

FR1.45.19 Municipal Responses To Syrian Refugee Inflow To Lebanon: Studying the Impact of Religio-political Affiliations on Policy Responses

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Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria in March 2011, around 4 million Syrians (UNHCR-Regional Response) fled the country in search for their security, seeking refuge in neighboring countries. According to UNHCR, Lebanon ranks first, worldwide, on refugee density with 257 refugees per 1000 inhabitants. An absence of clear, unifying national policies by the central Lebanese government increased the burden on local governments. Responsibilities were unintentionally delegated to municipalities that are in the front line of the issue. However, given the sectarian diversity in Lebanon and its direct attachment to political diversity, responses from the different municipalities have not been homogenous. In this paper, I study responses of 9 municipalities in relation to their religious (religio-political) affiliations. I test the hypothesis that municipalities' actions and responses are shaped by the religious affiliations of their populations. I do so by a quantitative analysis comparing the relation between refugee population distribution and religious communities' distribution. In addition I conduct a qualitative analysis based on interviews with 9 sample municipalities. My aim is to 1) test if any trend appearing in the general district data persists in the municipal cadastral level and 2) survey the different responses and actions that sample municipalities are implementing to infer lessons for future action. The results were mostly coherent with my hypothesis; municipalities with different religio-political affiliations have different responses. However, these results show that as the issue intensifies, all municipalities are leaning towards stricter responses.

FR1.45.19 Economic Development and Budget Volatility in Local Governments: Accounting for Industrial Diversification and Clustering

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Budget volatility—the difference between expected and actual revenues and expenditures—is a crucial element of a local government's fiscal health. While budget volatility has been the topic of a number of studies, less understood is the effect of economic development on budget volatility. To fill this gap, panel data methods will be employed on a sample of 112 major metropolitan cities over 15 years. An assumption in the public finance literature is that a strong economic base is comprised of high-tech, globally competitive industries. We take an alternative view that is informed by corporate finance and economic development research. More important to budget stability than the individual industries in a city's tax base is the diversification of industries and industrial clusters. How does economic base diversification and clustering affect budget volatility? Does the clustering that comes from agglomeration economies create budget volatility? Do cities that have more diversified economic bases benefit from greater budget stability? The study's findings will provide key insights to local and regional economic development planners and will provide a framework for scholars in urban governance and public finance. Data is currently being collected, and analysis will begin within the next month. We

anticipate that industrial diversification and clustering will minimize revenue and expenditure volatility in local governments, and that diversification will be particularly important in highly volatile cities.

FR1.45.19 Directly elected mayors: can they make a difference?

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There is an ongoing, and highly contested, international debate about how to improve the governance of cities and city regions in a rapidly globalising world. The idea of introducing executive mayors, directly elected by popular vote, has gained many adherents – in, for example, Germany, Italy, Poland and elsewhere. This paper provides a detailed analysis of whether the mayoral model does, in fact, make a difference. Using evidence drawn from, a 'before' and 'after' study of whether the directly elected mayor model of governance makes a difference, the paper aims to contribute to international debates about how to improve city leadership. In May 2012 the citizens of Bristol, England, decided, in a referendum, that they would like to introduce a directly elected mayor model of governance. This paper examines how different interests in the city felt about the pre-2012 model of governance (a leader-plus-cabinet model of governance), and how they now feel about the executive mayor model. The results are startling. The paper draws on findings from the ongoing Bristol Civic Leadership Project to illuminate discussion of the possibilities for place-based leadership. Two dimensions are examined in detail: 1) The perspectives of different actors in the city (political, public sector, business and community); and 2) The views of different socio-economic groups in the city. The research suggests that the introduction of a directly elected mayor model of governance has had a major impact on the governance of the city. The visibility of the leader of the city has soared and the international projection of the city is a textbook success story. Questions remain, however, about how to ensure that the benefits of effective external projection of the qualities of the city translate into uplift for disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

FR1.45.19 Local networks in urban service delivery process: The relationship between local network management, network structure and outcomes.

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This study focuses on the characteristics of local network management that includes aspects of control and collaboration, and its relationship with effective local services outcomes. Following the establishment of the New Public Management, local authorities were transformed from 'Local Government' to 'Local Governance' that is from hierarchical management to network management. Local government undergoes a transformation from provider of services to enabler that coordinates the provision of services by different organizations which act together in inter-organizational network (Stocker, 1998; Stewart, 2003). Network management is one of the biggest challenges facing contemporary local government. Networks reduce the level of control over public policies and create a

lot of managerial challenges such as local governments ability to monitor and coordinate over public policy implementation, while at the same time permitting network actors to make autonomous decisions concerning a public service delivery (Stoker,2005; Stewart, 2003; Osborne, 2010). Dilemmas that arise among public administrators in local arena related to using hybrid management, which combines two main aspects: "command and control" and "cooperation and participation", and emphasize the element of accountability as a significant component that public administrators must preserve and maintain while managing inter-organizational network. Mismanagement, impaired coordination, limited sharing in policy decision process and weak regulation on service delivery process bring about difficulties in local management and reduce the chances of displaying high performance in local arena. The proposed study analyses the relationship and supposedly the impact of management characteristics on inter-organizational networks structure using a survey of 100 local networks in Israel. The measurement of the local services outcomes is based on quantitative computerized performance reports of welfare program which is implemented by local networks. In addition, the study examines the influence of public participation in service delivery process as moderator, which attenuates the main hypotheses.