

Scholarly Showcase

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY

SOCIAL AND URBAN POLICY

ECONOMIC POLICY



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY

Jack Linzhou Xing, **Naubahar Sharif**.
 “A processual approach to skill changes
 in digital automation: The case of the
 platform economy in the service sector.”
Research Policy (54), 2025.



Sivarudran Pillai, Vishnu, and **Kira Matus**.
 “Regulatory solutions to alleviate the risks
 of generative AI models in qualitative
 research.” *Journal of Asian Public Policy*
 (2024): 1-24.



FOCUS OF STUDY

The article introduces a “processual approach” to analyze skill changes due to digital automation, specifically in the context of the platform economy within the service sector. It examines how automation impacts the skills of workers in conventional taxi services compared to ride-hailing platforms. Through empirical case studies, the authors argue that rather than replacing skills, automation repositions and refocuses them, as workers adapt to algorithmic judgments and manage unpredictable events. The study highlights the importance of understanding the nuanced interplay between technology and human agency in skill development, particularly in service work.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Policymakers should establish skill-related standards through collaborative analysis with platforms and workers, ensuring these standards are incorporated into algorithmic rules. Additionally, promote transparency in algorithmic operations and conduct regular audits to empower frontline workers and enhance their skill development opportunities.

FOCUS OF STUDY

The article examines the implications of generative AI models in qualitative research, focusing on their potential risks and the need for regulatory solutions. Through qualitative analysis, including interviews with researchers and a review of existing AI policies in various countries, the authors identify key risks affecting reviewers, researchers, and research respondents. These risks include data integrity issues, biases, lack of transparency, and privacy concerns. The study highlights the necessity for a regulatory framework that can manage these risks effectively while promoting the responsible use of generative AI tools in research. The findings suggest that current policies may not adequately address the unique challenges posed by generative AI, emphasizing the importance of tailored interventions.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To mitigate risks associated with generative AI in qualitative research, establish clear regulatory frameworks mandating transparency, bias audits, and accountability measures. Encourage collaboration between researchers and regulatory bodies to ensure ethical standards and effective oversight in the use of AI technologies.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY

Lejano, Raul P., and Wing Shan Kan. Interpretive Approaches to Policy Analysis: Hermeneutics for Our Times. *Springer Nature*, 2025.



Capano, Giliberto, **Alex Jingwei He,** and Sean McMinn. “Riding the tide of generative artificial intelligence in higher education policy: an Asian perspective.” *Journal of Asian Public Policy* (2025): 1-15.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This book introduces advanced students and researchers to interpretive methods for analyzing public policies. It highlights several real-world policy situations where a lack of interpretive focus limits analysis and hinders effective policy responses. The authors advocate for an integrative perspective that allows dialogue between interpretive and positivist approaches. This integrative approach enhances the understanding of data while uncovering hidden ideological and normative foundations. By emphasizing the importance of context and meaning, the study aims to enrich policy analysis and improve decision-making processes.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The authors recommend adopting an interpretive framework in policy analysis to foster deeper policy insights and foster engagement with policy actors. This approach can reveal diverse perspectives and underlying ideologies, leading to more effective and contextually relevant policy solutions.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This study examines the integration of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) in higher education policy within an Asian context, particularly focusing on the challenges and opportunities it presents. It reviews ten articles that analyze the effects of GenAI on teaching, learning, and research, emphasizing the diverse educational landscape in Asia. The authors highlight the dual nature of GenAI, showcasing its potential to enhance personalized learning and streamline administrative processes while also raising concerns about ethical issues, equity, and the risk of diminishing critical thinking skills. By synthesizing findings from various perspectives, the paper proposes actionable strategies for policymakers to effectively navigate the integration of GenAI in higher education, ensuring that its benefits are maximized while mitigating associated risks.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Policymakers should develop comprehensive guidelines for the responsible integration of GenAI in higher education, emphasizing equity, ethical practices, and capacity building. Collaborative frameworks should be established to ensure inclusive access to GenAI resources and promote continuous adaptation to evolving educational needs.



Jingwei He, Alex, Zhuoni Zhang, Pritish Anand & Sean McMinn. "Embracing generative artificial intelligence tools in higher education: A survey study at the Hong Kong university of science and technology." *Journal of Asian Public Policy* (2025): 1-25.



Soares, Ian Varela, **Masaru Yarime**, and Magdalena M. Klemun. "Estimating GHG emissions from cloud computing: sources of inaccuracy, opportunities and challenges in location-based and use-based approaches." *Climate Policy* (2025): 1-19.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This study investigates students' behavioral and perceptual experiences with ChatGPT at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). By surveying 680 students, it evaluates the frequency of ChatGPT usage, intentions for future use, and perceptions regarding its impact on learning outcomes and career development. The research also examines variations based on demographic factors such as gender, age, discipline, and campus location. The findings reveal significant usage patterns and positive perceptions among students, highlighting the role of AI literacy in enhancing engagement with generative AI tools.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Universities should integrate AI literacy into their curricula, ensuring all students benefit from AI tools like ChatGPT. Targeted training programs should address demographic disparities to promote equitable access and effective use of these technologies.

