

ISCE-GII 2014-15 Research Support Program

Projects Selected for Funding

(Awards made December 10, 2014)

The Design and Implementation of Trade Secret Protection in Transparency-based Environmental Regulation

Brian J. Cook, Professor, Center for Public Administration and Policy, Dawn Stoneking and L. Maria Ingram, Doctoral Students, Center for Public Administration and Policy, Robert Shaffer, Doctoral Student, Department of Political Science, University of Texas, Austin

The recent surge in the use of hydraulic fracturing to access major shale gas deposits in North and South America, Africa, central Europe, China, and Australia has sparked growing concerns about inadequate transparency in environmental regulation because drilling firms have made broad claims for protecting materials and processes as trade secrets. Governmental responses have varied considerably, raising questions about how to balance transparency and secrecy in public health and environmental policy. Through a comparative analysis of six cases, this project will investigate how regulatory bodies in national and subnational governments are implementing provisions protecting trade secrets in major environmental laws and regulations designed with rigorous requirements for transparency and information disclosure. The six-case analysis will allow the researchers to test and refine new theory and analytical methods regarding policy design and implementation. The ultimate aim is to build a global database, expanding the comparative analysis to many more cases where demands for transparency and secrecy clash in the environmental protection realm.

Rural-to-Urban Migration and Urbanization in China

Suqin Ge, Associate Professor, Department of Economics

China's spectacular economic growth over the past three decades has been associated with equally remarkable large rural-to-urban migration. While labor mobility was restricted by the household registration (*Hukou*) system and a food rationing system during the centrally planned regime, regulations governing internal migration were gradually relaxed with the progression of reform. In 2012, the total number of rural-to-urban migrant workers was estimated to be more than 230 million. This massive rural-to-urban migration is the world's largest human migration and is one defining feature of China's labor market. This project aims to assess how much the *Hukou* system of population registration and control affects the cost of migration in China and how much the rural-to-urban migration has affected China's urban employment and wage structures. A two-sector labor market equilibrium model will be used to study the relative importance of labor supply and demand factors and institutional reforms in the growth of the rural-to-urban migration in China.

Reaching Low Income Malaysians with Community-based Type 2 Diabetes Education

Kathy Hosig, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Public Health Practice and Research, Department of Population Health Sciences, Dr. Tin Tin Su, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Population Health and Dr. Hazreen Bin Abdul Majid, Senior Lecturer (nutrition), Department of Social and Preventive Health, University of Malaya

Prevalence of type 2 diabetes in 2010 was 10.3% in the United States and 11.6% in Malaysia, among the highest in the world. Poorly controlled diabetes is associated with complications affecting the nerves, heart, brain, eyes, and kidneys, resulting in increased medical expenses. Lifestyle interventions to control type 2 diabetes through weight loss, improved diet and increased physical activity have been successful and cost-effective. Balanced Living with Diabetes, an evidence-based, community-based lifestyle intervention for type 2 diabetes developed by Virginia Cooperative Extension and tailored for the Malaysian population, will be tested with one group of participants in a low income residential area of Malaysia and further adapted. A follow up randomized control trial with four participant groups will provide preliminary data to plan a larger study. Collaboration among U.S. and Malaysian researchers may identify universal characteristics of community-based diabetes self-management interventions that could have local, national and international significance.

Between Development and Globality: Cities as Growth Engines in India

Rohan Kalyan, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

India's turn to economic liberalization over the past two and a half decades has been accompanied by a corresponding urban turn, in which cities are increasingly seen as key drivers of economic growth. Yet Indian cities are marked by severe forms of inequality and uneven development, with vast sections of the urban populace living in precarious conditions. As cities globalize by attracting foreign investment and building modern infrastructures they also must contend with the material conditions of the urban poor that constitute the vast majority of the city. This project is a case-study of the capital city of New Delhi that shows the challenges of becoming a global city in the context of vast socio-economic inequality. It analyzes governmental and non-governmental strategies of shifting the image and identity of the city from developmental to global so as to better facilitate India's larger integration in the world economy.

Radical Interventions of Learning in China for Shaping Education Policy and the Civic Society

Carol A. Mullen, Professor, School of Education

China's educational approach has been characterized as formulaic rather than one that mindfully crafts the learning environment. Even so, some in the U.S. consider China to be a model of educational success based on the relatively higher performance of Chinese students on international test scores. Consequently, current shifts in U.S. education policy have exerted pressure on schools and states to standardize instruction that focuses on narrow measures of scholastic achievement. Meanwhile, China's rigid education system

has come under criticism in recent years, even by its leaders, as primarily a means for supplying labor markets at the expense of preparing people to solve complex, open-ended problems and of making other social gains. In this project, field research carried out from June-July 2015 in universities in China will permit exploration of how leaders and educators in China are envisioning learning as a more creative, critical, and inclusive enterprise.