



Government-Led or Public-Led? Chinese Policy Agenda Setting during the COVID-19 Pandemic

YIXIN DAI*, YUEJIANG LI**, CHAO-YO CHENG [†], HONG ZHAO**, & TIANGUANG MENG[†]

*School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, **Department of Automation, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, [†]Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

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ABSTRACT *This paper compares government-led agenda and public-led agenda setting during the COVID-19 pandemic in China to investigate whether or not the pandemic enhances the government's role in agenda setting. Within-case comparison, aided by big data analysis and case study, finds an overall public-led pattern of agenda setting in China, and a mixture of government-led and public-led agenda setting during the pandemic. It is also found that Chinese government bodies pay attention to and are responsive to citizens' emotions expressed through social media.*

Keywords: agenda setting; social emotion; government-led agenda; public-led agenda; social media