Promoting Taiwan’s Public Administration Research: 
In Memory of Dr. Jun Yi Hsieh, Editor (1973-2019)
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Dr. Jun Yi Hsieh was a professor in the Department of Social and Public Affairs at the University of Taipei and an editor/organizer of this symposium about public administration studies in Taiwan. In his introduction article, Dr. Hsieh explained the development of public governance in Taiwan, identified critical public management and policy issues, and provided summaries about four articles included in the symposium. The symposium articles applied empirical data and analyses to examine critical issues in Taiwan and helped readers to understand the research development in Taiwan’s public administration profession.

Dr. Hsieh’s interest in promoting public administration research in Taiwan was related to his education and training background. I first met Dr. Hsieh when he was a Ph.D. student in the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University. I later learned that he completed two doctoral degrees in public administration – one from National Chen-Chi University (Taiwan) in 2007 and the other from Florida State University in 2008. To enhance his research skills, Dr. Hsieh also participated in the program of Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in years of 2006, 2007 and 2008. His education and trainings in these universities had prepared him to conduct high quality public administration research in the United State and in Taiwan.

Since becoming a faculty at the University of Taipei in 2008, he was promoted to Full Professor in 2015 and served as the Director of the university international affairs division between 2016 and 2017 because of his excellent academic performance. Dr. Hsieh’s research focused on local governance, public management, and public policy issues in Taiwan. In his short academic career, he published 5 academic books (including 1 in English and 4 in Chinese), 55 refereed journal articles (including 25 articles in English and 30 articles in Chinese), and 4 book chapters (including 1 chapter in English and 3 chapters in Chinese). The quality of his research was outstanding as evidenced by his publications in top public administration journals in the US and Taiwan as well as his service as a member of the editorial board or as a regular ad-hoc reviewer for major public administration journals.

I had many opportunities to know Dr. Hsieh’s sincere attitude in quality research when he invited me to write a preface for his book on Policy and Management of Local and Urban Governance (in Chinese, 2015) and when we co-authored an article on Collaborative Leadership and Organizational Performance (published in Review of Public Personnel Administration, 2018). Dr. Hsieh’s book applies the evidence-based approach to collect objective and subjective data to analyze the implementation and outcome of major policy and managerial cases in Taiwan’s local governance. For the co-authored article, Dr. Hsieh served as the first author to conduct empirical analyses to verify my suggestions about theoretical arguments and contributions. The article first used path analysis to test the effect of four dimensions of collaborative leadership...
on the perceived organizational performance and then applied a multidimensional scaling method to estimate the dimensions of collaborative leadership and their structural relations. From the collaborative relationship, I learned that Dr. Hsieh was very serious about the use of correct and objective analytical techniques to ensure the validity of research findings.

Dr. Hsieh worked closely with his colleagues using research and service opportunities to promote Taiwan’s public administration at the international level. He participated in many international public administration conferences, especially the annual conference of American Society for Public Administration, to present his studies about important public administration topics in Taiwan. He also worked hard to promote the Taiwan Association of Public Administration and Public Affairs when he served as the general secretary to support the annual conference in 2011. In my last conversations with him, I was very impressed with Dr. Hsieh’s attitude toward high quality public administration research in Taiwan as he talked about the completion of this symposium and his recent studies on integrity management in Taiwan.

Dr. Hsieh was an outstanding scholar with a successful academic career in all areas of teaching, research, and service. He was very generous in sharing his research experience with colleagues and helping young scholars in Taiwan. Many of his friends will continue his efforts and promote Taiwan’s public administration research at the international level using our research and service. We are honored to know Dr. Hsieh as a true scholar and as a good friend. We are thankful for his contributions and we will miss him.

Testimonial for Professor Jun Yi Hsieh

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Even today I still find it impossible to accept that Junyi has left us behind and below. Well, in a sense he has always left us behind: no one is as passionate about public administration research as he was. Even in his last days, he finished the introduction to this symposium, had plans for unfinished manuscripts and new projects, and was lit up when visitors discussed research with him in the hospital. I feel his star is looking at us from above with a friendly smile, benevolence, and tolerance.

