RESEARCH IN URBAN POLICY

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CAN TOCQUEVILLE KARAOKE?
GLOBAL CONTRASTS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, THE ARTS AND DEVELOPMENT

United Kingdom – North America – Japan
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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION
Terry Nichols Clark

1

KARAOKE TOGETHER VS. BOWLING ALONE:
SCENES ILLUMINATE HOW WESTERN RULES
CAN BE TRANSFORMED TO DRIVE
DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY
Terry Nichols Clark with Chad D. Anderson, Miree Byun,
Wonho Jang, Seokho Kim, Yoshiaki Kobayashi,
Jong Youl Lee, Clemente J. Navarro Yáñez,
Daniel Silver and Di Wu

33

SECTION I: TOCQUEVILLE IN CONTEXT:
GLOBAL STUDIES IN CIVIC PARTICIPATION

INTRODUCTION TO SECTION 1

37

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS, SOCIAL INEQUALITY,
AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN THE
UNITED STATES AND KOREA
Seokho Kim

67

FROM BOWLING ALONE TO KARATE TOGETHER
(USA TO ASIA): PRELIMINARY CLAIMS AND
FINDINGS
Joseph E. Yi

INTRODUCTION TO SECTION II 117

CULTURAL STRATEGIES, CREATIVITY, AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN SPAIN
Maria Jesús Rodríguez-García, Cristina Mateos Mora and Clemente J. Navarro Yáñez 121

(RE)DEFINING BOHEMIA IN SEOUL, TOKYO, AND CHICAGO
Wonho Jang, Terry Nichols Clark and Miree Byun 135

SECTION III: THE POWER OF BUZZ: HOW THE ARTS AND CULTURE CAN ENERGIZE PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION TO SECTION III 151

WAS TOCQUEVILLE WRONG? BUZZ AS CHARISMA, CREATIVITY, AND GLAMOUR; NEW SOURCES OF POLITICAL LEGITIMACY SUPPLEMENTING VOTING, AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION
Terry Nichols Clark and Filipe Carreira da Silva 157

BUZZ: A THEORY, ILLUSTRATED IN TORONTO AND CHICAGO
Daniel Silver and Terry Nichols Clark 175
HOW CONTEXT TRANSFORMS CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: PROPOSITIONS

Filipe Carreira da Silva and Terry Nichols Clark

ABSTRACT

Eight propositions state how contexts shift citizen participation. Religion, consumption patterns, and varied political repertoires transform participation. Hierarchical, authoritarian contexts foster antiestablishment participation and protest activities. Trust only emerges from some contexts. Participation in the arts and culture vary with other contextual elements.

Keywords: Participation; politics; authority; religion; culture; arts

Jeremiads, that recurrent American genre, tend to be highly popular among social scientists. Its rhetorical effect has proved effective generation after generation. The latest grand lament of a lost golden past in the social sciences has been Robert D. Putnam’s Bowling Alone, one of most cited monographs in political science since its publication in 1995. With it, thousands of practitioners all over the world devoted themselves to the study of...