**Exploring Institutional Capacity in Neighborhood Governance: Case Study of Taipei**

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by

**Miss SUN Xiaoyi**

*PhD Student*

Department of Public and Social Administration
City University of Hong Kong

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<th>Date:</th>
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<td>Time:</td>
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<td>Venue:</td>
<td>B7516 (SA Conference Room), 7/F, Blue Zone, Academic Building City University of Hong Kong (Please use Lift No. 8)</td>
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Transforming urban governance has spawned a significant number of studies for the implications for the rescaling of governance arenas and the restructuring of power relations. Fragmented governing processes are highlighted in which various experiments are taken in different localities. Institutional capacity is adopted as an intermediate level analytical tool to explore interactive processes between spatial structures and actors’ initiatives. It looks into how stakeholders come into collective action focused around the transformation of governance. Different kinds of institutional capacities produce diverse governing patterns.

Based on three months participant observation in Taipei, two kinds of institutional capacities are identified: vertical mobilizing capacity and horizontal mobilizing capacity. Vertical mobilizing capacity refers to the capacity to mediate between governments and political parties to get support for neighborhood development. This depends on whether neighborhood leaders can grasp appropriate timing to make demands to the government, or make long-term reciprocal relation with politicians. Horizontal mobilizing capacity is the capacity to bind local residents and neighborhood stakeholders together to face neighborhood common affairs. Holding routine neighborhood activities and constructing a common agenda are effective ways to engage social partners in the neighborhood. And lastly a typology is put forward to illustrate nuanced relationship between institutional capacity and urban governance.

Keywords: urban governance, institutional capacity, Taipei

Enquiries: Miss Cris TSAI
Tel. No.: 3442 8802  Email: lytsai@cityu.edu.hk
(Free admission)

All are welcome!