Policy Entrepreneurship in Developing Countries

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special issue at Public Administration and Development

Guest editors: Paul Collins, Alex Jingwei He, Darryl S.L. Jarvis

This special issue of Public Administration and Development seeks to advance scholarly understanding of the processes and mechanisms of policy entrepreneurship in developing countries, which include low and medium income nations as well as economies in transition. Defined by John Kingdon (1995) in his seminal model of multiple streams as individuals willing to invest their resources—time, energy, reputation, and sometimes money—in return for future policies they favor, policy entrepreneurs have been thought to play a pivotal role in policy change. Representing a useful analytical framework in explaining the dynamics of policy reforms, the study of policy entrepreneurship has evolved from a loose metaphor to more sophisticated treatments, offering numerous empirical investigations in a wide range of sectoral contexts (water policy, health care, education, innovation, urban development, environment, etc.). (Mintrom & Norman 2009; Cariney & Jones 2016).

The inspiration for this special issue stems from the observation that many recent public sector reforms in developing countries involve “bold” entrepreneurial reformers—individual and institutional level—that are able to attack hard policy problems with new methods, and innovations in creating and applying novel government tools (Cummings 2015; Teets 2015; Zhu 2017). Conceptually, the notion of policy entrepreneurship entails unconventional and innovative ways of solving thorny public sector problems. Despite the fact that most studies on this subject were based on the Western context, there is no inbuilt necessity that policy entrepreneurs appear only in electoral democracies (Hammond 2013). In fact, the study of policy entrepreneurship in authoritarian states and transition economies has also yielded a rising body of knowledge (Ridde 2009; Shearer 2015; Cheng 2014; Zhu 2012).

Recent theoretical developments concerning policy entrepreneurship include: 1) the shift of analytical attention from a mere agency perspective to more in-depth scrutiny of the interplay
between agency and structure (Oborn et al. 2011; He 2018), and 2) the definitional expansion to street-level policy entrepreneurs and institutional entrepreneurship (Frisch-Avim et al. 2017; Bakir & Jarvis 2018; Argento et al. 2018). Despite these theoretical innovations, however, Mintrom and Norman (2009) have pointed out that further theoretical breakthroughs would benefit from both conceptual development to incorporate alternative approaches and more empirical testing, especially those of a comparative and quantitative type.

We encourage scholars to further explore the processes and mechanisms of policy entrepreneurship in the development context, linking theory and practice. Policy entrepreneurs may include individual actors such as politicians, policy-makers, bureaucrats, academics, and opinion leaders, and institutional actors such as think tanks, mass media, private entities, and international organizations. Research papers should examine the following aspects from either theoretical or empirical perspectives. Comparative analyses and quantitative studies are most encouraged.

➢ The role played by policy entrepreneurs in public sector reforms in developing countries, and the associated processes and characteristics
➢ The context, risks and barriers that policy entrepreneurs face to move forward innovations in the public sector,
➢ How do entrepreneurial reformers in developing countries “invent” and use new tools in order to achieve policy objectives, amidst various constraints?
➢ Have these innovations changed the existing typological frameworks of the government’s toolbox?
➢ How do policy entrepreneurs in developing countries differ from their counterparts in the developed world in terms of their behavioral traits and entrepreneurial strategies? What are the outcomes?

The Guest Editors cordially invite proposals for a special issue of Public Administration and Development to be titled Policy Entrepreneurship in Developing Countries. Selected authors will also be invited to present their papers at an international research symposium to be held in November 2018 in Guangzhou, China, as part of the Fifth International Conference on Social Policy and Governance Innovation.

Authors are strongly advised to read the key references listed below and access PAD webpage to familiarize with the journal scope (wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/pad).

Guest editors
Dr Paul Collins, Honorary Editorial Advisor, Public Administration & Development
Dr Alex Jingwei He, Associate Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education
University of Hong Kong; Associate Editor, *Journal of Asian Public Policy* (ESCI indexed)
Dr Darryl S.L. Jarvis, Professor, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong; Editor, *Policy & Society* (SSCI indexed)

**Schedule**
* Submission of abstracts for the special issue: June 30 2018
* Feedback on the abstract: July 30 2018
* Submission of first drafts of the papers: October 30 2018
* Research symposium in Guangzhou: November 2018 (exact dates TBC)
* Submission of the first revision: December 30 2018
* Feedback on the first revision: Jan 30 2019
* Submission of the second revision: April 30 2019

*Subject to the process of peer review, accepted papers may be published online first in the last quarter of 2019.*

**Format of contribution**
Extended abstracts should be between 300 and 500 words and should include the main points that will be covered in the research paper. Theories/perspectives, research methods, results and findings should also be briefly described. **Deadline: June 30 2018.**

The format of research papers should comply with the styles of *Public Administration & Development* ([http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1099-162X/homepage/ForAuthors.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1099-162X/homepage/ForAuthors.html))

Abstracts and papers should be in MS Word format and be submitted to Dr Alex Jingwei He at jwhe@eduhk.hk by email. Final submission of revised papers should be made directly to the online submission system at [https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pad](https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pad).

**Logistics**
The International Conference on Social Policy and Government Innovation is a flagship conference series jointly organized by the Education University of Hong Kong and South China University. Its fifth conference will be hosted in Guangzhou in November 2018. Local costs including accommodation and complimentary meals will be provided. Participants are responsible for their own travel costs. No registration fees will be charged.

**Key references**


