**The Role of the CCP in Grassroots Policy Implementation: the Case of COVID-19**

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This paper uses a case study of COVID-19 management at the grassroots level in Shanghai to explore the role of local Chinese Communist Party (CCP) organisations and activities, as distinct from those of government, in public policy implementation in China. Western literature on Public Administration assumes that political parties are not involved in implementation; rather, this work is performed by formally apolitical ‘street-level bureaucrats’ who interact directly with the public (Lipsky 1980; Hupe and Hill 2016). Our research shows that this framework does not hold in the case of China, where the CCP is actively involved in policy implementation at the street level, *in addition to* the street-level bureaucrats conceptualised in the Western literature. The goal of our paper is to understand and conceptualise this additional role of the CCP in policy implementation, beyond that of government. In order to do so, we have conducted 36 semi-structured interviews during the summer of 2021 with secretaries (书记) and directors (主任) from local Residents’ Committees (居委会), government officials mobilised to assist with pandemic management (下沉干部), representatives from property management companies (物业) and Party and Masses Service Centre (党群服务中心), as well as volunteers and residents. We deploy the theoretical framework of Xueguang Zhou (2012, 2013) to distinguish between ‘bureaucratic governance’ and ‘mobilizational governance’ in Shanghai’s COVID-19 management, the former allowing the Party to integrate with government departments to perform routine functions of public administration and the latter enabling it to engage directly with citizens to perform ideological and extra-ordinary functions that go beyond formal government. This additional function of the CCP, we argue, has proved central to China’s COVID containment strategy.