

Comparison Study of Environmental Participation between China and the U.S

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Research Background

- Environmental Protection has become a bottleneck for China's sustainable development. The quality of environment affects people's quality of life. The current environmental protection system and regulatory regime need to be reformed in order to optimize the interest of the general public. We should restructure a bottom-up, instead of the existing top-down, regulatory mechanism, and encourage active social participation in environmental protection.

Research Background

- The paper uses empirical evidence to demonstrate the motivation of civil environmental organization participation, and makes policy recommendations on how to incentivize and empower civil groups.
- The data of this study comes from two sources: the 2012 World Value Survey and 2013 Chinese General Social Survey
- Each survey has a module for environmental awareness and environmental participation

Literature Review

- Environmental Awareness Measurement: Dunlap\Van Liere(1978): New Environmental Paradigm;
- New Ecological Paradigm(2000)
- Dunlap & Van Liere, 1978; Dunlap et al, 2000)
- Post-material Value: (Inglehart, 1977, 1995)
- NIMBY and Pollution-Orientated Awareness: (Stern, Dietz & Kalof, 1993)

Literature Review

- Env Awareness and Env Participation (王民, 1999; 任莉颖, 2002; 沈立军, 2008; 周志家, 2008)
- Env cooperativeness and Env Participation (White, 1993: 68; Schmitter, 1979: 9、13; 李略, 1999)

Research Questions

- Who are environmental activists?
- What is their major environmental concern
- Why they participate?

Hypotheses of Environmental Participation

- ■ Hypo1: the higher environmental awareness score is, the higher the possibility of NGO participation;
- ■ Hypo2: the lower gov. trust and confidence score is, the higher the possibility of NGO participation;
- ■ Hypo3: the higher political activeness score is, the higher the possibility of NGO participation;

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AGE Difference

	US	CHINA
AGE		
Mean	50.62	44.86
SD	17.30	16.37
Age Group	percent	percent
15-29	17.1	18.8
30-49	25.4	43.4
50 and more	57.5	37.8

Comparison Study of Environmental Participation between China and the U.S EDU Difference

	US	China
EDU	Percent	Percent
Lower Edu	3.1	17.3
Middle Edu	35.5	47.9
Higher Edu	61.4	34.8

Comparison Study of Environmental Participation between China and the U.S Social Status Difference

	China	US
Social Status	Percent	Percent
Upper Class	1.8	10.1
Upper Middle	17.8	25.4
Lower Middle	44.1	52.4
Lower Class	29.9	11.1
Extremely Poor	6.3	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0

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Analysis

- First, in China, the environmental awareness is relatively low among the general public, and env activists are more concerned about neighborhood environmental pollution instead of the idea of environmental protection;
- Second, in China, environmental participation is more about "rights protection", not the improvement of overall environmental quality;
- Thirdly, in China, environmental activists are more likely to have low confidence and trust toward government, high possibility of active political participation, and less likely to set their target towards business
- Conclusion: Is ENV Cooperativeness possible in China?

Thank You!