

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

Indigenization, Internationalization and the Construction of the Academic System for Sociology with Chinese Characteristics (I)

On the International Codification of China's Local Knowledge

..... *Bian Yanjie* 1

Abstract: At a time of China's rise in the world, the international codification of China's local knowledge is an important research task to be carried out by Chinese sociologists. Local knowledge is Clifford Geertz's concept, referring to the knowledge that is confined to a specific location at a specific time within a specific culture. Its two basic forms include the explicit, measurable knowledge and the tacit, hard-to-measure knowledge, and the latter form is challenging and the study of it is a weakness of Chinese sociology today. Local knowledge must be codified before becoming theoretical knowledge, but the level of theoretical abstraction can be regional, national, or international. In a cross-cultural approach, the tasks to codify local knowledge in order to include it in international discourses can be carried out by following a "term acceptance, meaning enrichment, and variation enlargement" strategy, and such a strategy has been used to guide the international codification of one of Chinese culture-specific term *guanxi* into the theoretical concept of network social capital.

Indigenization of Sociology in China: Debates, Core Challenges, and the Way Forward *Wang Ning* 15

Abstract: The indigenization of sociology has been an objective set up by Chinese sociologists since the 1920s. However, this cause came to a halt when the discipline of sociology was banned in China in the early 1950s. When the discipline was revitalized

in the early 1980s, this objective was brought up again. Since then, this issue has undergone constant discussions and debates. There are roughly two camps of sociologists in these debates regarding the indigenization of sociology: Those who support and practice it and those who criticize and oppose it. In this paper, the author reviews and analyzes the debates, reveals the crux of the core matters, and suggests a way forward. It is argued that we should deepen the debates by analyzing the institutional roots for the lack of sufficient innovative ability. It concludes that the objective of the indigenization of sociology will be realized once the ability of knowledge innovation is enhanced.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDY

Housing and Social Stratification

Housing and the Class Identity of Urban Residents: A Study Based on Data from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou

..... *Zhang Haidong & Yang Chengchen* 39

Abstract: This paper studies the issue of housing, an important symbol of wealth, and the class identity of urban residents. We find that the residents' housing stratification is prominent in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. There is a significant correlation between factors of housing, i. e. , the "housing quality" and "symbol distinction", and class identity. After processing data by multiple imputations, the result confirms that housing plays a key role in explaining residents' class identity. The article points out that in the current Chinese society, different from the traditional occupation-based class identification, the class identification of wealth is increasingly based on housing. In the study of class identification, the perspective of housing can provide a new framework of analysis.

Housing Reform, Life Course and Urban Housing Acquisition (1980 – 2010)

..... *Wu Kaize* 64

Abstract: Based on data from the Guangzhou Household Survey in 2010 and event history model, this paper analyzes the impact on acquisition of the first set of housing from the interaction between the housing market reform and individual's life course. Research shows that the differentiation in housing market reform and reform strategy lead to clear period effect and cohort effect on housing acquisition. The dual system of the welfare housing

property right transformation and the housing commercialization reduces the housing inequality within and outside of the establishment, aggravates the housing differences between elites and non-elites, and extends the establishment elites' advantage in welfare housing acquisition. Housing inequality resulted from establishment division and market segmentation reinforces each other during the housing reform process, and exacerbates housing differentiation among the youth cohort by intergenerational transmission.

PAPER

Balancing the Abstraction and Empirics of Modeling: A Theoretical Approach to Social Science *Wang Shuixiong & Liang Pengfei* 90

Abstract: How to develop a theory generates much academic debates, which involves the issue of balancing the abstraction and reality of a theoretical model. Five fundamental elements, including input variables, control variables, basic logic mechanism, output variables, and the environment or external constraints should be taken into consideration in a theory. Although holding different opinions on the elements of a theory and the requirements of reality for those elements, M. Friedman's emphasis on "disprove or fail to disprove predictions" and R. H. Coase's proposition on "assumptions should be realistic as well as tractable" do not contradict each other, but are in a complementary relation. Both should be integrated into the theory construction and development. As model construction is getting easier than before, basic logic mechanisms tend to correspond better with the real world. Thus, the issue of balancing the abstraction and reality of a model should be taken more seriously based on the "five elements" approach. It can be helpful for researchers to advance the work of theoretical integration and creation.

