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Research Title:

The Emergence of Community Regime: Local Institution Innovation and Neighborhood Governance in Shanghai (1996-2003)

Research Objective:

This dissertation is a study of regime politics to investigate the pattern of neighborhood governance in Shanghai during 1996-2003. It aims to

1. investigate the factors and mechanisms at work that determine the formations of community governing regime;
2. explore the consequences and implications of community regime for the authoritarian urban transformation.

Research Proposition:

Neighborhood Governance in Shanghai is studied with two types of community regime:

1. *Administrative Community Regime*: neighborhood activists are vertically engaged with local party-state officials with concern for welfare and provisions
2. *Deliberative Community Regime*: neighborhood activists and local party-state officials horizontally form a coalition to deliberate the indigenous community common goods.

Research Design:

Qualitative method for data collection and a research design of comparative case study are employed for these theoretical objectives:

1. Analysis on the policy documents of the “urban community building”.
2. Semi-structured interviews are conducted with local administrative officials, Party and neighborhood activists, members of neighborhood organizations
3. A random sample of community residents

Research Significance:

By modifying and applying the regime theory, this study is expected to better understand the local dynamics nested in the authoritarian urban system, and to throw new light on the urban regime theory as well.

