

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY ; IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF REFORM AND OPENING-UP

Solid or Fluid? Social Class Structure Transition Trends in Contemporary China during the Past 40 Years *Li Lulu, Shi Lei & Zhu Bin* 1

Abstract: Social class structure transition is one of the core processes of social changes. Based on a general class structure framework and a national representative dataset, this paper focuses on the intergenerational social mobility between classes and further discusses the social class transition in contemporary China since the reform and opening up. Specifically, we examine the transition trend of intergenerational social mobility, mechanisms of social class structure transition, international comparison, and the effect of social mobility in China. We find that under the dual backgrounds of industrialization and market transition, the gross intergenerational mobility rate keeps increasing in the Past forty years, while the change of origin-destination is an N-shape trend. After experiencing an initial rise and a subsequent twenty-year decrease, the origin-destination association in China has rebounded during the past ten years. We argue that the relative strength of performancism and social class reproduction in the process of reform determines the N-shape transition trend of origin-destination association in China. Among all twenty countries we studied, China’s origin-destination association score ranks the 17th, which means the degree of origin-destination association in China is relatively low. The analysis of intergenerational mobility effect reveals that an open, fluid society can lead to more positive social attitudes by providing equal social mobility opportunities.

China’s 40 Years of Poverty Reduction: An Exploratory Account from Historical and Sociological Perspectives

..... *Li Xiaoyun, Xu Jin & Yu Lerong* 35

Abstract: China’s poverty reduction in the past 40 years since the start of its “reform and opening-up” is not merely an achievement during its economic and social

transformation that have universal significance, but also a narrative of the poor capturing development opportunities, driven by interactions of state, market and society with Chinese characteristics. This process reflects a dominant role of the “original aspiration” of the Chinese Communist Party, and critical impact of economic development on poverty reduction. Specifically, China’s 40 years poverty reduction is a reproduction process of the social meaning of poverty, which is jointly driven by economic and social development, and state-dominated poverty reduction efforts in the context of China’s special “family-state” world view and rural social relations. Modernity, small-holder farming and rural social network have intertwined effects on this process. The authors thus argue the small-holder production, rural social relations and China-specific political culture together form the political and social basis for China’s success in its 40 – year poverty reduction. In conclusion, this 40 – year process is a development story of universal significance, as well as a typical expression of Chinese wisdom and plans with China-specific political, social and cultural characteristics.

MONOGRAPH

Class Identification and Differentiation with Chinese Characteristics

The Gatsby Dilemma of Chinese Private Entrepreneurs: Formation and Changes of Status Identity *Fan Xiaoguang & Lv Peng* 62

Abstract: This article introduces a term, “the Gatsby dilemma”, to conceptualize a fact that we find based on cross sectional data of Chinese Private Entrepreneurs Survey (1997 – 2014): While the revenue of companies steadily grows, their subjective status identity however declines to the middle level. Statistical analysis reveals three major mechanisms behind this trend: the weakening effect of political rewards, the constant negative effect of keeping governmental connection, and insignificant enhance effect of growing economic might. We argue that to stabilize their status identity level, the vital task is to build a state-business relationship which can reflect various interests within this group. The current supply side reform provides a new momentum for boosting subjective class identification of Chinese private entrepreneurs.

The Reproduction of Working Class? Social Mobility and the Stratification of Parenting Practice in Chinese Urban Families

..... *Felicia F. Tian & Jing Yongchao* 83

Abstract: As an embodied cultural capital, parenting practice is class based. In

Chinese urban families, the middle class incline to adopt the practice of concerted cultivation, while the working class incline to adopt the practice of natural growth. However, those who were born in working-class families but achieved upward mobility to the middle class are more likely to adopt the the middle class practice; those who were born in middle-class families but moved downward are able to pertain some aspects of the middle class practice. The findings of unbalanced reproduction of parenting practice do not support the assumption of solidification of class boundaries in the Chinese society.

