

The Democratization of the Policy Sciences

Peter deLeon

In this article Peter deLeon believes it is possible to reduce the isolation of analysts, who often produce assessment and recommendations that seem out of touch with the needs and wants of the public they serve. He calls for a "participatory policy analysis" that would open the process to greater input and involvement in situations where such an approach is feasible. While admitting that such democratization is more difficult in practice than in concept, deLeon notes that the legitimacy of the policy analyst's endeavor is what is at stake.

The Dilemma of State Reform and the Analysis of Policy Implementation

Omar Guerrero

This article maintains that research into implementation has moved the center of gravity of policy analysis from the economic model of formal rationality to political polemics. The implementation process occurs not only in an understanding political system; it also arises in power arenas, which offer sources of legitimate authority for those involved therein. The idea of the power arena explains some of the main factors that affect implementation, in the form of deviations, losses, and ruptures, and in particular how the essence and appearance of policy change in the time between the alpha and the omega, between intentions and results.

According to the author, implementation studies are a new and innovative field of administrative research, capable of offering valuable assistance in understanding why governments fail and, more importantly, how they can avoid failure.

Organization and Productive Efficiency in Large Japanese Corporations

Luis Montaña Hirose and Marcela Rendón Cobián

This article has two main aims. Firstly, to describe the main forms of the organizational models of large Japanese corporations, with reference to certain relevant historical features. Secondly, to correlate their inter-organizational forms with their administrative techniques, and at the same time emphasizing the corporate character of the Japanese proposal which transcends the simple idea of a dual economy. To attain these aims, the paper is divided into four sections: the first analyzes certain aspects relevant to an understanding of how existing corporations were formed; the second studies some of the most important structural characteristics; the third reviews corporate organizational forms and correlates them with administrative techniques. Finally, the article addresses the most important social consequences of these kinds of organization.

The Role of Local Governments in Regional Development

Manuel Gutiérrez Vidal and Sarah Martínez Péllegri

This article comprises five sections. The first offers an overview of the alternatives for distributing functions between central and sub-national governments, from a static point of view and in accordance with the most recent trends. Section two reviews the conventional approaches, aims, and instruments of regional development policy. The third section explains the current international transformations upon which the effectiveness of the performance of public and private agents in any country depends. The fourth section suggests a series of policies and instruments that local governments can use to promote regional development in the new international context. The fifth and final section offers some closing reflections on certain conditions that could prevent, or at least hinder, success in the use of the new instruments.

Spatial Polarization in Regional Development Theories

Riszard Rózga Luter

This article sets out to answer the following question: How do the different theories of regional development address the problem of spatial polarization?

The author presents a set of regional development theories dealing with the subject of spatial polarization. Based on this, the parallel development of these theories and opinions on regional inequality and spatial polarization can be seen.

The article offers a reflection on the problems of inequalities and regional polarization. The author proposes that the problems of spatial polarization are present in all theories of regional development. Among the many such theories that analyze the polarization problem, the main schools into which the theories may be classified can be detected. The different schools represent important stages in the development of regional theory and doctrine and often reflect contradictory opinions regarding social and economic development.

The central problem in this work is the reflection of spatial polarization and, as a result, the regional inequalities in regional development theories. Each theory is reviewed with the following criterion: How do the theories respond to this problem? The conclusion of this review is that each theory responds in accordance with its premises and with how its general aim proposes the measures necessary to attain balance in regional development.

The Extent of Wealth and Income Inequality

Wei Cai, Thomas T. Krader, Elizabeth M. Ling
and Marco Antonio Mena

This article analyzes the issue of inequality in the United States over the last two decades and indicates its policy implications on the basis of three key questions:

What occurred in the 1980s *vis-à-vis* the income gap between the richest and poorest Americans? If there was a growing gap, were the rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer, or both?

What was the trend in absolute terms in the incomes of the richest and the poorest, regardless of any increasing gap between them?

What have been the effects of various transfer payments to the poor?

State Reform in Mexico: Scope and Limits

José Luis Méndez

The aim of this article is to provide a description and evaluation of the social-liberal model and its potential risks before making two key points regarding the debate in question. Firstly, despite its significant achievements that are worthy of recognition, particularly in the macroeconomic sphere, the Salinas model has also suffered from severe limitations.

Secondly, that apart from public policy, there is a basic structural problem: the nature of the political-administrative system, although it is more complex than might be thought, is still largely vertical. Thus, the author suggests that the possibilities of the social-liberal model finally leading to a more integrated and stable nation and a state with adequate legitimacy are even slighter if the system is not changed.