FOCUS OF STUDY

The paper investigates the challenges and inaccuracies in estimating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cloud computing, focusing on the discrepancies between location-based and use-based accounting methods. It highlights four main sources of estimation risks, particularly the geographical separation between cloud operations and usage. The study emphasizes the need for accurate emissions accounting frameworks to ensure responsible climate action. By proposing a use-based emissions attribution model and identifying policy interventions such as stricter reporting rules, eco-labeling, and carbon border adjustments, the authors aim to enhance the accuracy of GHG emissions reporting for cloud services.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To improve GHG emissions accounting in cloud computing, implement stricter reporting standards, promote eco-labeling for transparency, and establish carbon border adjustments to address discrepancies between carbon exporters and importers. These measures will enhance the accuracy and accountability of emissions reporting.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY

Yoshino, Miyana, Benjamin Sadlek, **Masaru Yarime**, Adnan Ali. "Knowledge absorption pathways for eco-innovation: an empirical analysis of small and medium-sized enterprises in the European Union." *European Journal of Innovation Management* 28.2 (2025): 426-453.



Lejano, R.P., and Kan, W.S. "Conjectures on a relational turn in policy studies." *Policy Sciences* 58, 385–401 (2025).



FOCUS OF STUDY

This study examines the factors influencing the adoption of proactive eco-innovations (EIs) among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in resource-intensive sectors across the European Union (EU). By utilizing a national innovation system (NIS) perspective, the research analyzes determinants at three levels: micro (environmental awareness), meso (external collaboration and intra-industry agglomeration), and macro (economic complexity, trade openness, and government R&D). Data from a survey of 6,188 SMEs revealed that while public awareness and economic complexity positively influenced proactive EI adoption, external collaboration and sectoral agglomeration had a negative impact. The findings highlight the importance of understanding external knowledge absorption processes in promoting eco-innovation.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Polymakers should enhance public awareness and support for R&D while reconsidering the role of external collaborations in eco-innovation strategies. Tailored policies that foster a conducive environment for proactive EIs can help SMEs effectively transition towards sustainable practices.

FOCUS OF STUDY

In this conceptual piece, the authors lay the groundwork for a relational "turn" in policy studies, which involves analyzing how policy emerges from the "working and reworking of relationships among policy actors". As discussed, the roots of the relational approach are found in earlier work on implementation, street-level bureaucrats, practice, and network governance. This semi-review discusses some strong theoretical assumptions found in relational sociology and other fields. It then ends with some baseline propositions that most (or all) policy scholars can begin with as they consider how relational approaches can further their own research.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The authors recommend more widespread use of a relational perspective on policy phenomena, as it can help explain what otherwise appear as anomalies in policy design and implementation. Practitioners and researchers alike can benefit from understanding the role of relationality in the life of policy.



Zhu, Jing, Debra F. Laefer, **Raul P. Lejano**, Peter Gmelch, Evan O'Keeffe, Kshitij Chandna. "From 2D to 3D: Flood risk communication in a flood-prone neighborhood via dynamic, isometric street views." *Progress in Disaster Science* (2025): 100419.

Laefer, Debra F., Evan O'Keeffe, Kshitij Chandna, Kim Hertz, Jing Zhu, **Raul Lejano**, Anh Vu Vo, Michela Bertolotto, Ulrich Ofterdinger. "Low-Cost, LiDAR-Based, Dynamic, Flood Risk Communication Viewer." *Remote Sensing* 17.4 (2025): 592.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This study examines the integration of national climate policy in Ethiopia, particularly focusing on the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) policy introduced in 2011. It analyzes the progress and barriers to Climate Policy Integration (CPI), emphasizing the need for coordinated actions across various sectors. The research highlights the challenges posed by siloed institutional cultures and fluctuating governance structures, which hinder effective policy implementation. Through qualitative methods, including document analysis and interviews with key informants, the study reveals that while there has been some advancement in integrating climate goals into development policies, significant obstacles remain. These include inconsistent policy framing, competing economic priorities, and inadequate climate finance. The findings stress the importance of a stable governance framework and enhanced cooperation among policy actors to foster a holistic approach to climate policy.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Ethiopia should restore the environmental ministry's status to facilitate better climate policy coordination and ensure consistent funding and scientific expertise. Additionally, an organized information-sharing framework is essential to enhance collaboration and reduce inconsistencies across climate policies.

FOCUS OF STUDY

The study focuses on developing a low-cost, LiDAR-based flood risk communication viewer that enhances public understanding of flood risks through dynamic, three-dimensional visualizations. It addresses the limitations of traditional 2D flood maps, which often fail to effectively convey the severity and dynamics of flooding. By utilizing high-resolution point clouds and advanced algorithms, the proposed method enables hyper-local, geometrically accurate representations of flood scenarios, including variations in water color, texture, and motion. The research highlights the need for improved risk communication strategies, particularly in urban areas prone to flooding, and demonstrates the effectiveness of 3D visualizations in engaging community members and facilitating better evacuation and preparedness decisions.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The authors recommend adopting 3D visualization tools for flood risk communication to replace traditional 2D maps. This approach should be integrated into public awareness campaigns to enhance understanding and compliance with evacuation orders, especially in vulnerable communities.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY

Yang, Liang, **Yan Xu**, and Pan Hui.
"Framing metaverse identity:
A multidimensional framework for governing
digital selves." *Telecommunications Policy*
49.3 (2025): 102906.



