witnessed a rise in the Chinese AI industry even during the health crisis. This is consistent with what is suggested by the manager director of the IDC: the COVID-19 will accelerate the modernization of the government and adoption of new technologies. Overall, AI industries, as the future of technology trends, have played an increasingly important role in China and the relevant changes in this industry are worth studying. The key technology possessed by the technology companies may provide them with more bargaining chips in cooperation with the government especially when the increasing importance of such technology has been revealed via the COVID-19 crisis. Despite that such issue has played an important role in the Chinese market and economy, there has been a paucity of literature on the study of Public-private projects (PPP) especially in the AI-related industries. In this study, we want to shed light on the overall trend of the relationship between the government and the private firms in the city-brain projects as well as analyze the impacts of changing relationships on the innovation of smart cities. The general research questions are as follows:

(1) Does there exist increasing private participation in China’s AI-related industry or not?
(2) Does the private-participation level in PPP influence the innovation for smart cities in China?

In particular, as for the scope of the study, we will study the cities that have been part of smart city projects operated by different technology firms including Ping An, Jing Dong, Alibaba Cloud, Tencent, Huawei, and Baidu. To evaluate the extent of private companies’ involvement in PPP, we will collect data about the amount of funding received from the government and the percentage of government advisors work in the cooperation of PPP. In terms of the innovation situation, the data can be collected from the patents/services developed by the technology companies.

After collecting the related data from 2016-2020, we will examine the relationship between private companies’ participation in PPP and innovation for a smart city project. It is expected that the level of private involvement will show an increasing trend over the four years. Moreover,
we expect to see a better performance in the smart cities for those with a higher level of private involvement. Based on this, the tentative policy implication would be shifting more power to the private firms in the smart city projects in China may improve the extent of innovation in smart city projects.
Facilitating Data-Driven Innovation to Address Sustainability Challenges: The Regulatory Sandbox Approach in Smart Cities
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Data-driven innovation, including the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, and artificial intelligence (AI), has significant potential to address various issues concerning sustainability, ranging from reducing air pollution and increasing energy efficiency to mitigating traffic congestion and maintaining resilience to accidents and natural disasters. Vast amounts of various kinds of data are increasingly available from a variety of sources through sophisticated equipment and devices installed in buildings, automobiles, and infrastructure. Effective collection, sharing, and use of data through cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders would be critical for facilitating data-driven innovation. Stakeholders might have different interests and motivations and would not necessarily be willing to disclose or exchange data with each other. Serious concerns are also raised about collecting, sharing, and using sensitive data, particularly personal data, in terms of safety, security, and privacy. Data-driven innovation poses a particularly difficult challenge to policymaking. The speed of technological change is rapid, and the path of its evolution would not be entirely predictable or explainable, which would produce a widening gap between technological change and institutional readiness. Also, various sectors, such as energy, housing, and transportation, which were not always interconnected, are increasingly integrated through data in cyber-physical systems. Hence policymaking needs to incorporate the ability to learn from real-world use and experience and the capability to improve the performance through adaptation. In-depth research is required to investigate how policy measures influence the collection, management, and use of data and what impacts would be made on facilitating data-driven innovation while addressing societal concerns.

This research intends to examine policy approaches empirically to properly governing data-driven innovation in the context of increasing integration and interdependence of various technologies in smart cities. In particular, the approach of regulatory sandboxes has been increasingly applied to stimulate data-driven innovation by allowing experimental trials of novel technologies in designated geographical or technological domains. Regulatory sandboxes enable greater data availability, accessibility, and usability for innovators by reducing regulatory constraints and uncertainty. Case studies are conducted on how the approach of regulatory sandboxes is implemented to facilitate open data and what impacts are made on innovation in smart cities in Asia-Pacific. Various types of regulatory sandbox are designed, implemented, and locally adjusted, based on the specificities of the economic and social conditions and contexts, to maximize the effect of learning through trial and error. It is important that regulatory sandboxes are both flexible to accommodate the uncertainties of innovation and precise enough to impose society’s preferences on emerging innovation, functioning as a nexus of top-down strategic
planning and bottom-up entrepreneurial initiatives. The data governance systems of smart cities need to be open, transparent, and inclusive. As the provision of personal data would require the consent of people, it needs to be clear and transparent to relevant stakeholders how decisions can be made in procedures concerning the use of personal data for public purposes. The process of building a consensus needs to be well-integrated into the planning of smart cities and institutionalized in an open and inclusive manner.
This paper examines how the smart cities project reflects a rebranding of old narratives without the fundamental epistemic transformation that is implied by the term ‘smart.’ The argument is that totalizing governance projects assume brand identities that shift to accommodate prevailing conditions, but that the underlying epistemics of those projects – solutionism and instrumental rationalism – remains unchanged to protect underlying economic and political interests. From post-WWII ‘modernization’ and ‘development’ to the more recent phenomena of ‘sustainable,’ ‘resilient,’ and ‘smart,’ (and combinations thereof, including sustainable development and smart development), narrative elements shift at a superficial level and their immediate relevance is used to construct a ‘common-sense’ understanding about emerging policy problems. By keeping the terms of the policy imperative at a high level (e.g., focusing on poverty alleviation, justice, and institutions), the narrative is transportable in an isomorphizing process of implicitly coercive policy transfer. The universality of the narrative serves the totalizing scope of the project and fortifies its credibility against alternative narratives that challenge underlying assumptions like the use of technology and market mechanisms to correct behaviors that exacerbate legitimate global problems. To demonstrate how this totalizing project appears in practice, this article examines the introduction of smart city projects in Hong Kong and Singapore and considers how they are presented as solutions to emerging problems like climate change and, more recently, pandemics. Sources include official visions and strategy statements provided by government, policy initiatives directly encouraging the development of smart cities projects, policy initiatives indirectly impacting the function and development of smart cities projects, academic literature about these policies and other related initiatives, and grey literature about public and private sector initiatives for smart cities within the selected cases. This study contributes a narrative contextualization of the smart city agenda as read through critical policy theory, and establishes the foundation for additional research on the global political economy of sustainability and smartness as complementary narratives.
Motivation
Since first technologies were harnessed by city authorities, technological companies became significant stakeholders in urban development. While the role and capacity of large tech companies in smart city projects continue to grow, for the cities such ventures become increasingly more complicated to deploy and manage. In addition to financial, technical, and managerial complications a clash of public and private interests provokes ethical concerns and conflicts.