There has always been a special bond between us. I was starting my second year as an assistant professor at Florida State University when Junyi arrived in Tallahassee as a new doctoral student. We came from the same culture, and he was planning to obtain two doctoral degrees, as I did. We soon realized that we share not only cultural roots and research interests, but also methodological preference, theoretical background, and personalities. We co-authored
his first two English-language articles, both of which appeared in Public Administration Review. Since then we became close friends and it is hard to believe our friendship has lasted for 15 years. And it is hard to believe he had graduated from Florida 11 years before. All those times we spent together are still so vivid!

Junyi was the hardest-working doctoral student I have met at Florida State University. His wide interest in public administration and policy kept him in the library day and night, reading book after book, travelling from subject to subject. At times we were worried about his health and asked him to exercise more and have enough sleep. He would smile and say yes, but never stopped doing what he enjoyed doing. His sharp theoretical sensitivity and outstanding ability to link different subjects enabled him to pour out creative ideas. The excitement driven by the ideas was always there—striking in his eyes and on his face. Many doctoral students in their early days cry out for research ideas, but Junyi was never that—he was full of ideas from the very beginning. The success in generating ideas reinforced his passion for reading and writing, pushing him to work harder and harder.

Many people stop at the ideas stage, but Junyi would relentlessly try to implement his ideas. I myself have let many great ideas come and go, slipping away from my fingers. Junyi was too enthusiastic to give up on any idea. He would always say: let’s do it! I can do it! Indeed, we talked about an idea on performance management in his first year, and he said he might be able to collect data from Taiwan. I thought he was joking, but I was wrong. He returned from Taiwan with the data after the summer break! This was how we got our first Public Administration Review article done. Data did not seem to be a barrier to him. He was very good at searching for secondary data, and he did not hesitate purchasing data even when he was only a poor student. If there was no secondary data available, he would waste no time finding access to distribute surveys or design experiments. Since he was used to working on multiple projects and datasets, I sometimes imagined him as a busy honey bee dancing from flower to flower.

Junyi had an open mind and is read to learn. As aforementioned, he developed a wide knowledge base, ranging from political science, policy studies, public management, and organizational theory to organizational behavior. This was partly due to the fact that he had two doctoral degrees. It seemed smooth for him to swim from subject to subject. This was not only true in terms of theory, but also in terms of methods. He was motivated to master the most advanced analytical methods. Even with almost no time in the program he became an expert in structural equation modeling and hierarchical linear modeling, among others. Later on he published two methods books on hierarchical linear modeling.

It seems a general law that geniuses are hardly perfect. Junyi spent so much time reading papers and implementing projects that he allocated little time for exercising or improving his spoken English. Scholarly passion and a sense of urgency seemed to have driven all other things away from him. Before we knew it he finished a great dissertation and went onto the job market. He was invited for several on-site interviews in the United States given his stellar research record, but unfortunately luck did not come to him this time. He was not bothered by the lack of luck in the interviews and was happy to go back to Taiwan and serve his people. In fact, I think going back
to Taiwan made him happier, like a fish being back in the water.

It was after he returned to Taiwan when I more clearly saw his sense of duty and service to his community. Being so energetic and capable, he soon “stepped into” administrative duties. He started to invite me to visit Taiwan for lectures and conferences. He also facilitated an agreement between his university and Renmin University of China. Over the years, I increasingly observed his exhaustion due to the administrative burdens. I know administrative services are not his passion, but his sense of public service motivation led him to devote everything he had. He demonstrated the best qualities of a traditional Chinese scholar.

Like many Western-trained scholars who come back to China for teaching, Junyi wanted to bridge the East and the West. Regardless of whether we should emphasize globalization, internationalization, glocalization, or localization, he was determined to apply what he learned in the States to the local problems in Taiwan. He was determined to prove to the world that stories from Taiwan were as interesting and informative as any others. And he was determined to help others to do the same. In the meantime, he published a lot in Taiwan’s own public administration journals, shaping the dialogue among domestic scholars. He did a great job in finding the balance.