FOCUS OF STUDY

The metaverse, as an emerging digital ecosystem, is redefining the boundaries between physical and virtual realities, offering both challenges and opportunities for societal and personal growth. This study contributes to metaverse governance discourse by proposing a multidimensional framework for understanding and regulating Metaverse Identity, defined as a user's digital self encompassing personal attributes, data footprints, social roles, and economic elements. The framework introduces two guiding principles: Equivalence and Alignment, emphasizing coherence between digital and real-world identities to enhance accountability and legal clarity, and Fusion and Expansiveness, advocating for creative, inclusive identity expression beyond traditional constraints. These principles address key governance challenges, including identity interoperability, privacy management complexities, risks from deepfakes, and identity fragmentation.

By bridging theoretical gaps, this study offers a foundation for future research and strategies to guide the ethical and inclusive evolution of the metaverse.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Policymakers should develop adaptive governance frameworks that balance regulatory oversight with flexibility in identity expression. These frameworks must address challenges such as privacy, interoperability, and ethical risks while safeguarding mental health, fostering inclusivity, and encouraging innovation to ensure a fair and forward-thinking metaverse ecosystem.

Huang, Linus Ta-Lun, Gleb Papyshev, and **James K. Wong**. "Democratizing value alignment: From authoritarian to democratic AI ethics." *AI and Ethics* 5.1 (2025): 11-18.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This paper addresses the critical issue of value alignment in AI systems, highlighting two main challenges: ensuring that AI understands human values and determining which values should be prioritized. It critiques existing approaches like reinforcement learning with human feedback (RLHF) and Constitutional AI for their lack of transparency and inclusivity, which can result in biased outcomes reflecting only dominant perspectives. The study proposes a Dynamic Value Alignment approach that enhances users' moral and epistemic agency, allowing them to exert greater control over the values that guide AI behavior. By modeling moral reasoning as a dynamic process, this framework aims to democratize AI ethics, ensuring that a diverse array of human values are represented in AI systems.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Policymakers should promote the adoption of the Dynamic Value Alignment approach in AI development, ensuring that value selection processes are transparent, inclusive, and participatory. This will help mitigate biases and enhance accountability in AI systems, reflecting a broader spectrum of human values.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Döme, Viktória, Weronika Cycak, and **Kira JM Matus**. "Variations in innovation strategies for sustainable development: Sustainable innovation policy instrument mixes of ten small OECD countries across five sectors." *Research Policy* 54.6 (2025): 105234.



Bimir, Mathias Nigatu, and **Kira JM Matus**. "From silos to joined-up government? Examining national climate policy integration in Ethiopia." *Climate Policy* (2025): 1-13.

FOCUS OF STUDY

The article analyzes variations in sustainable innovation strategies among ten small OECD countries across five sectors: agriculture, water, health, energy, and manufacturing. By synthesizing a dataset of 1,722 policy interventions from 2008 to 2020, the authors assess how different governments use policy mixes to support innovation aimed at sustainable development. The study highlights distinct strategies, such as Nordic countries' emphasis on coordinated market economies and targeted R&D funding, contrasting with Israel and New Zealand's focus on direct firm support. The findings reveal gaps in innovation policy, particularly in production support and technology adoption across sectors, indicating a need for more comprehensive strategies to achieve sustainability objectives.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Governments should align innovation strategies with concrete implementation plans, emphasizing support for production facilities and technology adoption across all sectors. Additionally, fostering public-private partnerships and enhancing collaboration can ensure effective scaling of sustainable innovations, ultimately contributing to long-term economic and environmental goals.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This article examines Climate Policy Integration (CPI) in Ethiopia, focusing on the progress and barriers since the adoption of the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) policy in 2011. Through qualitative case analysis, including interviews and document reviews, the study explores how climate goals are integrated into various policy sectors and the challenges posed by silo institutional cultures. It identifies the importance of cross-sectoral governance structures and the influence of political leadership in framing climate policy. While there has been progress in policy integration, issues such as unstable governance, inadequate climate finance, and competing economic priorities hinder effective implementation. The study emphasizes the need for coordinated information sharing and stable institutional frameworks to enhance CPI.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Ethiopia should restore the environmental ministry to ministerial status to strengthen climate policy coordination. Additionally, establishing a robust information-sharing framework among policy actors can enhance collaboration, reduce inconsistencies, and promote effective implementation of climate goals across sectors.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Kobashi, Takuro, Eric Zusman, Makoto Taniguchi, **Masaru Yarime**. "Facilitating a carbon neutral transition in Kyoto: Initiatives on rooftop photovoltaics integrated with electric vehicles." *Technology in Society* 80 (2025): 102774.



Evans, James P., Davide Cassanmagnago, Tathagata Chatterji, Andrew Irvin, Benjamin Jance IV, Cathy Oke, Massamba Thioye, Gregory Patrick Trencher, Elvira Uyarra, **Masaru Yarime**. "Grand challenges in sustainable cities: urban innovation for global climate and sustainability goals—from policy agenda to research needs." *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities* 7 (2025): 1568701.