Problem statement
While there is a variety of research materials and reports that explore the taxonomy of public-private collaboration models within smart city projects, the aforementioned downsides and trade-offs are rarely acknowledged. Those materials that provide a deep analysis of both project structure and its outcomes, deal with isolated cases and do not provide a comparative perspective. This research aims to close this gap and to create a comparative framework, that describes models of collaboration between private technological companies and cities’ administrations within smart city projects and the trade-offs that cities are experiencing in a process of projects realization or in the aftermath. Main research challenge is to understand whether there is a pattern in a choice of a collaboration model and consequent trade-offs.

Approach
In order to provide intended research outcomes multiple case studies will be conducted, covering projects of various scales and geographies including such classical cases as a city of Songdo in Korea and recent ones such as Waterfront Toronto in Canada. For the data collection and analysis qualitative methods will be employed including literature, documents and media review.

Conclusion
The resulting framework and conclusions derived from a comparative study will become a base for a variety of policy recommendations within smart city agenda. Moreover, this framework will act as a growing database for systematic collection of relevant case studies, and therefore will contribute to a more comprehensive study of public-private alliances allowing for informed decisions in a field of smart city policies.
A smart city is expected to provide comprehensive innovation strategies towards smartness, sustainability, efficiency, and high quality of life through harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies. The Chinese government has rolled out a plethora of multi-sectoral policies and strategic plans in line with the smart city development goals. Despite the importance of guiding policies in smart city implementation, however, the existing studies have seldom explored the characteristics of the evolutionary smart city policy topics and policy diffusion networks at different government levels. This study applied bibliometrics-based network analysis to analyze the smart city policies published between 2001 and 2020. First, the temporal changes in the prioritized policy domains were mapped for understanding the evolution of smart city policies in China. Second, using the bibliometrics and longitudinal data, the policy diffusion networks within the policy issuing agencies were also analyzed and visualized to identify the core and powerful actors. The results showed that policies related to information technologies have remained the critical policy focus and might be the core knowledge senders in the policy discourse network. Moreover, in recent years, the Chinese government seemed more focused on promoting consumption to build a digital economy. The study revealed that technology and economy-related government agencies were correspondingly placed at relatively central positions, with multiple diversity branches closely linked in the policy network. The policies that aimed at economic and social development planning and Internet plus initiatives tended to diffuse with a wider and deeper spread. This study contributes to the literature on semantic knowledge of smart city policies and the relevant interconnections between government organizations in China; these shed light on the ongoing policy discourse in which the smart city concept has been brought up and implemented.
Preparing for Workforce Transformation in Singapore: The Role of Technical and Vocational Education and Training

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Globally, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has been instrumental in imparting a diverse set of skills to young and adult jobseekers and is becoming increasingly important in the context of new technologies and the future of work. Industry 4.0 is rapidly disrupting traditional forms of employment and education and workers need to respond by continually upskill and reskill, and be adept at lifelong learning. This especially holds true in economies with ageing populations as they seek to productively engage older workers. Similarly, younger workers face increasing vulnerability in the labour market due to an expansion of short-term, precarious work such as in the gig economy and having fewer opportunities to engage in skills development training over the longer term. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated job losses and transformation across a range of industries. This paper focuses on Singapore, a country that is actively investing in reskilling and upskilling its workforce through a national SkillsFuture policy initiative, which emphasises on industry- and corporate-partnered TVET programmes.

Singapore’s current TVET landscape includes a mix of public and private education and training offered via a national Continuing Education and Training (CET) and Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) system. In the face of ongoing disruption, the Singapore Government is reconfiguring the landscape of adult learning and training for a sharpened focus on lifelong learning and job placement for students and adult learners. Current CET and WSQ programmes include a suite of degrees, diplomas and professional certifications provided by Institutes of Higher Learning. Many programmes involve industry internships and new work-study degree programmes are gradually being rolled out, assuming a dual-study character similar to schemes in Europe. Through a critical review of publicly available documents and data we examine Singapore’s approach of adapting the current TVET system to prepare new entrants for the workforce as well as upskilling and reskilling mature workers as industries and workplaces transform. Policy recommendations are made in light of keeping pace with changing industry needs, leveraging tripartite partnerships in TVET design and development and managing concerns about credentialism, while seeking to bring the system on par with other avenues for education, training and skills development.
Objective: The objective of this study is to examine the effects of multiple social safety net programs (in particular, Dibao and education assistance) on education expenditures and time use of middle school students in China.

