RESEARCH IN URBAN POLICY

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Recent Volumes:

Volume 1: Coping with Urban Austerity
          Part B: Managing Cities
Volume 3: Decisions on Urban Dollars
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CAN TOCQUEVILLE KARAOKE?
GLOBAL CONTRASTS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, THE ARTS AND DEVELOPMENT

United Kingdom — North America — Japan
India — Malaysia — China
Contents

Introduction

Terry Nichols Clark

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

Section I: Tocqueville in Context: Global Studies in Civic Participation

Introduction to Section I

Voluntary Associations, Social Inequality, and Participatory Democracy in the United States and Korea

Seokho Kim

Citizen Participation in Seoul, Tokyo, and Chicago

Wonho Jang, Terry Nichols Clark and Miree Byun

From Bowling Alone to Karate Together (USA to Asia): Preliminary Claims and Findings

Joseph E. Yi
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

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