FOCUS OF STUDY

The paper explores the potential for integrating rooftop photovoltaics (PVs) with electric vehicles (EVs) in Kyoto, Japan, to facilitate a carbon-neutral transition. It synthesizes technical, economic, and qualitative analyses to assess the "SolarEV City Concept," which aims to use EVs as batteries to enhance energy storage and support urban decarbonization. The study highlights the importance of stakeholder collaboration and governance in overcoming barriers to implementing this niche technology. It identifies challenges such as land constraints, population decline, and the need for supportive policy frameworks while emphasizing the role of local initiatives, like the Kyoto Miraimon Project, in driving these transitions.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To facilitate the "PV + EV" integration, policymakers should promote collaborative governance frameworks that engage multiple stakeholders, streamline regulatory processes, and incentivize investments in renewable energy technologies, ensuring equitable access and community involvement in the transition to carbon neutrality.

FOCUS OF STUDY

The paper examines the role of urban innovation in achieving global climate and sustainability goals. It highlights the need for cities to lead in innovation to address local challenges while contributing to broader sustainability objectives. The authors define urban innovation as a collaborative process involving diverse stakeholders in cities. They emphasize the importance of a systems approach to governance, scaling successful initiatives, and building capacity for innovation. The paper also addresses the disparities in urban innovation practices between the Global North and South, advocating for inclusive and equitable strategies that consider local contexts and knowledge systems. It outlines a research agenda focused on understanding urban innovation processes and their effectiveness in driving transformative change.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To enhance urban innovation, policies should promote inclusive governance, support scaling of successful initiatives, and foster capacity building through collaboration among stakeholders, ensuring that local needs and knowledge systems are prioritized.



Gietel Basten Stuart, and Rachel Snow. "Capitalizing on Population Dynamics 30 Years on from the International Conference on Population and Development." *Studies in Family Planning* (2025).



Wen, Xianglan, Huimin Li, **Xiaofan Zhao** & Xiu Yang. "Mapping socioeconomic spatiotemporal transition and its contribution to carbon emissions in China." *Climate and Development* (2025): 1-14.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This article examines the demographic challenges and opportunities arising from the changing population dynamics in the context of the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). It highlights significant issues such as rapid growth in sub-Saharan Africa, aging populations in other regions, and the need for policies prioritizing human rights and sustainable development. The authors argue that addressing root causes, such as gender inequality, education access, and reproductive rights, is crucial for managing demographic transitions. They emphasize that effective policies should be inclusive and tailored to the unique contexts of each region, fostering resilience and well-being. The study re-evaluates the principles of the ICPD, advocating for a shift from numerical population targets to a focus on individual empowerment and sustainable development.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Governments should implement inclusive, rights-based policies that promote gender equality, improve access to education and healthcare, and support reproductive rights. Tailoring demographic policies to local contexts is essential for fostering resilience and achieving sustainable development goals.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This study analyzes the transformation of China's carbon emission patterns from 1995 to 2020, focusing on the spatial restructuring of population distribution, economic activity, and energy systems. Using an extended KAYA model, the research quantifies the synergistic effects of these shifts on carbon emissions. Key findings indicate that population migration to the south increased emissions by 336.02 Mt, while the southwest shift of economic activities led to a slight rise of 11.46 Mt. Conversely, the westward relocation of energy production resulted in a reduction of 32.23 Mt. The study emphasizes that successful carbon reduction strategies in China must consider the interconnections between demographic shifts, industrial relocation, and energy system changes.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To enhance China's dual-carbon strategy, policymakers should implement regionally differentiated climate governance that harmonizes population mobility, industrial shifts, and energy layouts within a cohesive framework, ensuring effective carbon management and emissions reduction.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Chow Jeffrey, Tianle Liu, Coco Dijia Du, Rui Hu, Xun Wu. “From research to policy recommendations: A scientometric case study of air quality management in the Greater Bay Area, China.” *Environmental Science & Policy* 165 (2025): 104025.



Cologna, Viktoria; Meiler, Simona; Kropf, Chahan M.; ... & **Tyrala, Michael** (as member of the TISP Consortium). (2025). “Extreme weather event attribution predicts climate policy support across the world”. *Nature Climate Change* 15: 725-735.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This study investigates the dynamics of air quality research in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) of China, focusing on how institutional factors influence scientific contributions to environmental policy. Utilizing a scientometric meta-analysis of 687 scientific publications, the research examines the role of various funding sources and author affiliations in shaping policy recommendations. Key findings indicate that English-language articles from Hong Kong are more innovative in their policy proposals than Chinese articles, which tend to entail greater mainland government involvement and caution in recommendations. The study highlights the importance of understanding the interplay between scientific research and policy, particularly in a region characterized by distinct governance structures under the “One Country, Two Systems” framework.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To enhance the scientific robustness of air quality management, policymakers should foster greater collaboration between scientists and government agencies while ensuring that independent experts are included in the research process. Encouraging transparency and grassroots initiative in scientific inquiry and policy advocacy will lead to more innovative environmental policies.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This article examines how subjective attribution of extreme weather events to climate change influences public support for climate policies worldwide. Using data from over 71,000 individuals across 68 countries, the authors combine large-scale climate risk modeling with global survey results. The study finds that while objective exposure to extreme weather rarely predicts policy support, subjective attribution—people believing that climate change intensified recent events—is a robust and consistent predictor of support for five key climate mitigation policies (e.g., carbon taxes, sustainable energy, forest protection). These effects vary across event types and regions, underscoring the psychological and perceptual dimensions of environmental policy engagement.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Policymakers and climate communicators should prioritize increasing public understanding of the link between climate change and extreme weather events. Communication strategies should aim to enhance subjective attribution, especially in areas where awareness is low. This may involve Integrating climate attribution science into public messaging and educational campaigns, promoting transparent and localized communication about weather–climate links, and collaborating with media outlets to frame extreme weather as “teachable moments” that reinforce the reality and urgency of climate change.

