

行政暨政策學報 第三期
民國九十年八月 第 129~184 頁
Public Administration & Policy No.3
August 2001 pp.129~184

新制度論的範圍與方法： 一個理性選擇觀點的方法論檢視*

陳敦源**

摘要

「新制度論」(new institutionalism)近年來席捲社會科學界，不但「建立制度」一詞成了實務界新的政治正確，「制度是重要的研究因素」(institutions matter)也成為學界新興的中心思維，不論國際或是本土，探討新制度論的文獻也在不斷增長中。然而，為了避免新制度論淪為流行的學術包裝紙，學界實有必要針對其研究的範圍與方法進行探索，以了解其在方法論上的機會與限制。本文第一部份從方法論中「個人-結構」(agent-structure)難題的角度，回答一個關於新制度論的核心問題：「新制度論新在哪兒？」。第二部份，本文將以「理性選擇制度論」(rational choice institutionalism)

* 本文感謝民國 89 年度國科會補助研究計畫的支持，編號 NSC89-2414-H-128-004。

** 作者是羅徹斯特大學政治學博士 (University of Rochester)，現任世新大學行政管理學系助理教授。本文部份的概念曾經口頭發表於 11/8/2000 世新大學行政管理學系所舉辦的「跨世紀公共政策暨管理演講系列」活動，一場題目為「新制度論與公共行政研究」的演講中。作者感謝台灣大學林水波教授、世新大學余致力教授、蕭乃沂教授、及兩位匿名審稿人的評論意見。

爲例，整合其中看似相通但卻存在歧異的「實證政治學」(positive political theory)與「新制度經濟學」(new institutional economics)兩股主要勢力，從理論建構的角度，展現新制度論從經濟學影響而來的特色與內涵。第三部份，本文將藉由上述整合理論的觀點，探索本土行政學研究「行政/政治」之間關係的領域，將來可能的發展方向。

本研究主要結論有三點：首先，新制度主義的「新」是在於其方法論上融合的努力，但是新制度論從概念到應用，還需在方法論上作出關鍵選擇，不然將無法確實應用；再者，新制度論中從經濟學思惟發展出來的「理性選擇制度論」，雖然其內部仍有理論整合的問題，但其跨學門整合的實力，值得重視；最後，「新制度論」隱含衝撞方法論中「個人-結構」難題的意圖，卻意外地呈現出應用在劇烈變革時代的價值，我國民主轉型的過程中，許多制度的解構與重構問題，應該是新制度論最能發揮的場域。

關鍵詞：新制度論、社會科學方法論、理性選擇理論、實證政治學、新制度經濟學、交易成本

The Scope and Method of the New Institutionalism : An Appraisal on Methodology from the Rational Choice Theory Perspective*

Don-yun Chen**

Abstract

Recent resurgence of institutionalism is a cross-discipline phenomenon. "Institutions matter" occupies central position in the so-called "new institutionalism" enterprise. Also, the term "establishing institutions" has become the "political-correct" for the politicians. However, it is necessary to examine the scope and method of this new academic trend in order to avoid the shallowness while using it in researching works. The first effort in this article is to answer the question "what is new about the new institutionalism?" from the "agency-structure" dilemma in the philosophy of social science. Secondly, this article attempts to integrate two major roots in rational choice institutionalism, positive political theory and new institutional economics, to show the internal dynamics of one major approach in the new institutionalism. Lastly, this article will preliminarily evaluate the possible usage of this integrated approach to study the

* Author would like to acknowledge the support from the National Science Council, NSC 89-2414-H-128-004.

** Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Rochester. Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy and Management, Shih-Hsin University.

politics/administration relation in Taiwan after 2000 presidential election.

There are three main conclusions. First, the new institutionalism can not be used as a bundle because of its methodologically incompatible roots. As a result, while using new institutionalism, we must specify what kind of new institutionalism we are utilizing. Second, the rational choice institutionalism, though existence of some internal dynamics, has shown its power to penetrate traditionally unexplored area through studying institutions. Its future development is worthy to be expected. Lastly, the new institutionalism has its advantage to deal with cross-discipline issue, such as the politics/administration dichotomy in the field of public administration. Also, its ability to handle historical factors will not lead us astray while studying Taiwan's recent transition in the public sector.

Key Words: New Institutionalism, Methodology, Rational Choice Theory, Positive Political Theory, New Institutional Economics, Transaction Costs