

Sociologists' Corner of Community Studies: a Retrospection of Japanese Rural Sociology

Naoya Nakasuji

Abstract

I have a question that community studies today may not appreciate an importance of sociological perspective about them by contrast to their urgent interests by recovery of the largest disaster and anti-globalism.

To clarify the contribution of sociology to community studies, I consider two theories in Japanese rural sociology about structure of local community. One is Eitaro Suzuki's "Natural Community Theory" and the other is Kizaemon Aruga's "Association of Families Theory".

I come to the conclusion that sociology can clarify that community has a long-term nature of publicness against short-term nature of personal interests, and a diverse nature of publicness by coexisting strange people and estranged environment.

What is a Contemporary Meaning of the Question; “Is There Any Public Policy in the International Society?”

Naruhiko Takesada

Abstract

This article discusses a contemporary meaning of the question; “Is there any public policy in the international society?” In the past, this question was to search for a solution to the most imminent human crisis, namely the coming world war. That solution sought for was also to create new world society that has both a governing system as the world government and common value system among different nations. In the present day under globalization, this question is to bring a new recognition of our relationship with society. As in a society in contemporary nation states, international society can be perceived as a dynamic process towards which people can act and exercise its influence. Also, it may remind us that international society is not to homogenize our plurality and diversity as a static framework of our thought and action. Finally, the question is now to bring new opportunity to reflect our relationship with others in the world.

Thoughts on Decentralization in Administration of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Government: Case Example of Policy for Small- and Medium-sized Companies

Masashi Katoh

Abstract

This paper analyzes decentralization in the administration of the Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Government, and considers policy for small- and medium-sized companies as an example.

The paper also evaluates the individuals toward whom policy for small- and medium-sized companies is aimed and the ideal shape of that policy from a regional perspective.

Originally, the Small and Medium Enterprise Act was established in 1963 with a view toward correcting the gap between large companies and small- and medium enterprises.

However, regional measures taken under this act were nothing more than efforts made within the framework of central control.

The Small and Medium Enterprise Act was later amended in 1999, and the roles and responsibilities of local governments in the revitalization of regional economies grew by leaps and bounds.

The *Law for the Promotion of Decentralization* was also implemented in that year, and in conjunction with the Local Government Act, the relationship between local governments and the national government became equal. Policy for small- and medium-sized companies (an industrial policy) became the complete responsibility of local governments.

Within this context, this paper outlines efforts by the national and local governments to formulate policy for small- and medium-sized companies as well as discusses the theory of decentralization that underlies policy for small- and medium-sized companies.

Finally, building on this analysis, the paper offers suggestions on how the policy for small- and medium-sized companies should be designed for national and local governments.

Construction of Waste Management System for Corporate Social Responsibility

Tomoaki Gamou

Abstract

The waste is the environmental risk that is serious in all companies.

Waste Management and Public Cleaning Law disposal strengthened the responsibility to the company which exhausted waste to the social situation.

A purpose of the methods of waste disposal is that company oneself takes responsibility until the last disposal of the waste without modelling it with a company exhausting waste leaving it to a supplier to entrust with processing.

A law was revised in 2010, and the fine for the illegal dumping by the company was subtracted from 100 million yen to 300 million yen.

It becomes severe penal regulations.

If a company was related to an accident to be related to waste, I lose social trust and will be accompanied by a big loss.

I raise the knowledge of the law to be related to waste as a person of discharge of the waste so that a company evades a risk and the damage of the waste, and establishment of the waste management is necessary.

In this article, I discuss it for the correspondence for the laws such as methods of waste disposal and confirm it about business of the management for the waste risk as the company and the choice of the trust supplier of the industrial waste.

And I consider correspondence of the waste as the company at a point of view of the corporate social responsibility.

In late years there are the original regulations of the metropolis and districts while a law to be related to environment becomes complicated more and more widely, and regulation has been strengthened.

In corporate social responsibility, the management about the waste is an important problem, and it is the item which is necessary in doing operation continuously as the company to do compliance.

A certain policy by the top management of the company is required in that.

It is simple, and the risk to be related to waste arranges the system of administration while all the employees belonging to the company as well as the person in charge of the waste deepened enough knowledge and recognition and proposes it to wrestle positively.

And I want to propose it about the problems about the countermeasure in each area in the method of waste disposal.

Factors that Render the One Village One Product Movement Sustainable

Kanako Mukai and Ryo Fujikura

Abstract

The One Village One Product movement originated in Oita Prefecture, Japan, and has been recognized as significant measure in promoting the local economy. Not all efforts, however, have resulted in the same level of sustainability. Oita Prefecture, Japan, built its movement on three principles: local yet global, self-reliance & creativity, and human resource development. Interviews and a literature survey were conducted to show that this project satisfies the three principles and is sustainable. Local leaders that are able to implement participants' ideas are also required. Amongst sustainable movements are facilitators who both support and encourage the leader and participants.