Background: China’s social safety net is a comprehensive system consisting of means-tested cash transfer and supplementary assistance programs. This study offers insights into how multiple welfare participation contributes to children’s educational development.

Methods: Using national-representative data from the China Education Panel Survey, we adopted propensity score matching and adjusted regression methods to examine the effects of participate in only Dibao, only education assistance, and both programs relative to the comparable non-welfare recipients.

Results: Our results indicate that the combination of Dibao and education assistance reduced recipient families’ school expenditure and increased out-of-school education expenditure. However, Dibao and education assistance did not have significant effects on children’s total time use on educational activities.

Conclusion: The combination of Dibao and education assistance programs is effective policy instrument to encourage educational development of low-income children, yet effectiveness varies for relatively disadvantaged and advantaged children.
The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed and is still transforming the world order, hence the governing and social life styles of all countries. ‘Social distancing’ has become a common term and a compulsory human activity. The earlier criticized technological isolation has been newly promoted in policies encouraging more isolated life styles which every relationship, duty and responsibility to be fulfilled online. While the rest of the economy collapses, digital software companies and internet and telecommunication providers have achieved a rapid economic growth due to sudden high demand towards creating online platforms (Zizek, 2020). Education is one of the major sectors that highly affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Suddenly the use and maintenance of school and university buildings and large staffs became risky and impractical because of the difficulty of keeping the social distance. Schools and universities worldwide initiated promoting online teaching and learning using various online platforms.

Since 1945, Sri Lanka has implemented free education policies, hence education is free from primary onwards until a student obtains a first degree from a state university (Jayasundara, 2014). Through this, many students who face economic hardships receive opportunities to reach a higher social status obtaining educational qualifications. This group of students has been challenged and excluded from the education system during the COVID-19 pandemic because of the government’s decision to conduct online teaching and learning processes to cover up syllabuses in schools and universities. Though there were some official online teaching platforms such as Moodle, used in universities as supplementary methods of teaching and learning, there was no widespread interest in online education in Sri Lanka till the COVID-19 outbreak. When the Ministry of Education decided to implement online education in schools and universities, there were no developed platforms or efficient equipment to continue with.

This research specifically focuses on online university education and its challenges. Following the decision of the Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission urged university administrators to initiate online teaching. This top-down decision created various problems at the implementation stage due to non-consideration of the standard of facilities, resources and equipment at the bottom level. The grievances of students and lecturers have been neglected excluding a large number of underprivileged university students from the system of free education. The students have not provided with any platform to discuss or inform their grievances.
This research asks why the university administrators unconditionally promote online education while there are several pitfalls that challenge free education policies. The research brings its conclusions based on qualitative data collected interviewing students, union leaders, lecturers and administrators in selected state universities in Sri Lanka. The findings up to now, uncover that the university administrators have shown an overwhelming interest in promoting online education, not to maintain the quality of education but to avoid physical confrontation of the students’ demands and protests. University administrators promote online education to avoid, discourage and undermine student activism aiming to obtain recognition from the government presenting fake information on smooth functioning of universities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Female Leadership in Peru’s Local Educational Management Units (UGEL) in a Context of the Health Emergency Crisis Caused by COVID-19: A Qualitative Approach

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Within the health emergency crisis due to the COVID-19 in Peru, organizations in the education sector have been tested and deployed a set of actions to carry out the provision of non-face-to-face educational service, which has made it possible to continue the provision of the service. Through decentralized management bodies, actions have been taken to extend coverage and maximize the quality of non-face-to-face education.

The Local Educational Management Units provide services and supervise the management of the public and private educational institutions in their jurisdiction. These bodies have reorganized their work, articulated with Local Governments and other public and private entities for the continuity of the educational service, contextualizing resources and pedagogical actions within the framework of the National Government strategy ‘Aprendo en casa’ (I am learning from home). Examples of some actions are: socio-emotional support strategies, acquisition of technological resources for students, teacher training to strengthen skills, among others.

