Call for papers

Government capacity, quality, and governance outcomes in the Asia Pacific region

Special Issue of Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration (APJPA)

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In recent years, scholars in the fields of public administration and political science have “rediscovered” the importance of public bureaucracies for understanding different levels of government performance and broader socioeconomic outcomes (Evans and Rauch 1999, Olsen 2006). There have been increasing number of studies which address the significance of the output side of the political system (i.e. public administration and policy implementation) rather than the input side (i.e. quality of electoral democracy) for favorable outcomes (Rothstein 2009). Recent theoretical and empirical studies have explored, for example, followings:

- foundations and compositions of quality of government and governance
- state and bureaucratic capacity
- cross-national variations in government capacity, quality, and effectiveness
- the effects of these institutional characteristics on broader outcomes such as socio-economic development, corruption prevention, policy implementation, regulatory quality and entrepreneurship, scientific productivity and innovation, economic activities or infrastructure efficiency, and environmental outcomes

*See references for example of previous studies

While there have been increasing number of studies on government capacity and bureaucratic quality focusing on areas beyond North America and Western Europe such as Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa, relatively little scholarly attention has been paid to the Asia Pacific area. Reflecting APJPA’s vision and commitment to promote the study of public governance and administration and management in and beyond Asia and the Pacific, we invite research that makes theoretical or empirical contributions to the study of government capacity, quality, and broader governance outcomes. More specifically, we are looking for papers that address, but not limited to, the following topics:

- To what extent do concepts such as government capacity, quality of government, and bureaucratic impartiality, which have been developed in the “Western” context, travel to the Asia Pacific region?
What are appropriate ways to measure government quality and bureaucratic capacity in the Asia Pacific region?

To what extent does government capacity, quality, and effectiveness differ across Asia Pacific countries?

How and to what extent do bureaucratic factors lead to governance outcomes in the Asia Pacific region?

How do bureaucracies in the Asia Pacific region differ from those in the other regions in terms of government capacity, bureaucratic structures, and effectiveness?

We welcome cross-national, cross-regional, and within-country studies. We also welcome diverse methodological approaches, depending on research question. The format of research papers should comply with the styles of research articles (5,000-9,000 words) of Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration. The special issue editors are happy to comment on ideas that scholars are considering. The Journal’s target audience comprises scholars, policy-makers and managers, including those engaged in education and research in the expanding MPA and DPA communities.

Proposed timeline:

- **November 1, 2020**: Submission of abstracts for the special issue:
  *Paper proposal (maximum 1,000 words) should be submitted to the special issue editors via email. Submissions are welcome before the deadlines.
- **December 15, 2020**: Decision on the abstract communicated to authors
- **March 15, 2021**: Complete paper submission via APJPA’s online manuscript submission system
  *Submissions are welcome before the deadlines. Manuscripts will undergo the journal’s normal peer review process.
- **September or December 2021**: Publication of the special issue

References


