

Call for Papers



Symposium edition on ‘Reform and Transition in Public Administration Theory and Practice in Greater China

Guest Editors

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Submission Deadline for Abstracts: 30th June 2009

In 2008 Mainland China celebrated 30 years of Openness and Reform. Since 1978 public administration theories and practice have played a major role in instigating the economic and social development in China. Simultaneously, reform of governance structures benefited greatly from the rapid economic development. Indeed, the interaction between economic and governance reform has characterized the entire reform and development process over the past 30 years, and singles out one of the important characteristics of the reform of public agencies and institutions. A second characteristic is the ongoing and centralized nature of decision-making and political control. These features separate the reform efforts in Mainland China from those seen elsewhere in the world. Reforms in Greater China are also not without important features—major political changes in Taiwan started in mid-1980s while the transitions in Hong Kong and Macao in late 1990s were also driven by new approaches to public administration.

Public administration and management reforms are extensively documented in the West. However, the role of public administration theory, research and practice in Greater China’s transition has not been properly recognized nor has it been systematically analyzed. The objective of this symposium edition is to bring together a group of leading scholars to present and debate these topics and to publish them in one of the leading international English language journals, *Public Administration*.

Papers may be theoretical (i.e. on the nature of reform in Greater China), methodological (doing research in Greater China, operationalizing concepts etc) or empirical (test of theories, evaluations etc.). They are likely to include the following topics:

- Government and business relationship;
- The growth of civil society and its impact on Mainland China’s transition;
- Administrative Reform within the government;
- The impact of IT on public governance;
- Central-local government relationship;

- Budgeting and public finance reform;
- Civil servant system reform;
- Crisis and disasters management;
- Performance management and evaluation; and,
- Innovation

The length of this list, which is by no means exhaustive, indicates the importance of this topic and the opportunity for the range of work on public administration in China.

Prior to manuscripts being sent out to review by the guest editors there will be a seminar. Selection of papers for the seminar will be based on abstracts of three to four pages (including references and tables etc.). Please send your abstract to Tsai-Tsu Su at tsaitsu@gmail.com by 30th June 2009.

Approximately fifteen abstracts will be selected for the symposium seminar. The symposium editors will inform scholars who have submitted abstracts for the symposium edition of their decisions by the 10th August 2009. Manuscripts for the seminar will be submitted to Richard M. Walker one month prior to the seminar. The intention is to hold the seminar at the University of Hong Kong between the 4th and 6th February 2010.

Following the seminar manuscripts will be submitted to *Public Administration* where they will undergo full blind peer review.

Questions about the symposium edition should be directed to any of the guest editors