However, some Local Educational Management Units have responded more successfully in responding to the crisis than others. It can be seen, then, that some of them developed actions and took measures to respond adequately and adapt to the health emergency context, but others have not been able to develop interventions that face the conditions and circumstances of the crisis, compromising their creation of public value. This research analyzes whether the gender variable explains the better response capacity of the Local Education Management Units led by women, based on analyzing their leadership in the face of the COVID-19 crisis.
Land use and development in Hong Kong have always been a hot spot in government policies since its inherent conflict between public and private interests, as well as short and long-term interests among stakeholders. The concept of community resilience, which refers to explore the ability of a community to resist, recover, adapt, and transform in the face of disturbance (Ribeiro and Gonçalves, 2019), is introduced to this proposed study. In particular, the emBRACE resilience framework for community resilience (Kruse et al., 2019) is adopted to better explain how actions, learning and resources interact within communities and form the level of resilience in the face of governmental actions. Despite the framework was designed to measure a community’s resilience under natural disaster, but human actions in the form of government policy that would lead to the eventual extinction of a community would also fit the definition of a disturbance. The first selected case is Choi Yuen village, it was asked to be cleared out to pave way for the Hong Kong high-speed rail development. An outcry was sparkled with different parties, such as politicians, social actors and netizen groups, supporting the claim of the villagers to pressure the government. On the contrary, Chuk Yuen Tsuen, another village that was planned to be relocated for a new port between Hong Kong and mainland China received considerably less public attention. Both villages are considered as “peripheral communities” that locate away from developed downtown regions of Hong Kong. By selecting these two cases of land resumption for development, this proposed study attempts to examine why would some “peripheral communities” able to gather external support to fend off the authority but not the others.
Since 2007, China has launched a policy of creating a Comprehensive Disaster Reduction Demonstration Community (CDRDC) from top to bottom. Yet, few studies have been conducted to investigate the effect of such a practice. This study aims to examine the effect of labeling “demonstration communities” on improving the performance of community disaster reduction with the cases of the Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan Urban Agglomeration (CZTUA). According to the formulated policy standard, the performance of community disaster reduction is measured from five dimensions, namely, factual basis, goals, coordination or communication, tools or strategies, and implementation of DRC. The performance of 210 communities in three cities with 100 of CDRDCs, and 110 of non-CDRDCs were evaluated. The Mann-Whitney U test was employed to examine whether the five dimensions of CDRDCs or Non-CDRDCs have significant differences. It was found that labeling the demonstration communities can improve performance in the 5 dimensions. However, indicators concerning hardware construction achievable in a short term far outweighed the software aspects of communities while requirements in the coordination dimension were weak. The findings provide references for promoting CDRDC in order to improve community resilience.
Since 2020, the covid-19 epidemic has brought a strong impact on the global economic and social development, and brought more uncertainties to the life of residents. The resilience of residents' lives has become more important for coping with unknown risks. This paper puts forward the concept of 'life resilience', constructs the theoretical analysis framework of life resilience. Life resilience is divided into two factors of life system and support system, which jointly determine life resilience. The life system includes the contents of daily life consumption, such as clothing, food, housing, education, medical treatment and housing, etc. The support system includes four kinds of resources: economic resources, cultural resources, social resources and Institutional resources, which are the main factors affecting life resilience. Based on the sampling data of questionnaires carried during the covid-19 epidemic, this paper makes an empirical analysis on the residents' life resilience according to the theoretical analysis framework. The results showed that during the epidemic period, the main economic pressure of residents' life was mainly the pressure of children's education, housing loan, rent and meals. The economic, cultural and social resources of residents had a significant impact on their life resilience, but the influence of occupation and Intergeneration was the two most significant factors. The higher the occupation status and the older the age, the stronger the life resilience is, otherwise, the less resilience of life. The potential support of relationship and Institutional resources to residents' life resilience is also very important. Finally, it puts forward some policy suggestions to enhance life resilience.
Energy transition toward renewables, mainly wind and solar, has been gaining momentum in the past decade as a crucial measure of climate mitigation, while the increasing electrification of the energy system is an important enabling factor for a greater share of renewables. COVID-19 has brought unprecedented, multi-faceted challenges and uncertainties across the World and in India the Janta Curfew (7am-9pm) was observed on 22nd March 2020 followed by a 21-day complete lockdown starting 25th March 2020 to control the spread of the virus. Electricity demand in India dropped by nearly a quarter. In this paper we use an electricity system modelling approach to examine the impacts of the Janta Curfew on energy transition. We find that energy transition is expedited away from coal and toward renewables and has led to a short-term phase change in their system integration. The short-term reasons are, the higher priority of now a large renewables fleet to access electric grid either through stipulations or the merit order effect, and the coal-fired electricity generation is less flexible than natural gas and hydropower units. A substantial amount of coal-fired power plants in India are still young and far from reaching their designed lifetimes. Their low resilience in such crises could exacerbate the problem of stranded assets, which could further drive investment away from coal and toward renewables in the long term. The expedited energy transition may further distinguish the importance of flexible electricity generation units.
Artificial Intelligence Risk Space in a COVID Infected Indian Construction Industry

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Like any other sector, Covid-19 has significantly affected the construction industry. We expect that the construction sector will rely heavily on the Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to revive from the impact of the infection and the associated losses. It won't be a surprise if the key stakeholders in this sector advocate for a transformation to a less labour intense construction sector in various levels (levels analogous to the level of automation prevailing in the driverless automobiles). In this work, we interviewed 70 key stakeholders such as organizational decision-makers, project decision-makers and managers in India selected through a purposeful sampling approach. Among these, 20 interviewees were from electronic equipment manufacturing company in India with more than 20 years of experience (mainly, organization decision-makers) to gain a multisectoral perspective as this sector is significantly ahead in automation than in construction and has a blend of core manufacturing and project development projects. The remaining 50 (construction personnel) were from the construction sector with experiences in working in small scale and large scale construction projects in India. We identified the potential AI technologies that could have solved much of the problems due to Covid-19 in the construction domain. We then mapped these technologies into the risks that we identified in our previous work to identify the potential stakeholders impacted by these risks and the associated regulatory challenges (Pillai & Matus 2019). Thus, the output of this research is a risk space and the regulatory challenges that will exist in a post-Covid construction industry that accommodates AI technologies. We also identified the differential risk perception of the key stakeholders. We found that the organizational and the project decision-makers are risk-seeking compared to the managers and site engineers for the application of AI technologies in construction.