Such efforts can strengthen public support for ambitious climate policies, especially in the Global South where exposure is high, but attribution remains underexplored.



Delina, L., Fuerzas, I., Dulay, M. J.,
Ludovice, N.P., Tam, K. K., & Salamanca,
 A. "Affective relationships as nonmaterial
 capital assets in resilience building in the
 rice-terraced cultural landscapes of the
 Philippine Cordillera."

Applied Geography 175: 103631.



Ludovice, Nicolo Paolo P. "Dairying
 Dependence: Industrialization and
 Ecological Change During the Postwar
 Philippines." *Halo-Halo Ecologies: The
 Emergent Environments Behind Filipino Food.*
University of Hawai'i Press. 73-88.

FOCUS OF STUDY

Natural hazards and socioeconomic risks, including pandemics, necessitate robust resilience-building efforts. While physical infrastructure and financial resources are critical, the importance of intangible assets, particularly affective capacity, is often overlooked. This paper highlights affective capacity as an essential intangible asset for fostering resilience among Indigenous rice farmers in Mayoyao and Hungduan, UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the northern Philippines. The research identifies various hazards impacting the geological and socioeconomic conditions of these farmers, generating cascading risks that require proactive resilience measures. Natural hazards like changing weather patterns and demographic challenges, such as an ageing population and youth outmigration, significantly affect these communities. The study emphasises the role of affective relationships in underpinning both inherent and acquired resilience. Indigenous rice farmers leverage their affective capacities through a well-established network of social capital derived from extended family ties and local community connections. This capacity is strengthened by semi-formal organisations, such as farmer groups and credit unions, which provide essential knowledge and access to financial resources. Additionally, farmers engage their affective capacities through rituals and ceremonies, reflecting the importance of emotional bonds with the spiritual world in resilience-building. State institutions must actively support these relationships to enhance adaptive capacities.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Policy must recognize that resilience and innovation are not merely technical achievements but are deeply rooted in the shared experiences and affective ties of communities. By valuing local knowledge, nurturing communal bonds, and integrating diverse perspectives, governance can foster forms of preparedness and sustainability that are both adaptive and inclusive. In this way, policy becomes not just a tool of administration, but a means of imagining and sustaining new solidarities across time and place.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This book chapter examines the rise of canned evaporated milk and its subsequent impact to the ecologies during the postwar Philippines. Initially used as an infant food during the American colonial administration, the evaporated milk was also popular amongst children and adults. Against the backdrop of a newly-independent country in 1946, the development of a stronger local dairy industry was seen as an exercise of economic independence. By using a multiscale analysis, this paper argues how the expansion of the evaporated milk production intensified ecological change on the national, domestic, environmental, and nutritional levels. It traces the development of the local dairy industry with the establishment of the first milk processing plants. The promotion of the evaporated filled milk, which included the use of coconut oil as substitute to butterfat cream, permitted more households to afford milk. Ecological consequences of dairy intensification include the introduction of animal breeds and plant species, new animal and plant diseases, expansion of plantations to inland forests, use of synthetic chemicals as pesticides, and the nutritional imbalance in infants. In doing so, the paper also considers issues surrounding the global dairy food regime and their impact on environmental, animal, and human health.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To build a more resilient and sustainable food system, policymakers should encourage local innovation in dairy and food production while remaining attentive to the ecological costs of industrial practices. Investing in technologies and policies that support local producers, protect environmental resources, and reduce reliance on imports can help cities balance food security with ecological responsibility. Societies can make more informed choices about what they consume and how it is produced by recognising the interconnectedness of economic, environmental, and public health concerns.

SOCIAL AND URBAN POLICY

Naubahar Sharif, Wenjin Chen, Mengyuan Niu, Zhiming Cheng. “As I know, there is nothing there for our people”: unmasking mental health literacy and help-seeking attitudes among ethnic minorities in Hong Kong. *Journal of Asian Public Policy*, 1–16 (2025).



Cruz, Christian Joy Pattawi, **Kira Matus**, and Stuart Gietel-Basten. “The extent of use of surveys in policymaking: the case of Hong Kong.” *Evidence & Policy* 20.3 (2024): 261-282.



