HKU-USC-IPPA Conference on Public Policy

Paper Abstract

Abstract Number: T03P03-05

Panel

T03P03 - Theory and Practices of Institutional Collective Action Mechanism in Asia: Collective Problem Solving in Complex Metropolitan Governance

Author

Professor Jie Ma, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, China

Co-Author

Professor Liming Suo, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, China

Title

Inter-Provincial Institutional Collective Action in China; Service Characteristic, Network Structure and Local Strategy

Abstract

Local governments around the world are increasingly facing cross-boundary issues such as air pollution. These issues are of regional significance if the decision by one government in one or more functional areas has significant influence on other governments and other functional areas (Feiock 2013). Instead of resorting to the central government for solutions, local governments may collaborate with each other in a number of different ways to solve the cross-boundary policy issues. The number of the regional collaborative initiatives has increased globally (Savitch, Gross, and Ye 2014).

Institutional collective action (ICA, Feiock 2009;2013) theory’s focuses on governance dilemmas that result from fragmentation of authority and institutional mechanisms to solve these dilemmas provides a useful framework for understanding intergovernmental coordination problems that span multiple policy areas. Scholars of ICA have surveyed a range of institutional arrangements to configure effective channels to collaboration mainly within urban governments, where these arrangements take the forms of consolidation, partnerships, alliances, service networks, and informal networks (Scholz, Berardo, & Kyle, 2008; Chen, 2011; Feiock, 2008; Feiock & Jang, 2009; Feiock & Scholz, 2009; Kwon, 2008) . Network analysis has been used in it
broadly, network analysis focuses on relationships between individuals, and analyzes both how these relationships are structured and how alternative structures influence individual behavior (Wasserman and Faust 1994, Scott 1991). However, we still didn’t find the research on the relationship between macro level network structure and micro level ICA strategy. Provan and Kenis (2008) provides three kinds of organizational network structure, NAO, NLO and SG. In this paper, we want to find in different policy area, whether the collaborative network structure is different. We will adopt a network approach to explore inter-provincial collaboration. By using 192 inter-local agreements of the PPRD collaborative zone(2003-2013), we try to test the relationship among local governments’ ICA decision, policy area characteristic and interlocal collaborative network structure.

Reference


Keyword

Institutional collective action, Service characteristic, Network structure, Local strategy