References
The world is in the midst of a serious crisis and experiencing a severe pandemic in recent history. Some believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is the worst crisis since World War II. This pandemic can be a common security issue and humanitarian missions can go behind state sovereignty. The widespread of the COVID-19 impacts may be one reason why this pandemic becomes the attention of the global community. Without international involvement and cooperation, it is hard for the national government to fight against this pandemic. Social and economic crises attending the COVID-19 pandemic thus invite scholarly reflection on the role of economic superpowers and their influence in the developing economies. This study examines Sri Lanka as a case where China has launched a high-tempo program of ‘pandemic diplomacy’ supplying the emergency medical equipment, protective gear, along with economic footprint—emergency lending. The case exposes underdevelopment in scholarly assumptions about the connections among medical diplomacy, pandemic financial assistance, and soft power influence in the context of developing countries like Sri Lanka. As such, this calls for a more nuanced understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected China’s soft power in Sri Lanka, and what is the implication of Chinese raise into the country during and post COVID-19 pandemic.
Existing literature has long been interested in explaining individuals’ supports for state involvement in redistribution by using the theoretical perspectives of self-interest, ideology, and policy feedback (Hasenfeld & Rafferty, 1989; Emerson & Buren, 1992; Habibov, 2011; Han, 2012; Huang, 2019; He et al., 2020a; He et al., 2020b). However, technological change has been left out of the equation when exploring the question about what factors may affect individuals’ welfare attitudes?

With the recent development of big data and artificial intelligence, the newest wave of technological change is opening a new world of automation, and there is a growing interest in implementing automated technology (e.g. robot installation) in the manufacturing and service industries. Despite the fact that automation is playing an increasingly important role in reshaping economic structure and personal lives, there are limited attempts that explore its impact on individuals’ welfare attitudes, with the exception of two studies (Kitschelt & Rehm, 2014; Thewissen & Rueda, 2017). Furthermore, these two studies mainly focus on the developed worlds, which leaves the situation of transitional countries, such as China, to be explored. This neglect is surprising. Because on the one hand, China is the global leader regarding automation. With the implementation of the “Made in China 2025” strategy, China has become the biggest and fastest-growing market for robot installation worldwide. Some research even predicts that this would make more than 11 million people in China lose their jobs by 2030. On the other hand, although the Chinese central government tries to expand social policy, this attempt encounters economic slowdown, societal aging, and high inequality recently (He et al., 2020). Whether the newly-emerging automation would reinforce or undermine individuals’ welfare support is of great significance for policymakers to specify the target groups of social policy.

To fill the research gaps, this study explores the association between the risk of automation replacement and welfare support in China. Specifically, we emphasize on individuals’ support in three policy domains (eldercare, healthcare, and poverty alleviation). Building on existing work, we propose that individuals whose occupations are exposed to automation replacement would prefer welfare policy. The risks of future income and job losses reinforce their need for non-market protection, therefore increasing the levels of welfare support.
This study conducts an empirical test by using multilevel analysis. Data is based on the Chinese General Social Survey 2017 and complemented by other sources of macro-level data. The results find that the risk of automation replacement is likely to increase individuals’ support only for eldercare policy. This suggests that the losers of automation are a potential reservoir for social policy expansion in an age of automation. And eldercare policy should get special priority. Further moderating analysis shows that this relationship is stronger for populations who are richer, or have access to social insurance or favor social justice. There are several theoretical and practical implications of this study.
China’s economic development has entered a new normal. With the development of Internet technology, new employment form appears. In the COVID-19, new employment pattern plays a prominent role and becomes an important way to ‘stabilize employment’ and ‘ensure people’s livelihood’. In the future, the new employment pattern will be normalized and become an important employment pattern in China. The new employment pattern poses new requirements and challenges to the social policy, especially in the fields of social insurance, social assistance and social services.

Through literature research and grounded theory, this study analyzes the characteristics of new employment pattern and determines its connotation and denotation. At the same time, based on the theory of development social policy, three points are emphatically analyzed: firstly, the nature of the employment relationship in the new employment pattern and the theoretical basis of whether the practitioners in the new employment pattern can be included in the social insurance system; Secondly, the entry exit mechanism of new employment pattern practitioners in social assistance; Thirdly, the improvement of public employment services for practitioners in the new employment pattern.