FOCUS OF STUDY

The article investigates mental health literacy (MHL) and help-seeking attitudes among South Asian ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, particularly elderly individuals. It highlights their limited understanding of mental health issues, shaped by cultural beliefs and systemic barriers. Through qualitative interviews with 28 South Asian elders and caregivers, the study reveals misconceptions, stigma, and familial reliance in recognizing and addressing mental health problems. It emphasizes the complex interplay between ethnic factors and health system interactions, illustrating significant challenges ethnic minorities face in accessing mental health services.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Enhance mental health education programs tailored for ethnic minorities, utilizing digital platforms and community partnerships to reduce stigma and improve service accessibility. Focus on culturally sensitive resources and training for healthcare providers to better support diverse populations.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This study investigates the extent to which surveys are utilized as evidence in policymaking in Hong Kong. By analyzing Legislative Council documents related to 569 bills enacted from 2000 to 2022, the research finds that approximately 25% of these bills employed surveys as evidence, with significant variation across 18 policy areas. Health services emerged as the sector with the highest use of surveys. The study reveals that surveys are primarily employed to enhance understanding of policy issues, yet critical aspects such as data collection methods, sample sizes, and response rates are often overlooked in legislative discussions. These findings underscore the limited integration of survey evidence into policymaking processes in Hong Kong, reflecting challenges inherent in its unicameral legislative system and colonial legacy.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To enhance the use of surveys in policymaking, legislative bodies should establish guidelines that emphasize the importance of methodological transparency, including data collection methods and representativeness, to strengthen the role of survey evidence in policy formulation.



Gauthier, Anne H., and **Stuart Gietel Basten**. "Family policies in low fertility countries: Evidence and reflections." *Population and Development Review* 51.1 (2025): 125-161.

Marois, Guillaume, **Stuart Gietel-Basten**, and Wolfgang Lutz. "The Demographic Race between India and China." *Population Research and Policy Review* 44.4 (2025): 44.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This article investigates the impact of family policies on fertility rates in low-fertility countries, emphasizing the diverse approaches taken by different nations. It reviews existing literature, tracing historical developments and examining various methodologies. The authors categorize family policies into cash benefits, work-related leave schemes, and childcare provisions, analyzing their effectiveness in influencing fertility. While cash benefits show mixed results, work-related leave schemes and childcare support generally have a positive effect. However, the authors note that the success of these policies is often limited and context-dependent, highlighting the need for a broader understanding of family policies beyond merely increasing fertility rates. The article calls for a holistic approach that considers gender equality, work-life balance, and overall family well-being as integral components of effective family policy.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Governments should adopt comprehensive family policies that prioritize gender equality, work-life balance, and access to quality childcare, rather than solely focusing on increasing fertility rates. Tailoring these policies to local contexts will enhance their effectiveness in supporting families.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This article explores the demographic competition between India and China, particularly in light of India's recent status as the world's most populous country. It examines how demographic factors, such as age, education, and labor force participation, influence economic potential. The authors argue that while India's younger population may offer a demographic dividend, it faces significant challenges in educational attainment and female labor force participation. In contrast, China, despite its declining population, benefits from higher educational levels and labor force participation rates. The study emphasizes that human capital development, rather than mere population size, will be crucial in determining the future economic standings of both countries over the next several decades.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

India should prioritize substantial investments in education and initiatives to enhance female labor force participation. By addressing these areas, India can harness its demographic potential and ensure sustainable economic growth in the coming decades.



SOCIAL AND URBAN POLICY

Xiaodong Chen, Ding Li & **Pengyu Zhu**. Long-term impacts of historical education policy on wages in China: insights on over-education. *Humanities Social Science Communication* 12, 959 (2025).



Zhizhao Li, **Pengyu Zhu**, Yuqing Guo, **Jeffrey Chow**. “Pandemic-era behavioral changes and post-pandemic persistence in the high-density urban context of Hong Kong.” *Cities* 162 (2025): 105940.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This study examines the long-term impacts of China’s historical Imperial Examination System (IES) on contemporary wage structures. By analyzing historical Jinshi density data and its correlation with modern wages, the research reveals that regions with a higher prevalence of educational success through the IES show significant wage increases for current workers. The findings highlight how cultural norms and education investments influence economic outcomes, suggesting a persistent legacy of the IES on human capital and labor market dynamics.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To harness the historical benefits of the Imperial Examination System, policymakers should focus on enhancing educational access and quality in historically underserved regions. Investments in educational infrastructure, teacher training, and vocational programs can promote skill development. Additionally, implementing targeted welfare programs can mitigate the impact of past educational disparities, ensuring equitable opportunities and fostering economic growth across all prefectures.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This study examines the behavioral changes of Hong Kong residents during the COVID-19 pandemic and the persistence of these changes in the post-pandemic era. It analyzes shifts in telecommuting, transportation, dining habits, shopping practices, and internet usage through a representative survey conducted in 2022, with a follow-up in 2023. The findings reveal that while some behaviors, like online meetings and digital payments, have persisted, telecommuting has declined significantly post-pandemic. The research highlights the unique context of Hong Kong as a high-density urban environment, emphasizing how local factors influence behavioral adaptations amidst global health crises.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Policymakers should focus on enhancing public transportation and creating flexible workspace designs to accommodate evolving work patterns. Continued investment in digital infrastructure is essential to support sustained online engagement and resilience in future urban challenges.



Zhu, Pengyu, Jianqi Li, and Zining Wang.
 "Identifying functional agglomerations and urban centers using open-source data and machine learning: Framework, applications and planning implications." *Journal of Urban Management* (2025).



