
Zhu Xufeng*

Abstract

Research on political resources in policy networks has become a promising new topic in China studies. This paper attempts to identify the most important members of personal networks (guanxi) established by policy experts who achieve and maintain influence over China’s policy-making system. It is argued that guanxi with officials at the bureau level is the most important network resource for “think tank” policy experts seeking to exert influence over policy-making in contemporary China. This empirical study is based on data collected from a 2004 survey of China’s policy experts involving 301 Chinese think tank leaders from 25 provinces.

ZHU Xufeng is Associate Professor at the Zhou Enlai School of Government, Nankai University. His current research interests involve the study of the Chinese policy process, China’s think tanks, public policy analyses, and social stratification in transitional China. His recent publications include articles in various academic journals. He is also the author of China’s Think Tanks: Research on Their Influences in the Policy Process (in Chinese).

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