Development social policy should be scientific, coordinated and flexible in welfare. For the practitioners in new employment pattern, this study considers that a stratified and continuous social policy should be established, which will take ability improvement of practitioners as the purpose, public employment services as the starting point, social insurance as the guarantee and unemployment assistance as the foundation. Social policy will gradually develop that focus on risk prevention and supplement economic assistance, which can both support the transformation and upgrading of the economic structure and promote the development of people’s well-being.
Increasing the employment opportunities and income for the disabled persons are both important to safeguard the economic and social rights of this vulnerable group. The goals are challenging because of: 1) the mismatch between economic structure and the education and training system for the disabled persons; 2) incoherent designing and ineffective implementation of various welfare programs for the disabled persons (Lai et al. 2008); 3) discriminatory attitude and practices by employers; 5) ineffective design and delivery of employment training programs (England 2003; Kulkami and Kote 2013). Investigating the effects of government employment training programs enables us to identify the factors that contribute to the increase of the disabled persons' income, and to provide evidence for policymakers to improve the training programs in order to realize the aforementioned goals.

The study is based on a large size sample questionnaire survey conducted in June-October 2018. The questionnaire is disseminated through an online website (www. Wjx.cn) to the disabled persons' mobile app Wechat. The respondents are located in 31 provincial administrative areas, and received 11296 responses. The questionnaire collects information about the characteristics of employment training programs delivered by the agencies, the respondents' employment training experiences and training needs, their attitude towards the content, facilities and effects of the programs, the status of their employment, and their personal characteristics such as age, gender, education, income level, household registration status, and types and degree of disability. We also collect statistics that reflect the differences in terms of economic development and public service expenditure across provinces and regions. We use the linear regression model to test the effects of all these factors on the capability of the respondents to use the skills learned from the training programs to increase their income. The study concludes that the respondents are more likely to increase their income through training programs when the training content fits their jobs more, when they aim to develop interests and hobbies through training, and when they are more masterful of the training content. Different from many studies on the effect of performance management on job training performance, the findings suggest that responsive design and effective performance management of the training programs matter for positive program performance (Gerrish 2016). The study will also link with and contribute to the literature on social equity and employment policy for disabled persons that are rarely researched in public administration (e.g. Lindsay, Adams, McDougall and Sanford 2012; Gooden 2015).
Purpose:
In Taiwan, mental health halfway houses (MHHHs) are community-based residential facilities designed for people with mental illness to receive psychiatric rehabilitation services, and the springboard for returning to community living after a usually long period of institutional care. Upon discharge from MHHHs, however, these residents are faced with an environment permeated with mental illness stigma, and challenges to be integrated into the community. In this study we examined the first-hand experiences of former residents, their families, and MHHH staff with the journey back to the community to identify issues with, and resources needed for, full community inclusion in order to formulate policy recommendations.

Methods:
We conducted semi-structured in-depth interviews with 10 residents discharged from a MHHH, 8 family members of discharged residents, and 11 MHHH staff members in the rural region of Taiwan. All 40 interviews (1 to 4 interviews per interviewee), ranging from 14 to 126 minutes in length, were verbatim transcribed. The multiple sources (former residents, family members, and staff) of data not only enriched research investigation, but provided the basis for comparative analysis. We applied the dimensional analysis procedures of the grounded theory methodology for data analysis.

Results:
Analyses showed that an ideal discharge from MHHH and community inclusion would involve that the former resident demonstrated capacity to self-care, maintained employment, enjoyed autonomy, established a support network, and experienced self-confidence and increased quality of life. Meanwhile, their family members experienced substantially reduced caregiving burden and even grew admiration toward their recovering relative. However, such outcome greatly depended on the residents’ determination toward independence, stable employment, family acceptance, and a friendly community with adequate rehabilitation resources. MHHH staff’s work focused on residents’ rehabilitation and independence training. Yet they acknowledged that proper employment opportunities for the residents were scarce, and most families were difficult to engage.

Former residents and family participants echoed the staff’s viewpoints. The analyses of former residents’ experiences showed that self-expectation, self-care capacity, and employment were essential to stable community living. Most former residents reported increased quality of life and
enjoyment of freedom and autonomy, while those who returned to remote or impoverished areas reported boredom and loneliness. Some working former residents, however, reported discrimination experienced during job search and/or at the working environment.

Although most of the family members observed rehabilitation progresses their discharged relatives had made, some families had to continue to provide some forms of care and support. Most family members reported concerns over arranging daytime activities (work, training programs, etc.) due to limited resources, which they worried might impede the former residents’ psychiatric rehabilitation.

Policy Recommendations:
Based on the findings, we recommend that MHHH policy and funding should not only focus on residents’ rehabilitation, but support family members to become the best ally in residents’ community inclusion processes. We also recommend policy-making to focus on increasing employment opportunities for people with mental illness, and educating the public about the impact of mental illness stigma. Finally, we urge policy-makers to counter disparities of psychiatric rehabilitation resources in the rural areas.
Government attention is the key issue to explain government behavior. How does government attention affect the effect of environmental governance? The paper puts forward the attention-driven environmental governance analysis framework, using the content analysis on provincial government work reports (2006-2015) to measure the environmental attention index. This study examined the intermediating effect of environmental regulation and mediating effect of promotional incentive, and come to three conclusions. Firstly, the government’s environmental attention improves the effect of environmental governance, and the higher the government’s attention, the lower the environmental pollution index, which verifies the promotion effect of government attention on the effect of government governance. Secondly, the government’s environmental attention affects the environmental quality through the complete intermediating effect of environmental supervision, which is specific to two transmission chains: the greater the environmental attention, the higher the level of environmental protection laws, the better the environmental governance performance; the greater the environmental attention, the higher the proportion of environmental investment, the better the environmental governance performance. Thirdly, promotion incentives play a positive mediating effect on the negative relationship between government attention and environmental pollution. This paper puts forward some policy suggestions, such as establishing the government’s sustainable concern mechanism for ecological environment and strengthening the environmental supervision.
Technological change is an inevitable part of sustainable development – helping present generations to meet their needs without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Many sectors have been undergoing a transition as to achieve sustainable development goals and the energy sector, as one of the most polluting sector emitting 40% of all global CO2 emissions but closely intertwined with human needs and required for the functioning of other sectors, is no exception.

