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Paper Abstract

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T05P06 - The Influence of Public Opinion on Public Policy: Normative, Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives

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Title

Consultative Authoritarian Policy Making in China’s “Rule of Law” Context: A Case in Shenzhen

Abstract

China’s 35 years reform has opened the door for change in governance and policy-making system. It is significant to examine public and social policy making process in China, a unique case for authoritarian system in the world. However, current established or mature Western Model might not very suitable for delineating and scrutinizing the actual shape of ongoing evolution of China's governance system and policy-making process, especially considering China is vast enough to accommodate and entails significant variation among different localities.

This paper seeks to capture change toward consultative authoritarianism in China's "Rule of Law” Context. Consultative authoritarian system in China refers to collaboration between state and society in authoritarian context. By analyzing the recent case of “Adjusted Fee for Parking” (AFP, Tingche tiaojiefei), a local social-economic policy debate and negotiation in Shenzhen, one of the most developed city in China, the paper is an attempt to examine and analyze the negotiating process between local government and Chinese society from the perspective of institutional capacity and local legal culture.

The paper will divide into five parts: (1) Theoretical framework and justification for case selection. (2) Overview of the AFP policy debate in Shenzhen. (3) “Institutional Paternalism”, “Negotiating State” and “Rule of Law”: institutional perspective. (4) “New Bottle” and “Old Wine”: view from evolving local legal culture. (5) Summary and final remarks.
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LEGISLATION


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**Keyword**

Public and social policy debate in China, Consultative authoritarianism, Socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, State and society