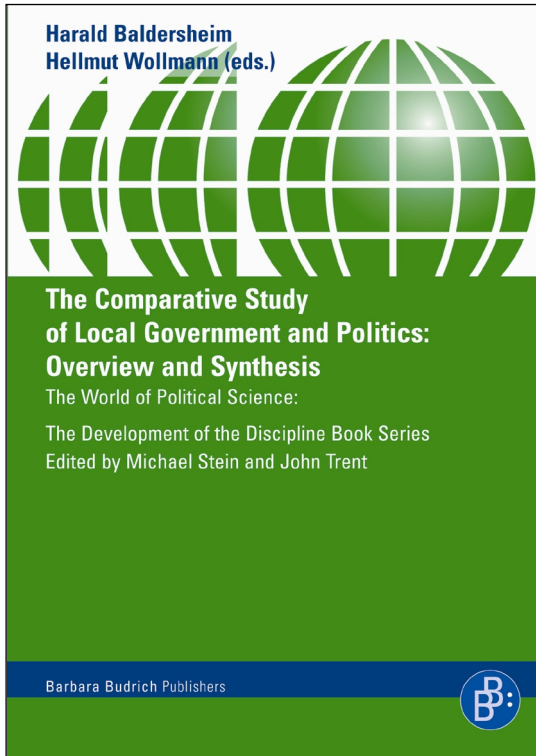


The World of Political Science



**Harald Baldersheim
Hellmut Wollmann (eds.)**

The Comparative Study of Local Government and Politics

Overview and Synthesis

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The book provides a the state-of-the-art of local government studies, with an emphasis on contributions by political science. Particular attention is paid to the development of the research agenda in the field, of which a potential future development is outlined.

The first chapter of the book outlines the development of the research agenda of the field of local government studies ; while community power studies were central topics from the 1930s and into the

1950s and 60s, policy-oriented research became increasingly popular in the 1970s. Institutional issues have always been important concerns to the scholars in this field. The next chapter raises a question of increasing relevance in a globalising world: Will local government have any meaningful role in such a world? Various answers, mostly in the affirmative, are suggested. Local government studies face specific methodological challenges; these are reviewed in a separate chapter; the role of local government studies as a laboratory for the social sciences is highlighted. The book also provides a global overview of the infra-structure of research in the field (research institutes and groups, data bases, etc). Finally, ideas regarding a research agenda for the future are presented and a Laswellian platform for collaborative and comparative research is elaborated.

From the Contents:

- *Michael Goldsmith*, From Community to Power and Back Again?
- *Susan Clarke*, Globalisation and the Study of Local Politics: Is the Study of Local Politics Meaningful in a Global Age?
- *Peter John*, Methodologies and Research Methods in Urban Political Science
- *Vincent Hoffmann-Martinot*, The Infrastructure of Research and Academic Education
- *Harald Baldersheim and Hellmut Wollmann*, Assessment of the Field and Future Research Agenda

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