Indeed, clean energy technology has been experiencing a rapid evolution in the past decades. This can be attributed to various factors such as spur in innovation, increased competition, and policy support in a growing number of countries. The support of governments to attract investment, bring down costs, drive deployment, foster innovation and encourage greater flexibility in energy infrastructure is essential for the transformation of the current fossil fuel-based energy system to a cleaner and more sustainable one.

This paper aims to explore the different interventions used by governments to support clean energy innovation. It will be based on public policy document analyses of 22 high income, advanced countries which also face constraints in scaling up clean energy innovations due to the size of their domestic markets, and limited natural, human, and financial resources. The innovation literature and especially the national innovation systems literature will be used to categorize energy innovation interventions of countries. We will then map these policies onto a conceptual framework (FAMIS) developed by globally recognized innovation and sustainability scholars to assess where in the innovation system public policy actors intervene. This will be combined with novel case studies of energy innovation to support findings.

We expect that the results will help countries with limited resources, including low-income countries with similar constraints, to make more informed choices on how and where to improve the national innovation system and on how to successfully transition to a cleaner and more sustainable energy path. The categorization of the innovation interventions will also serve as a theoretical addition to the innovation and energy policy literature.
The Kyoto Protocol is one of the most influential international environmental agreements concerning reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, there exist concerns over the cost of implementing these environmental policies. This study assumes that technological innovation can play an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of international environmental policy in improving the environment while mitigating the economic burden. This study establishes a country-based panel database for 1960–2016 including data on Research and development expenditure and Patents on environment technologies to grasp the potential of innovation for sustainable development. Using this database, this study measures the effectiveness of the technological innovation on the environmental and economic impact of the Kyoto Protocol by applying two-stage least squares. The results indicate that research and development expenditure has a significant positive effect than the Patents on environment technologies has no significant effect. The empirical results show that a member country of the Kyoto Protocol with higher investments in research and development is likely to mitigate economic burden, but the effect on carbon dioxide emissions reductions is still limited. This study opens new possibilities for the convergence of research on the advancement of science and technology and socio-economic development by focusing on technological innovation.
Has International Climate Regime Promoted Climate Justice? Evidence from Clean Development Mechanism Projects in China
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Respond to climate change in a way that benefits all, a spirit of justice is highlighted in the global climate regime to concern for those who are unjustly affected by climate change due to insufficient measures or inadequate policies. Though the international climate regime acknowledges that a more rapid transition and worldwide cooperation are needed to cope with climate threat, how climate justice shall be pursued remains controversial in policy-making and implementation. This study adopts the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) – a flexibility mechanism initiated under the Kyoto protocol as a lens to investigate whether the international mechanism has promoted justice transition and how the transitional economies respond to the effects of the mechanism. The performance of 4429 CDM projects hosted in China from 2004-2015, together with the socio-economic factors at the local level, provides a panel data for empirical analysis. The results suggest that the goal of GHG emission reduction was achieved at the expense of the local sustainable development in China, and impacts were unbalanced imposed across the country. The empirical analysis likewise sheds light on the potential of technology/knowledge transfer in interacting with climate governance mechanisms and shaping the localization process of climate justice. This study adds value to justice theories and literature and facilitates public managers/practitioners in climate governance.
Regulatory Forbearance: Environmental Reform in Guangdong, China

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Can self-restraint substitute for formal-institutional constraints to promote regulatory certainty? The study explores the question from a transactional authority perspective with a longitudinal case study on the earlier period of environmental reform in Guangdong, China. Based on extensive government document reviews and enterprise executive interviews, we found that the local government practiced regulatory forbearance through such measures as paced enforcement, norm cultivation, and compliance comparison and guidance. Analyses of the interviews and additional survey data showed no significant increase in overall regulatory uncertainty. Nevertheless, the types of uncertainty associated with enterprises’ adoption of environmental management practices changed from task uncertainty to technical uncertainty and target uncertainty. The results lend qualified support to regulatory self-restraint as a practical alternative for regulatory governance.
It has recently been accepted that environmental protection cannot be restricted to national borders, but should have a global perspective. However, environmental protection is frequently confronted by economic local interests creating tensions for achieving a sustainable development. In that sense, scientific evidence becomes key to understanding or approaching the consequences of a particular decision that will have, not only local but global impact. In that sense, scientific integrity becomes a relevant topic to be discussed at a global level rather than only at a local level.