Mixed Subjective Class Status: A New Theory about Class Identification and the Social Status Discordance in China Xu Qi 102

Abstract: Based on the China General Social Survey in 2010 and 2013, this paper explores the determinants of class identification and the social status discordance in China. Different from prior studies that focus on individual's objective social status *per se*, the author puts forward a concept of "mixed subjective class status" and finds that: (1) The objective social status of the individual *per se* together with their parents' and spouse's social status all have significant impact on one's class identification and the social status discordance; (2) The impact of parents' social status is stronger for young people and individuals who co-reside with their parents, whereas the impact of spouse's social status is stronger for married women than married men; (3) The influence of parents' and spouse's social status on one's class identification grows with time. This paper argues that it is necessary to use the family rather than individual as the unit of analysis when studying class identification in China. We should take full consideration of the heterogeneous effect of parents' and spouse's social status on different groups of people. The determinants of class identification and their change should be understood in the particular modernization process in China.

Sociology of Entertainment: Film and TV

Institutional Environment, Operating Mode and Art Production: The Rise and Fall of Shanghai Animation Film Studio
..... Yan Jun & Le Pengju 130

Abstract: Based on Howard S. Becker's idea of "art as collective action", this paper discusses the changes in art production of Shanghai Animation Film Studio from the perspectives of institutional environment and operating mode. It aims to respond to the important question in the sociology of art, namely, the relationship between social economic structure and artistic production. It is found that, in the "golden era" when

state control posed strong restrictions, sufficient resources, artistic convention and consensus molded the collective action in the community and gave rise to a great deal of innovation. After the Reform and Opening-up, the original supporting system for art production gradually perished, and the disruptive work mode resulted in the shattering of the artistic community. In the transformation to modern cultural industry, the art creation of Shanghai Animation Film Studio gradually lost its distinguishing features and became mediocre.

Another Form of “Amusing Ourselves to Death”? — Experience, Ideology and the Labor Process of the TV Variety Entertainment Shows

..... *Jia Wenjuan & Zhong Kai'ou* 159

Abstract: Compared with traditional industries, the labor process in culture industries has changed. In the entertainment industry, management transforms heavy labor into entertainment through relational work, emotional work, and feeling work. Different from traditional industries, this kind of labor control is not based on organizational institution or economic motivation, but relies on once supplementary cultural factors such as relationship, emotion and feelings. At the same time, the logic of ideological fantasy behind labors' consent is no longer the same as what Althusser generalized, i. e., managers shaping a certain concept through the labor process, and covering up real labor relations with a false sense of consciousness. It has changed to the way as Zizek described: The laborers experience a real ideology, pursuing their own plus-de-jour in the ideological reality. In the end, the laborers devote both their body and soul to work.

PAPERS

Crowd Dynamics: An Alternative Narrative of Social Psychology

..... *Zhou Xiaohong* 186

Abstract: Throughout history, people have been shocked by the scale and chaos witnessed in the mass, or the crowd, and the emergence of its impulsiveness, irrationality, and tendency of violence. How to understand and grasp the nature of the crowd so as to harness it effectively has remained a widely-discussed issue in the history of human civilization, from Plato, Livius to Machiavelli. The French Revolution of 1789, on the one hand, devastated the feudal system of France and eventually the whole Europe; on the other hand, it created a hundred years of blood, chaos and violence. The debate about the French Revolution has given birth to the discussion of the crowd and its dynamic mechanism by Le Bon, Gabriel Tarde, and Sigmund Freud, which has later developed into an alternative narrative of human behavior in social psychology.

Most influential of all is Le Bon's "the law of the mental unity of crowds", by which he analyzes the two sides of the crowd's brutality and heroism, and describes the transformation from heterogeneity to homogeneity in gathered individuals. Le Bon's research not only influenced subsequent discussion of the relationship between the crowd and the leader, as well as their power relations, but also created the tradition of collective behavior research in American sociology. Furthermore, in our era of globalization, it urges people to reflect on the new form of panic caused by network violence.

The Representation and Protection of Moeurs; Rousseau's Social Theory of Roman Constitutions *Zhang Guowang* 212

Abstract: Moeurs is at the core of Rousseau's social thought. His discussion of moeurs constitutes an important beginning of Western social theory. This article attempts to bring the moral sociology perspective of "moeurs" into the discussion of the Roman constitutions and examine the social theoretical implications of various constitutions. This article contends that the Rome Comitia is a manifestation of different moeurs in the specific historical periods, and the function of the Senate is to guide the trend of moeurs through the law. The essence of the tribunate is to protect the moeurs with the negative power, whereas the power of the censorship aims to present and guide the judgment of the public opinion. Whether the dictatorship can effectively run relies on the social mentality of the public with regard to the absolute power.