Junyi was a loyal friend, a congenial colleague, and a caring family man. He was warm-hearted, never offensive, and always grateful. His departure is not only a big loss to the academic community, but more importantly to his family and friends. He has left us a long list of publications and the spirit to pursue high-quality research in solving the society’s problems. He will be remembered for his love, passion, spirit and friendship. And we will follow his steps in moving Chinese public administration research forward.

Remarks on Dr. Jun Yi Hsieh: As a Person and a Scholar
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Florida State University, USA

I was heartbroken to learn that Dr. Jun Yi Hsieh passed away June 3, 2019 after a valiant three year battle with cancer. I was very proud of Jun Yi and all he achieved as a well-known scholar in Taiwan and internationally. It was a great pleasure for me to be his major professor and to work with him on scholarly projects. Jun Yi loved to learn more than anyone I have ever known. He devoured new material and mastered it, seemingly at will without major effort. He was so smart, and worked so hard. Jun Yi was twice a doctor; he earned Ph.D.s in Public Administration from both Florida State University, USA, and National Chengchi University, Taiwan. And he quickly earned full professor in the Department of Social and Public Affairs at the University of Taipei, where he also served as Dean of International Programs for many years, establishing exchange programs and relationships with universities around the world.
Jun Yi mastered quantitative methods in social science research, and used them effectively to explore many questions related to management, policy and governance. While one might argue he was a methods specialist, I would also argue that he was most interested in the substantive topics of his research. The fact that he could always find the right method to use for the research questions and data was more secondary to him. Jun Yi also was willing to advise his friends and colleagues on methods and help people learn concepts and approaches for their own research. He was unselfish with his time. He always had time to help people and was kind to everyone.

In the process of reviewing Jun Yi’s body of academic research for this short essay, I was impressed by how many topics he wrote on and how many co-authors he worked with. Jun Yi’s dissertation at Florida State University examined “Local Government Management Innovation Nested by State Governments, Related to Local Service Delivery Contracting Out and Performance Management.” This was the first of a series of articles Jun Yi co-authored exploring performance management and contracting out. He was one of the earliest Taiwan scholars evaluate contracting out performance in Taiwan. He wrote on management innovation in other contexts as well, including studying Taipei’s nonemergency telephone service and Taiwan’s ICT Industry, and how managing citizen relationships could help improve service delivery and innovation in services. His studies on e-government and e-governance compared U.S. and Taiwan policies, and sought to understand how to help people learn to better use internet-based programs. A third area he contributed to was in job satisfaction, and human resource management. He studied the influence of individual-level and organizational-level factors on job satisfaction, as well as how collaboration impacted organizational performance. In many of these studies, he brought new methods of analysis including hierarchical linear modeling, and structural equation modeling to the analysis to improve the estimation of relationships and go beyond ordinary least square regression in estimating theoretical models.

Perhaps his last academic pieces are contained in this CPAR Symposium on “The Shape of Public Governance in Taiwan.” It is a fitting tribute to Jun Yi the man and the scholar, that he was working to bring high quality research and not-so-well known Taiwan scholars to the international public management audience. Jun Yi was proud of Taiwan public management and policy research, and the community of scholars working to advance knowledge in and on Taiwan. But he also was not satisfied with the state of public management research in Taiwan, especially regarding participation by Taiwan scholars in international journals and conferences. He always felt that the visibility Taiwan scholars receive at international conferences is important to attracting more international students to Taiwan universities, and to contribute to knowledge about public management and policy through comparative research.

It’s so sad to loose Dr. Jun Yi Hiseh at such a young age. He had much more to contribute to his students, colleagues, family and friends, the University of Taipei and international public management and policy research. But I am grateful to have known him for over fifteen years, and impressed with the wonderful legacy he left for our and the next generations of management scholars.
In Memoriam
Dr. Jun Yi Hsieh
(1973-2019)