The First International Conference on Behavioral Public Administration

Was Successfully Held In 2019

On October 12-13, 2019, the first International Conference on Behavioral Public Administration was successfully held in Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China. The founder and president of this conference is Professor Zhixia Chen, director of psychology and human resource management research center in HUST. More than 200 experts and scholars from 16 countries attended the conference, including China, the United States, Denmark, Poland, Russia, New Zealand, Singapore, Philippines and Sri Lanka, etc.

The conference focused on “new opportunities, new challenges: the characteristics and development of Behavioral Public Administration”, adhered to the concept of "exploring the interaction of government and citizens, improving the capacity of national governance" and aimed at "cultivating learning and advocating innovation". The goal of this conference was to explore and enhance the development process, share the latest research results and promote the development of Behavioral Public Administration. The conference was also aimed at promoting the modernization of national governance of China through the discussion and communication of scholars in the field of Behavioral Public Administration at home and abroad.

The meeting was officially opened at 8:30 a.m. on October 13. People who have attended the opening ceremony are as follows: Professor Yiqing Zhan (Vice president of Huazhong University of Science and Technology); Professor Susan T. Fiske (A member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a corresponding member of the British Academy of Sciences, and
professor at Princeton University); Professor Steven Kelman (A fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and professor at Harvard University); Professor Bradley E. Wright (A fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and professor at the University of Georgia); Professor Asmus L. Olsen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark); Professor Zhixia Chen (Huazhong University of Science and Technology), Associate Professor Chung-An Chen (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore); Donghui Ma (Secretary of the Party branch, college of public administration, HUST); Professor Shijun Ding (Dean of the school of public administration, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, China); Professor Rong Cao (Dean of the school of public management, Northwest University, China); Professor Kaisong Wu (Dean of the college of public administration, Central South University for Nationalities, China); Professor Lijun Chen and Researcher Fellow Ning Zhang (Zhongnan University of Engineering and Technology, China); Professor Bangcheng Liu (Shanghai Jiaotong University, China); Professor Liang Ma (Renmin University of China); Professor Shuhua Qian, Professor Guohua Wang, Professor Tao Chen, Professor Yali Tan (Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China); Professor Yapeng Zhu (Sun Yat-sen University, China); Professor Guangke Zhang and Professor Fang Chen (Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, China); Professor Song Deng and Professor Sang Ma (Yunnan University, China); Professor Shuzhen Wang (Northwest University, China); Research Associate Jie Zhou (Chinese Academy of Sciences); Associate Professor Shuwei Zhang (Sun Yat-sen University, China); Post-doctoral Xiaoqian Li (Tsinghua University and Research Associate of Huazhong University of Science and Technology); Associate Professor Yan Zhang (Huazhong University of Science and Technology); Associate Professor Shusong Zhao (Central South University, China); Associate Professor Jun Zhao (Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, China); Associate Professor Weiquan Li (Jinan University, China); Associate Professor Qiming Li (Southwest Jiaotong University, China); Associate Professor Jin’an Liang (Xidian University, China), etc. The above ranking is in no particular order.

The opening ceremony of the conference was presided over by the president of the conference, Professor Zhixia Chen. The vice president of HUST, Professor Yiqing Zhan took the lead in giving a welcome speech, introducing the basic situation of Huazhong University of Science and Technology and College of public administration, emphasizing the academic value and practical significance of Behavioral Public Administration research, fully affirming the efforts of Behavioral Public Administration research team of College of public administration and the important value of this conference, and at the end of the speech, she also wished the conference a complete success. Subsequently, Professor Susan T. Fiske, the honorary chairman of the conference, and Professor Steven Kelman, Professor Bradley Wright, and Professor Asmus Olsen delivered speeches successively. Professor Susan T. Fiske extended warm congratulations on the convening of the conference, fully affirmed the research in the field of Behavioral Public Administration and the significance of the conference, and expressed her appreciation and thanks to the sponsor of the conference and the president of the conference, Professor Zhixia Chen. Professor Steven Kelman, Professor Bradley Wright and Professor Asmus Olsen also delivered brief and passionate speeches. At last, Professor Zhixia Chen gave a speech. First of all, she warmly welcomed the arrival of leaders and
experts from home and abroad. She pointed out that the infant of Behavioral Public Administration still being gestated needed care and its development is facing opportunities and challenges. She believed that the convening of this International conference would further deepen research on Behavioral Public Administration and promote the application of research results of Behavioral Public Administration in governance practice.

