Problem Defining the US Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act: Perception of Chinese Manufacturing as a Cause

This paper aims to show why and how the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act appeared on the US political agenda in 2007. Employing the concept of policymaking as a process of problem definition, an analysis of dominant frames within the news media and political discourse is taken to identify the respective perceived causes of the problems addressed in the act. Results show that in the news media as well as in Congressional debates, Chinese manufacturing is emphasized as a major factor leading to certain actions taken by the act, such as increasing the capacity of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.