

The University of Hong Kong

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Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

Implementation of Authentic Participatory Budgeting: Empirical Evidence from American Municipal Governments

Although the literature has discussed how to maximize opportunities and channels for citizens to become informed, educated, and heard in the budgeting process, a concern has emerged that a symbolic process of citizen involvement might be taking place, unless the government officials are committed to incorporating citizen input in budget decisions. This research investigates the following questions: To what extent do municipal managers incorporate citizen input in budget decisions? Will various participation mechanisms equally lead to participatory budgeting? And, how does municipal managers' perception matter in determining the level of participatory budgeting? Survey data from municipal managers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania are used for the empirical analysis.

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Yahong Zhang is an Associate Professor in School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA), and Director of Rutgers Institute on Anti-Corruption Studies (RIACS) at Rutgers University in Newark. She received PhD from Florida State University. Her research interests include politics-administration relationships, government transparency, citizen participation, anti-corruption strategies, and human resources management in local government. Her articles have appeared in *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (JPART)*, *Public Administration Review (PAR)*, *the American Review of Public Administration (ARPA)*, *Public Performance & Management Review (PPMR)*, and etc. Her edited book *Government Anti-Corruption Strategies: A Public Solutions Handbook*, as a part of ASPA's series of Public Solution Handbooks, will be published by M.E. Sharp in 2014. Dr. Zhang teaches Quantitative Methods to doctoral students and Applied Statistics to MPA students in SPAA. She received Julia J. Henderson International Award from Section for Women in Public Administration (SWPA), American Society for Public Administration, in 2012.

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Time: 4:30 pm

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