

ABSTRACT

Panel 2: Strategic Adaptation of Charities to the Local Environment

**“Incomplete Collaboration”: The Strategy for NGOs’ Collective Action
A Study of NGOs’ Collective Action during the Wenchuan Earthquake Relief**

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As an important action type of the Non-Government Organizations (“NGOs”), collaboration among NGOs has not attracted adequate attention from the Chinese domestic academic community. By going through variables found by a large amount of prior existing research, this paper constructs an integrated framework to explain NGOs’ collective action during the Wenchuan Earthquake relief, which focuses on an “incomplete collaboration” strategy. The study shows that NGOs’ incomplete collaboration, based on such several strategic mechanisms as self-constrained objectives of action, limited engagement of NGOs and adaptable forms of organizing, could address various challenges both in and outside of NGOs and hence enables NGOs’ collective actions on disaster relief. The strategy of incomplete collaboration is determined by such internal and external factors as limited political opportunities, informal networks among NGOs and incomplete collaboration intent of NGOs. And the incomplete nature of collaboration leads to its both effectiveness and limitations.