**Community, Market, and Civil Society in Civic Conservatism:
David G. Green's Notion of Civil Society**

Taku Yamamoto

The article analyses civic conservatives' notion of civil society. The term "civic conservatism" is coined by Jeremy Kendall for referring to one of the views on the state and its relationship with the voluntary sector. The view is epitomized by David G. Green. The paper articulates Green's notion of civil society by correlating it with his thought on community and free market in the context of the reforms of medical and community care in the 1980s and the early 1990s.

The Concept of Citizen in the Theory of “Civil Politics”

Tamotsu Hosoi

Abstract

This essay is based on a paper presented at the 38th “Hosei University Graduate School Municipal Policy Seminar” on Oct. 2013. This seminar continues since the 1970s, when public policy graduate schools were not so usual as today. So this seminar is one of the pioneers of such graduate schools. My paper summarized the definition of citizen in the theory, which lies at the foundation of this seminar over 30 years.

Can the concept of citizen, which has its modern origins in the 17th and 18th century European history, be universal? Against this question the theory of “civil politics” argues that the concept of citizen was indeed a historical or cultural particular concept but its values that were shown there were universal. However, is it possible that an abstract concept of citizen, which has been separated from the original historical and cultural context, takes root on other historical or cultural soil? Or is it appropriate to discuss the concept of citizen as a norm, without taking man’s economical act into consideration as a premise? As long as the premise will not be considered critically, the concept of citizen remains in the man type based on labor, ownership, and exchange. Therefore, a possibility of social relations based on gift for example will be missed.

The theory of “civil politics” has been confronted since the 19th century with criticism that has been raised from socialism and since the first half of the 20th century problems from mass society. However, since the second half of the 20th Century it is also faced with criticism and problems that have been raised from ecology, feminism, and multiculturalism. “Civil politics” is required to respond to these too.

A Study on the Status Quo and Issues of Public Policy Research in China

Bai Zhili

Abstract

This paper addresses the status quo and issues of research on public policy in China. The first part of this paper describes the evolution of public policy research in China. The paper further examines the status quo of public policy research in China focusing on the latest research results. In the last part, the paper concludes the emerging issues of China's public policy research from three aspects: localization of public policy research, deepening of the research on public policy process and education on public policy.

Keywords: China; Research on Public Policy; Public Administration; Political Science; Modernization

**The Political Priority of Infrastructure Development in the Framework of Remote Islands Development:
Discussion on Public Works in the Continual Amendment of Remote Islands Development Act**

Asako Oishi

Abstract

Remote Islands Development Act is a prototype of the framework of Regional Development policy in Japan. The characteristic point is an exceptionally high percentage of government-sponsored subsidy rate for infrastructure development in specific area, and an effort to ensure the total amount of the budget for that area, as well. After World War II, the need for redevelopment of the remaining territory caused an attention to the remote islands from the central government. At the same time, spreading of an idea of the national minimum rights, in this case, the idea that the inconvenience derived from an isolation as the geographical disadvantage should be overcome, encouraged an enactment. The budget has been increased and the request for development extended from infrastructure to medical care, education, local culture promotion and so on. A new concept is needed in the field of infrastructure development policy.

The Current Status and Problems of Staff System in Welfare Office

Motoda Hiroki

Abstract

The Public Assistance Act, enforced in 1950, is one of the social security systems and has been fulfilling the important role as a safety net in Japan. The main recipient class is a household with decreased income by older age, injury/sickness or unemployment. In recent years, since the number of households with below minimum living standard has been increasing due to aging society and change of social structure, the number of household for social security recipient reaches a record-high as the result.

The purpose of the Public Assistance Act is to guarantee the individual right to live prescribed in the constitution and to assist the individual self-sustainability. However, over 60 years have been passed after the enforcement, and when we attempt to apply this system to the current needy people, the result would be contradiction and limitation occurred in the circumstance.

In this article, with overview of the Public Assistance Act, we discuss the issues from an aspect of the legal institution and a viewpoint of official's expertise in charge of this system by extracting and improving the issues in the current situation. In addition, with the premise of the limited financial resource for social security and the unreality to demand a large budget increase, we discussed the enforcement range of the government agency for public policy as well as the efficient rearrangement of the current framework, and then successfully confirmed the important factors for the resolution to use the present social resources effectively.

Keywords: Public Assistance, caseworker, self-support, Welfare Office, specialty of the staff