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Title
Civic Engagement of Chinese Middle Class: More Likely to Volunteer Yet Less Likely to Vote?

Abstract
Civic engagement of middle class in an authoritarian state like China is of interest to most researchers. Previous research found that middle class in China have democratic expectation towards the self-government system, but they are less likely to be actively engaged in local self-government system compared to other classes (Chen & Lu, 2006). Yet, on the other hand, Chinese middle class seem to be more likely to volunteer or donate money compared to non-middle classes (Wu & Liu, 2014). However, no research has examined these two points using the same sample in a single study. Using a nationally representative dataset from the 2012 Chinese General Social Survey (CGSS), this research intends to examine the probability of China’s middle class to participate in local voting and in volunteering by using logistic regressions. The estimation results suggest that across different dimensions (education-based, income-based, subjective, or combined) of middle class measurements, China’s middle class are more likely to participate in philanthropic activities (volunteering), but meanwhile, less likely to participate in local voting compared to non-middle classes. It seems that compared to other classes, middle class in China have more interests in philanthropy than in politics. Middle class in China might have realized that the possibility to make the political system towards a more democratic and self-governed type is rare, yet the political risk of actively participating in the current political system with dissent values or actions is high. On the meanwhile, being a volunteer to contribute to the community is free of political risk and very meaningful to both themselves and the communities. Therefore, middle class in China are more likely to participate in philanthropic activities and community service rather than in political affairs, compared to other classes. This conclusion provides insights for better understanding the civic engagement behavior of Chinese middle class.
Keyword

Civic Engagement, Middle Class, Volunteering, Voting