Li, Qingyin, Rong Wu, and **Pengyu Zhu**.
 "Quality or quantity of urban greenery: Which matters more to mental health? Evidence from housing prices in the Pearl River Delta." *Landscape and Urban Planning* 263 (2025): 105438.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This study investigates the relationship between urban agglomerations and centers in Guangzhou using open-source Point of Interest (POI) data and machine learning techniques, particularly k-means clustering. It aims to identify distinct urban functional features and their interactions, moving beyond traditional density-focused methods. By analyzing a comprehensive dataset, the research reveals 63 agglomerations and 11 urban centers, emphasizing the multifunctional nature of urban spaces. The findings provide insights into urban planning, land use, and transportation strategies, highlighting the importance of integrating various urban functions to enhance efficiency and sustainability.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Urban planning policies should prioritize the development of multifunctional spaces that accommodate diverse urban activities. Enhancing public transit accessibility and promoting inter-agency coordination can significantly improve urban efficiency and sustainability, addressing the needs of various communities within the metropolitan area.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This study investigates the effects of urban greenery (UG) quality and quantity on mental health, particularly in the context of housing prices and homeownership. By analyzing data from 1,309 participants in the Pearl River Delta, it reveals that the quality of green spaces significantly enhances mental health through neighborhood ties and place attachment, while quantity affects mental health primarily through place attachment. The findings indicate that renters benefit more from high-quality UG than homeowners, especially in wealthier neighborhoods, highlighting the intricate relationship between urban greenery, mental health, and socioeconomic factors.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Urban planners should prioritize enhancing the quality of green spaces, particularly in tenure-mixed neighborhoods, to promote mental health equity and mitigate health disparities linked to housing prices.



SOCIAL AND URBAN POLICY

Chen, Xiaodong, **Yatang Lin**, and **Pengyu Zhu**. "The impact of rainfall on productivity: Implications for Chinese manufacturing." *Journal of Comparative Economics* (2025).



FOCUS OF STUDY

This study investigates the impact of rainfall on productivity within the Chinese manufacturing sector, utilizing a comprehensive dataset that combines climate data with micro-level data from over half a million firms. It identifies significant negative effects of extreme rainfall on productivity, particularly for labor-intensive and low-tech firms, as well as those in wetter regions. The research highlights three primary channels for productivity loss: reduced labor availability, disruptions in agricultural inputs, and transportation challenges. Additionally, the study explores potential adaptation strategies, such as investment in infrastructure and insurance, and projects future output losses due to increased rainfall extremes under various socioeconomic scenarios.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Policymakers should prioritize investments in infrastructure, like anti-flood dams and improved drainage systems, to mitigate the adverse effects of extreme rainfall on manufacturing productivity. Additionally, promoting adaptive strategies, such as insurance and flexible operational practices, can enhance resilience against climate variability.

Shi, Todd Yuda, and **Alex Jingwei He**. "Subnational policy entrepreneurs in action: a systematic quantitative review." *Journal of Public Policy* (2025): 1-27.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This paper systematically reviews the literature on subnational policy entrepreneurship, focusing on the role of local government officials in driving policy changes. Analyzing 64 articles, the study identifies key characteristics, motivations, and strategies of local policy entrepreneurs. It highlights the diversity in policy sectors, forms of entrepreneurship, and outcomes across different administrative levels. The findings reveal that local policy entrepreneurs often work collectively and are motivated by a commitment to local issues, the desire to fulfill administrative tasks, and empathy for community needs. The study emphasizes the unique challenges faced by these entrepreneurs, such as limited resources and authority, which shape their strategies and impact on policy innovation.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To enhance local policy innovation, support mechanisms should be established that empower subnational policy entrepreneurs. This includes providing resources for teamwork, facilitating inter-agency collaboration, and integrating local insights into broader policy frameworks to ensure effective implementation and community engagement.



Jingwei He, Alex, Hongqiao Fu, and Na Tang.
 “From local innovation to national policy:
 Cross boundary policy entrepreneurship in
 China’s health regulatory reform.”
Australian Journal of Public Administration.



Anderson, Warwick, Kari Lancaster, Sonja van
 Wichelen, Seye Abimbola, Rachel A Ankeny,
 Lukas Engelmann, Lyle Fearnley, Tamara
 Giles-Vernick, Benjamin Hegarty, Freya L
 Jephcott, **Nicolo P Ludovice**, Janet Roitman,
 Jacob Steere-Williams,
 Mark Stoove, John Noel Viaña,
 Catherine Waldby, Rachel Yang.
 “Epistemic preparedness.”
BMJ Global Health 10.6
 (2025).



FOCUS OF STUDY

This study investigates cross-boundary policy entrepreneurship in China’s health regulatory reform, emphasizing how local innovations can influence national policy. By analyzing a case in Ningxia, it explores the coalition of local government, corporate actors, and public hospitals that catalyzed the development of internet hospitals. The research highlights the motivations and strategies of various policy entrepreneurs, including issue framing, coalition building, and venue shopping. It reveals that while local innovations can lead to significant policy changes, the process requires navigating complex bureaucratic environments and aligning local initiatives with national objectives. The findings underscore the importance of collaborative efforts across sectors in addressing contemporary health challenges.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To enhance policy innovation, governments should foster cross-boundary collaborations among local, corporate, and healthcare sectors. This includes creating supportive regulatory frameworks that enable the scaling of successful local initiatives to national policies, ensuring that innovations effectively address community health needs.