In the morning, Professor Susan T. Fiske, Professor Bradley Wright, Professor Asmus Olsen, Professor Zhixia Chen, Professor Chung-an Chen gave keynote speeches. The themes of the speeches were: Why Public Policy and Administration Need Psychology: Examples from Social Cognition (Susan Fiske), Behavioral Public Administration: Some Trends, Concerns & Advice (Bradley Wright), Behavioral Public Administration: Combining Insights from Public Administration and Psychology (Asmus Olsen), New Opportunities • New Challenges: Characteristics and Development of Behavioral Public Administration (Zhixia Chen), Toward Chinese behavioral Public Administration Research (Chung An Chen). Based on the development process, future research direction, opportunities and challenges of Behavioral Public Administration, as well as the interaction between the government and the people and behavioral public policies in e-government, eight experts revealed the development ideas and research directions of Behavioral Public Administration from different perspectives and levels.

In the afternoon, there were several forums. The first procedure was remote reports.
Professor Chen introduced two reports from Claudia Nancy Avellaneda (Associate Professor, Indiana University) and Maria Magdalena Gessek (Researcher, District Museum in Torun Poland). Their titles are “Comparing Chief Executives’ Formulation and Implementation Decisions: Credit Claiming or Issue Salience?” and “Education of Young People as District Museum Helps Educate Qualified Citizen”. In the second part, there were speeches given by three Chinese scholars: Professor Yapeng Zhu, Professor Liang Ma and Associate Professor Shuwei Zhang. The themes of the speeches were: Social Construction of Target Groups and Housing Policy Design in China: With Reference to Housing Policy for Migrant Workers (Yapeng Zhu), From Guanxi-Oriented to Rule-Based? Digital Governance and State-Citizen Interaction (Liang Ma) and Behavior Public Administration and Behavior Public Policy: Theories and Trends (Shuwei Zhang).

Then there came the editors-in-chief face-to-face forum. Professor Chung-an Chen presided over the forum, and Professor Steven Kelman (International Public Administration Journal), Professor Bradley Wright (Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory), Professor Yapeng Zhu (Public Administration Review) and Professor Liang Ma (Public Administration and Policy Review & Chinese Public Administration Review) respectively introduced the style and precautions of relevant journals, as well as the relevant skills of how to publish high-quality papers. The atmosphere was warm, and the editors-in-chief of the journal had in-depth and specific exchanges with participants on relevant issues.

Nine sub-forums including two English-speaking sub-forums and seven Chinese-speaking sub-forums were set up for the meeting, which was held simultaneously in the afternoon of October 13th. The sub-forum topics included "public administration decision-making and behavior promotion", "public policy and initiative", "social psychology and social governance", "network and behavior big data analysis", "leadership and organizational behavior", "human resource management in public sector", etc. Participants from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, Renmin University of China, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Sun Yat-sen University, Beijing Normal University, Xiamen University, Tianjin University, East China Normal University, Hunan University and other universities delivered papers and had full academic exchanges with other participants.
The closing ceremony was held in the afternoon of the October 13th. Professor Zhixia Chen, the sponsor of the conference, presided over the closing ceremony. Professor Yi Zhang, vice dean of the college of public administration of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, delivered a closing speech. Professor Susan T. Fiske, Professor Steven Kelman, Professor Bradley Wright and Professor Asmus Olsen delivered brief and warm speeches. Professor Lijun Chen delivered a speech as a representative of the conference and Professor Zhixia Chen made a concluding speech. This conference reached consensus mainly on the following aspects: first, Behavioral Public Administration was an interdisciplinary subject of public administration and psychology; second, Behavioral Public Administration had a narrow sense and a broad sense, with a very wide range of research content and application fields; third, Behavioral Public Administration was not only a branch discipline that was being bred and formed, but also an important research subject of public administration research field and development direction; fourth, multi-disciplinary theories and methods such as psychology, sociology and administration played an important role in promoting the discipline construction and scientific of Behavioral Public Administration; fifth, the rudiment of Behavioral Public Administration is taking shape, with challenges and opportunities coexisting, and its development requires the continuous exploration of scholars in Psychology, public administration and other fields; sixth, researchers from home and abroad should take this conference as an opportunity to strengthen the exchange and cooperation of scholars in this field through the establishment of international and domestic joint research centers (laboratories), the development of major project cooperation research, the establishment of relevant societies and the establishment of research platforms. Finally, Professor Zhixia Chen announced the list of rewards of excellent papers.

The conference ended successfully with warm applause.

（Shuai Yuan）