
Abstract

Democracy and “Trust” in India: The Psychological Structure of Political Stability

Norio Kondo

This paper tries to understand the psychological basis for Indian democracy’s stability. The study researches the psychological and social function of “trust” both in Indian society and with regard to her government. A sense of “trust” is regarded as being closely linked to a sense of political effectiveness as well as to democratic values; it is hence considered to be a very important variable with respect to the maintenance of a democratic polity. The data set, which is collected on the basis of opinion polls conducted in 2003 and 2005 among citizens in India's big cities, is analyzed using Multigroup Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) with Mean Structures. First, the analysis reveals that Indian citizens' perception of their society is generally separated from their perception of their political system. The instability of social trust, which is included in their social perception, therefore, does not automatically result in the instability of the political system. In the same way, unstable trust in the political system does not automatically lead to unstable social perceptions, including those regarding social trust. Secondly, it is shown that a higher evaluation of the political and economic performance of the government leads to an increased sense of political effectiveness and greater trust in the political system, which result in people tending to grant more support for democratic governance.

Abstract

Reorganization of Citizenship and Government of the Urban Poor in Turkey

Kaoru Murakami

This paper aims to elucidate complex ways of inclusion/exclusion regarding the urban poor and citizenship by focusing on a social assistance program as an apparatus for governing the poor in Turkey, where poverty emerged as an urgent social issue in the late 1990s. Citizenship, in this paper, is used as a concept which refers not only to political rights but also to moral contracts where people behave in a certain manner in exchange for being granted privileges. The study is based on ethnological fieldwork in a low income district in Istanbul. While preserving paternalistic aspects, Turkey's social assistance program is in the process of becoming a tool of neoliberal governance in a context where there is a weakening of a long-standing, authoritarian notion of citizenship. While non-conditional monetary and in-kind assistance is still important at the budgetary level, newly introduced programs aim, through schemes such as job training, to pressure recipients to behave as active and productive citizens and pull themselves out of dependence. In this district, however, it was observed that the internalization of neoliberal civic virtues by the program's recipients (including potential recipients) might be partial, selective, and fluid. If necessary, these recipients could claim that receiving state assistance was to obtain their due share, an idea that could long be justified in terms of a paternalistic understanding of the "exclusive inclusion" of non-fully-fledged citizens under an authoritarian definition of citizenship. These facts suggest, first, that the inclusion in or exclusion from citizenship can be dual-track, and second, that such duality can be justified within Turkey's historical and social context.

Abstract

Determinants of Participation in Medical Insurance by Chinese Urban Registrants: Factors Affecting the Choice of Medical Insurance

Xinxin Ma

This paper uses Chinese Household Income Project survey data for 2007 to analyze the determinants of participation in medical insurance by Chinese urban registrants. A probit model is used to estimate the probability of participation in a medical insurance program.

The paper's main findings are as follows. First, the probability of participation in an employee basic medical insurance system increases with age in the self-employed group. In addition, when compared with the low-income group, middle- and high-income groups have higher probabilities of participation. Either the adverse selection hypothesis or the liquidity constraint hypothesis is supported. Second, when compared with the low-income group, middle- and high-income groups have higher probabilities of participation in employee basic medical insurance, commercial medical insurance, and mixed medical insurance. It is shown that some persons in the low-income group were not covered by public or private medical insurance until 2007. These results reveal that the difference in participation rates in medical insurance reflects income variations. Third, when compared with the government sector group, the collective enterprise group, the private enterprise group, the self-employed group, and the non-working group all had lower probabilities of participation in employee basic medical insurance. Fourth, the determinants of participation in medical insurance vary by work sector. When compared with the public sector group, the private sector group showed a lower effect of age on the probability of participation. In addition, when compared with the low-income group, the middle- and high-income groups in the government sector group, the state-owned enterprise group, the collective enterprise group, and the private enterprise group demonstrated higher probabilities of participation. However, the difference in the probability of participation when analyzed by gaps in income is smaller for employees at enterprises receiving foreign investment.