FOCUS OF STUDY

This paper explores the concept of “epistemic preparedness” in the context of global health, particularly concerning infectious disease outbreaks. It critiques traditional preparedness strategies that emphasize microbial surveillance and healthcare infrastructure, arguing for a broader understanding that incorporates ecological and sociological dimensions. The study identifies three key areas of concern: data collection and sharing, outbreak modeling, and the spatiotemporal framing of interventions. By addressing these issues, the authors advocate for a more inclusive approach to preparedness that integrates insights from social sciences and health humanities, moving beyond the limitations of current “crisis technologies.” This reconceptualization aims to enhance the effectiveness of responses to future outbreaks by fostering equity and inclusivity in public health policy.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To strengthen our response to future pandemics, policy must move beyond technical fixes and embrace a broader, more inclusive approach to knowledge. This means valuing insights from social sciences, humanities, and affected communities alongside biomedical expertise, ensuring that preparedness strategies reflect the full complexity of society and environment. By diversifying who counts as an expert and how we understand health threats, we can build more equitable, effective, and trusted public health systems.



SOCIAL AND URBAN POLICY

Ludovice, **Nicolo Paolo P.** “Horses, Doping, and the Relationalities of Care at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, 1969–1971.” *Society & Animals* 1.aop (2025): 1-18.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This article investigates the relational dynamics between humans and horses within the horse-racing context at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club (RHKJC) during the late 1960s. By analyzing doping cases from 1969 to 1971, the study highlights the institutional and episodic aspects of care that underpin these relationships. The RHKJC, as a significant regulatory body in postwar Hong Kong, faced severe allegations of horse doping, which involved over 50 horses and resulted in a fatality. The research emphasizes that caring for horses extends beyond the racetrack, requiring comprehensive infrastructures and relationalities. It situates these dynamics within the broader socioeconomic changes in

Hong Kong during the 1960s, advocating for the inclusion of animals and their care in the historical narrative of the region.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Contemporary policies on animal welfare in sports should recognize that doping is not only a technical violation but also reflects deeper relationships of care, trust, and responsibility between humans and animals. Regulators should foster transparent, collaborative environments where trainers, veterinarians, and officials work together to prioritize the well-being of animals. By valuing both ethical care and scientific oversight, modern policy can better protect animals while respecting the complex bonds that shape their lives.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Sharif, **Naubahar**, and Athar Mansoor. “The China–Pakistan Economic Corridor: Game Changer or Chinese Colonialism?” *The China Quarterly* (2025): 1-20.



FOCUS OF STUDY

The article examines the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) within the context of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, analyzing its potential to transform Pakistan’s economy through infrastructure development and investment. It discusses contrasting perspectives, with proponents viewing CPEC as a “game changer” while critics fear it could lead to a form of economic colonialism. Through interviews with stakeholders and documentary analysis, the authors argue that while CPEC offers substantial opportunities for economic and social benefits, significant challenges such as governance issues, transparency, and the risk of dependency on China may hinder its transformative potential. Ultimately, the CPEC is framed as a complex socio-economic development plan rather than a simple colonial endeavor.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To maximize benefits from the CPEC, Pakistan should prioritize transparency, enhance local governance, and ensure equitable distribution of gains. Additionally, fostering technology transfer and building local capacities will be essential for sustainable economic growth and reducing dependency on external influences.



Masaru Yarime. "Ishiba cites tariffs, inflation fight for staying on." *RTHK's news programme, Hong Kong Today*, 21 July 2025.



FOCUS OF STUDY

The article analyzes the political and economic challenges facing Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba after his ruling coalition's defeat in the upper house elections. Central to the analysis is the declining public confidence in the government's economic policies, particularly amid rising consumer prices, tariff tensions with the United States, and debates over a proposed sales tax cut. A key focus is placed on expert commentary from Masaru Yarime, Associate Professor at the Division of Public Policy at the University of Science and Technology, who identifies economic policy dissatisfaction and political instability as core concerns shaping Japan's current governance crisis.

Yarime emphasizes that the election results signal widespread public discontent, especially among younger voters, and reflect growing doubts about the government's ability to manage inflation, social welfare burdens, and external trade pressures. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its partner Komeito now lack a majority in both chambers, complicating policymaking in what Yarime describes as a "very uncertain political landscape."

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To restore political stability and public trust, the Japanese government should prioritize inclusive policy dialogue, particularly on economic reforms, and address intergenerational concerns by engaging younger voters. Transparent and responsive governance—especially in managing inflation, trade relations, and fiscal sustainability—will be essential in navigating Japan through a volatile political and economic period.

Zhu, Pengyu, Yulin Wang, and Yatang Lin. "Unravelling regional inequality: the heterogeneous impact of China's Great Western Development Program." *Regional Studies* 59.1 (2025): 2438319.



FOCUS OF STUDY

This paper examines China's Great Western Development Program, aimed at fostering economic growth in underdeveloped western provinces. Using a regression discontinuity design and night-light data, the study finds that the Program resulted in a 1.3–1.7% increase in annual output growth in the western region. However, the benefits were primarily observed in areas with better initial endowments, leading to increased inequality within the treatment group. The research highlights the need to assess both the intended and unintended effects of such policies on regional inequality.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

To enhance the effectiveness of development programs, policymakers should target investments more strategically, focusing on regions with weaker initial endowments to ensure equitable growth and reduce regional disparities.

