

Chinese Public Administration Review: **Relaunching a Necessary Dialogue**

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Since being launched in 2002, twenty issues of the journal have conducted a peer-reviewed dialogue on core concepts relevant to and emanating from the public sector that serves the globe's most populated nation. Prominent academics from China and other countries have continually participated in that dialogue.

With this issue, we are underscoring the increasing relevance of the *Chinese Public Administration Review (CPAR)* and the importance of the field of Chinese public administration. From the Chinese perspective, representative topics published in *CPAR* to date have ranged over such topics as the following, suggesting a foundation for continuing research in:

- Administrative and Local Government Reform;
- Ethics-Driven Self Discipline;
- New Community Building/Citizen Participation;
- The Developing Civil Service System in China;
- The Nature of Public Policy;
- Policy Implementation Hindrances;
- The Feasibility of Government Performance Management; Intergovernmental Fiscal Relationships;

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Community Governance Innovations;
Dissertation Research in Public Administration in China; and
Performance-Informed Budgeting in China.

And from the “Western” perspective —primarily Europe, the U.S. and Oceania—authors from the U.S., Europe, Oceania and elsewhere have addressed topics of continuing concern to China, Asia and beyond:

Citizen-Public Services Relationships in Greece;
Respect for Government in a Privatized World;
E-Government and Public Affairs Education;
Knowledge Management and Public Organizations;
Government Performance Auditing;
MPA Programs in Australia;
European Approaches to MPA Education;
New Public Management;
A Comparison of US and China Performance Measurement Legislation;
Successful Earthquake Mitigation in China as Lesson for the U.S.;
Health Care Reform in China in the Context of US and Canadian Systems; and
Assessing the State of Public Administration Research in Mainland China.

At the same time, dynamic forces that the journal has not adequately addressed suggest a “menu” of necessary analyses:

First, China has been experiencing unprecedented reforms about the ways in which the public sector is governed. These include the fundamental relationships between the government and the market (such as the expansion of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in financing government projects); the effort to reduce red tape and the size of government (such as the movement of government agency consolidation and streamlining), the emphasis on performance regimes (such as the implementation of performance budgeting as reflected in the new Budget Law of 2015), and checks and balances (such as the pilot program of the establishment of a discipline/supervision

committee under the control of selected People's Congress in 2016). Overall, how to build limited, disciplined, and effective governments becomes a key theme in recent reforms. As we observe the development of public administration as a professional field since 1978 in P.R. China, scholars of Chinese public administration must objectively address such promising opportunities, necessary capacities, and best practices in:

Performance Measurement and Improvement;

Competent and Fair Civil Service Systems;

E-Government and E-Governance, with particular attention to citizen participation;
and

Comparative Public Administration as a set of windows on comparable systems worldwide.

Second, in terms of MPA Curriculum Development in China, *CPAR* will follow the emergence of public administration as an independent and recognized academic field in China. With some two hundred approved MPA programs distinct from such traditional disciplines as business, economics and history, the Chinese academic community should benchmark its progress against best practices among acknowledged leading institutions in China and against standards for MPA education in the West, particularly those of the international Network of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). As a forum for evidence-based dialogues about competency-based curricula and continuous learning, *CPAR* can, in part, emulate NASPAA's Journal of Public Affairs and Education (JPAE).

Third, *CPAR* will continue to build the knowledge base that Chinese and international scholars can share as a means of learning from one another. Let us apply the articles in this issue as examples. For instance, although open government initiatives are increasingly important globally, how to assess the performance of these initiatives is an understudied area. Ingrams' article in this issue addresses exactly this global issue by proposing a framework consisting of three public administration perspectives: Efficiency, Democratic Responsiveness, and Legal-rational Process (Ingrams, 2016). Kim (2016)'s

article links public trust in governments with community resilience in a China/South Korea two-country comparative study. Synthesizing the literature both from China and United States, Ye and Ni (2016) examined the agency level performance evaluation model in terms of its political legitimacy and managerial efficiency in a Chinese agency. And, Wu, Chang, and Tso (2016), introducing experiences from an area (Taiwan) prone to natural disasters, focused their study on citizen participation and its role on disaster preparedness, an important area of emergency management. Clearly, learning from one another can take on many forms: establishing frameworks of a global issue (Ingrams, 2016), international comparative study (Kim, 2016), in-depth study of a research frontier (Ye & Ni, 2016), and sharing experiences from the most affected (Wu et al., 2016). *CPAR* will continue bringing together high quality articles to serve the needs of a global learning community.

Fourth, Chinese public administration must necessarily be considered as a global model, indeed a set of reforms that might well suggest important lessons for both developing and developed countries. China's economic development and poverty reduction, among others, have been viewed as remarkable successes. Terms such as "Chinese characteristics of X" or "The China Model" have been examined in various research fields. However, Chinese public administration encompasses much more convergence and divergence of theories and practices than these abstract terms contain. For example, just to name a few, the influence of Confucius on governance structures, the balance of control and discretion across levels of governments, and the boundaries of government and its relationship with the broader, flatter and interconnected governance structure within the society, have called for (or imply) expanded efforts to study Chinese public administration.

Fifth, Chinese universities must be considered as global colleagues in research, not just in teaching. They have been hiring PhD graduates and established scholars in public administration from overseas, especially from the U.S. and Europe. Many schools utilize Western textbooks and follow a global curriculum; some schools have developed

international programs to attract international students to China, teaching in English. At the same time, more Chinese scholars and students are receiving support from the Chinese government to study abroad through degree programs or as non-degree visiting scholars. Introduction of classic theories of public administration and rigorous training of research methodologies are being conducted across Chinese universities on a continuous basis. Tremendous amounts of academic resources, coupled with the increasing data availability, afford Chinese universities and affiliated scholars the means to actively engage in global research dialogues.

We welcome manuscript submissions from Chinese scholars as well as collaborative research with scholars from other countries. If governments at all levels in China and globally are to keep their promises to their citizens, then the global dialogue represented in the pages of CPAR can help create evidence-based lessons for the prioritization and implementation of scarce resources.

We are optimistic that the peer-reviewed dialogue outlined above will thrive, and that CPAR will fulfill its promise as the recognized forum for the highest quality research in the field of Chinese public administration. We welcome submissions not only from China and its Pacific Rim neighbors, especially South Korea and Singapore, but from authors throughout our increasingly global society.

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