Institution, Actors and Choices of Action: Observation from the Women's Federation Reform in City L *Mao Dan & Chen Jiajun* 114

Abstract: The Women's Federation presented itself as a pendulum in the past reform before 2015. It sometimes worked as a party or government organ, and sometimes as social organizations. The reason was that people working at the Federation increasingly adopted the position of cadre-type professional intermediaries. The limited reform preserved the existence of the Federation and the existing position of cadres in the institution. Emphasizing its political advantage and bridging function, the Federation

was willing to undertake tasks assigned by the party and government, which reduced the difference between the Federation and the latter. On the other hand, as the policy emphasized on the transition into a social organization, the Federation enhanced its functions as a social organization. It, however, resisted turning into a complete social organization, but only resembling it. Thus the pendulum in the past reform was the result of the coupling effect of both the institution and actors. That is, it was caused not merely by institutional arrangements and periodical change of orders from above, but also by the collective actions of the cadre group in the Federation. Thus, the future reform of the Federation should proceed from both the institution and actions.

Active Inertia: A Study on the Mechanism of the Restructuring of the Agricultural Industries by the Local Government

..... *Liu Junqiang, Lu Yu & Li Zhen* 140

Abstract: Why has the restructuring of agriculture been high on government agenda for decades but yielded little results during the cycles of “new projects - inefficient projects - new projects”? Based on fieldwork for one year in a county in southern China and interviews with over 100 people, we find that the frequent restructuring of agribusiness is an adaptive action to strong incentives and weak punishment mechanisms. Competition for performance and time pressure propel local cadres to chase new projects. Weak punishment reduces the cost of project failure because of the difficulty in assigning responsibility, intervention through informal ties and the multi-task balance. This study investigates the institutional origins of active inertia in government, casts doubt on the government capacity in building local agribusiness and hence improves our understanding of government’s limitation in economic development.

How Does the Local Government Avoid Risks? —— An Analysis of the Reform of Community Property Management in City A

..... *Sheng Zhiming* 166

Abstract: Government departments at different levels face various potential risks that need to be avoided in the process of social governance. This paper conducts case study of the community property management reform initiated by the Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-Rural Development in City A, and illustrates how this local government department avoids potential risks through a series of institutional

arrangements and organizational designs. I construct a framework to explore the actions of local government department. The local government department takes advantage of the market mechanism of “binding interests”, the social mechanism of “restricted self-governance” and “supporting social organization”, as well as the bureaucratic mechanism of “strengthening the dominant position of grassroots government agencies” to deal with risks. The origins of risks, the principles of implementation, the legitimate foundations, the degrees of collaboration and the effects of implementation are varied. The local government’s logic of risk avoidance may lead to the phenomenon of “organized irresponsibility”, which may exacerbate social contradictions in the future.

Cartography: A New Framework of National Governance ... *Du Yue* 192

Abstract: During the last decade, maps and files have gained prominence in the bureaucratic system in China as the state’s effort to promote good governance by technology. However, empirical studies on maps and files fall short due to the lack of analytical frameworks. This article aims to integrate studies on maps in multiple disciplines and develop a proper framework of cartography in the Chinese context of governance. Specifically, the current framework comprises three parts: map-making, governance and cognition. When applied to the land governance in China, the new perspective reveals unprecedented opportunities as well as limits of governance for the central and local government respectively. The current framework points to the potential traps in the current transition of governance.

Reversal of the Employment-Fertility Relationship and the Rise of Dual-Earner Family Policy: Implications for China’s Family Policy in the Two-Child Era *Meng Ke* 218

Abstract: Social policy making is based on causal relationship between socio-economic variables. Drawing on time-series-cross-section analysis of 22 OECD countries (1960 – 2010), this article demonstrates that family policy in industrialized nations is shaped by relationship between female labor force participation and the total fertility rate. This relationship has changed from being negative to positive since the 1980s, thereby exhibiting an inverted-J shaped association in the post-WWII years. This reversal of employment-fertility relationship leads to the recent expansion of employment-oriented family policy. The lesson is that the Chinese family policy in the two-child era should consider the employment-fertility relationship.