This panel seeks to discuss the different definitions of scientific integrity and of ethics in science, as well as its epistemological approaches when approaching environmental protection challenges. It also looks to analyze the tensions between scientists and policy makers at a local level and the consequences of those tensions at the global level. Finally, the panel pretends to open a debate around the possibility of using different innovation frameworks (quadruple helix, science diplomacy...) for approaching global environmental trends.
Background: Sweeping through the globe in 2020, COVID-19 continues to take a huge toll on lives and economies in many countries across the world. As part of the emergency response, the governments of major COVID-19-endemic countries have introduced measures to contain the spread of the infection and protect their populations.

Methods: This study proposed a typological method to investigate institutional arrangements and the emergency management of epidemic responses. To begin with, it refined existing conceptualizations by recognizing “complexity”, “variety”, “instability”, and “unpredictability” as four environmental elements. These elements, in turn, represent the environmental tasks and consequences present in the wake of a pandemic. In view of these ideas, a typology that identifies the four categories of institutional measures and responds significantly to environmental elements was introduced. Furthermore, institutional diversity was considered by proposing the features of the interactions between each environmental element and the explicit institutional measure. In view of this typology, the strategies of institutional diversity present in the responses to COVID-19 were determined.

Results: Targeted policies were assigned to explicit task environments by placing them in one of the four quadrants: public health procedures, medical operation standards, supervisory and regulatory measures, and norms and instructions. Institutional diversity resulted when the very loci of decision-making carried a dominant or subordinate role, providing a hierarchical system for relating the institutional processes needed to address the challenges of institutional fragments.

Conclusion: Institutional diversity, through the formation of complementary and dynamic frameworks and relationships, applies the prevailing governance model and rationale to the practice of public health emergency management, thereby creating a unique order to combat the epidemic.
A Comparative Study of the Response Measures and Coping Strategies of the COVID-19 Outbreak in China and Japan

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Among the six regional offices of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) recorded the smallest number of confirmed cases and deaths. China and Japan are two of the countries in this region which have curbed the outbreak of COVID-19 and saved lives. There were similarities between centralized state structure and the specific policies of China and Japan, such as quarantine of patients and social distancing measures. In the meantime, there were also distinctive features in the outbreak responses and coping strategies of China and Japan. While China deployed a highly structured and disciplined approach to manage the outbreak, Japan relied on agility and adaptability of local-level governments, and policy measures were dovetailed with the specific circumstances in the local settings. Our analysis found that such differences in coping strategies are attributable to the culture, social norms, as well as government decision-making styles of China and Japan.
Covid-19 has exposed flaws in bureaucratic accountability systems. Piercing together what happened at three decision levels in Wuhan City, China, during the early stage of the outbreak, this study demonstrates how an accountability system that tolerates decision errors can encourage responsible risk-taking and result in timely actions during public health emergencies. We specify the design principles of an error-tolerance mechanism and governing circumstances in which these principles can work in China and other countries.
Community Capacity Building in the Transboundary Crisis: A Refined Analytical Framework
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In crisis management literature, the community has long been portrayed as a victim who lacks the necessary capacity to protect themselves when they are struck by the transboundary crisis. However, in recent years, it is argued that scholars should pay attention to the role of the community in crisis management, as they are usually the first responders and could provide alternative reactions when public agencies fail to take reactive actions. In this regard, the theory of Community Capacity Building (CCB) could provide a useful analytical perspective. According to CCB, to address local issues and achieve well-beings, communities have to build several capacities such as the sense of community, ability to solve problems and access to resources, etc. Previous researchers have carried out studies in various domains and explore multiple constructs and mechanisms that may influence the effectiveness of CCB. Despite their remarkable theoretical contribution, three limitations remain when applying CCB theory to crisis management.

First, previous literature did not make a very clear distinction between components of CCB and mechanisms that link the components with the outcomes, which creates confusion of different notions. Second, while governments and international organizations were conventionally considered as major actors empowering deprived communities, more recent studies have paid more attention to the agency of individuals and organizations within the community. This bottom-up perspective, however, renders the researchers play down the role of governments and other institutions with authoritative and resource power in the process of CCB. Third, during a transboundary crisis, the community always has to cope with conditions different from the ordinary time, which may have impacts on the constructs and mechanisms of effective CCB. Our research aims at responding to the above limitations and extends the application of CCB to crisis management research.

This paper is divided into four sections. First, we have a review of the literature of CCB research and introduce several representative analytical frameworks. Second, by taking characteristics of crisis management into account, we integrate and refine previous frameworks. In particular, we highlight the role of government in the process of CCB. Third, we use some evidence of the communities' response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Beijing and Hong Kong to test the refined framework. Finally, we conclude several research findings and come up with policy implications.
Fighting against the coronavirus requires the coproduction and cooperation across all the sectors in the society. A core element of coproducing better health outcome is managing the communication between the public, the private, and the non-profit sectors, which is always a challenging matter for public administrators especially during the emergency. In this article, we examine the role of information and communication technologies played in co-producing better service delivery during the pandemic. Using online fundraising and volunteering cases during the COVID-19 outbreak in China as data, we show that IT companies can link multiple stakeholders and help the emergency management community building to facilitate co-production. Different from the conventional donation and giving of the businesses, IT companies can not only contribute technologies to produce public services but also provide platforms for citizens’ self-organization of relief and recovery. This suggests that information and communication technologies can leverage strengths of civil society to provide an outpouring of aid when disasters occurred.
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