

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

Children Born in the Era of Reform and Opening-up: China’s New Generation and a New Era of Development *Li Chunling* 1

Abstract: China’s New Generation, born during the 1980s and 1990s, is a social cohort grown up in the era of Reform and Opening-up. They are simultaneously influenced by and play a critical role in a series of major historical events in the aftermath of the Reform and Opening-up. The life course of this generation is intertwined with major social changes, such as high-speed economic growth, the one-child policy, education expansion, the rise of the Internet, marketization, industrialization, urbanization, globalization and the rise of China. These changes greatly affect their living circumstances and opportunities, shaping the generational characteristics while widening the intergenerational gap between them and the previous generations. At the same time, however, China’s New Generation was unable to break the constraints of social structure. Shared generational identity fails to eliminate socio-economic disparities within the generation. On the contrary, marketization has strengthened the structure of social class through intergenerational transmission. In China’s new era of development, to promote equal opportunities and narrow socio-economic differences among the new generation now proves to be a new challenge.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDY

Study on Organization and Institution

Internal Promotion or External Recruitment? Firm Size and the Choice of Vacancy Fulfillment in Organizations

..... *Shi Lei, Li Lulu & Zhao Zhong* 25

Abstract: This paper focuses on the formative mechanism of the paradox with regard to

choices made by employers while filling job vacancies. It aims to explain how firms can overcome the constraint of firm-specific human capital and the employees' bargaining power, thus converting employment relationship from closeness to openness. We find that the constraint of firm-specific human capital as well as the bargaining power structure between the employers and employees determines the type of labor market within the organization, thus affecting the choice between internal promotion and external recruitment. On the other hand, the constraint of firm-specific human capital and bargaining power structure between employers and employees varies nonlinearly as the firm size increases.

Why Are Risk Sharing Rules Uncertain? A Sociological Study of Local Financial Governance *Xiang Jinglin, Qiu Zeqi & Zhang Xiang* 48

Abstract: This paper discusses the uncertainty of risk sharing rules in local financial governance. That is, the formal risk sharing rules of financial transactions agreed in advance are difficult to be certain in the actual operation. Firstly, the institutional contradiction at the macro level is an important structural source of the uncertainty of the rules at the micro level. Secondly, institutional contradictions offer micro actors specific ideas of legitimacy for the conflicts and interest as the driving force, which induce competitions of norms and interests among investors, local governments and intermediaries on risk sharing rules and lead to the competitive pattern of different risk sharing rules. Lastly, the combination of multiple legitimacy claims and multiple mechanisms for contention during the game leads to the uncertainty of the risk sharing rules in actual operation.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDY

Culture and Space

Culture Formation and the Production of Dormitory Community: Analysis of the Administration Office Diary of the Personnel Department in *Hengyuan Cotton Mill* *Si Wenjing & Xuan Chaoqing* 75

Abstract: Dormitory is a critical institutional innovation during the process of urbanization and industrialization in Republican China. Using archives of the 1930s and 1940s from *Hengyuan Cotton Mill*, we find that the state, company and female workers were together involved in the culture formation of the dormitory, where they dealt with risks and dilemmas along with their structural positions. This led to the production of a

specific dormitory community. Observation of this process could provide us a better understanding of the logic of informal institutions produced by the female workers, utilizing their formal and informal institutional resources. Furthermore, it helps us to comprehend the reconstruction of institutions and people-oriented urbanization.

Social Poetics of the “Public Space”: Teahouse and Rural life in Southern Sichuan *Song Jingye* 99

Abstract: Building on Bruno Latour’s ontological critique of the “social” and Michael Herzfeld’s conceptualization of “social poetics”, this paper explores teahouse as a way of life in a marketplace in southern Sichuan. To challenge the existing “public space” paradigm for the study of teahouse, I argue that teahouse in China is not a “public space” in the political sense, which highlights autonomy, rationality and resistance. Instead, as a “space of performance” for self-representation and sociality, a “space of playing” for gambling and passtime, as well as a “discursive space” for arguments and arbitration, the local teahouse is characterized by its poetic rather than political nature. The teahouse is not only a container of multiple performing skills, game tricks and speaking tactics, as a poetic space bridging the self and society, structure and liminality, discourse and practice, but also the bearer of a specific, embedded publicity that is distinct from the western public sphere.

PAPER

Does Preschool Attendance Matter for the Urban-Rural Cognition Gap of Middle School Students? Evidence from CEPS *Zheng Lei, Weng Qiuyi & Gong Xin* 122

Abstract: Cognitive abilities have great impact on individuals’ socioeconomic status. However, evidence of the effect of preschool education on urban-rural cognition gap from large-scale sample is almost nonexistent. Based on a nationally representative dataset from China Education Panel Survey, this study fills this gap by presenting evidence of significant cognition gap between urban and rural middle school students. We find a consistent positive relationship between preschool attendance and cognitive ability at grade 7 and grade 9, based on OLS and propensity score matching estimation. Results based on Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition suggest that the differences in preschool education experience between urban and rural students account for 28% to 44% of such between-group cognition gap. We also simulate the intervention effects of preschool education development policy on narrowing urban-rural cognition gap.

Logic of Identity Differentiation for the Agricultural Transfer Population

..... *Li Bin & Zhang Guisheng* 146

Abstract: Based on the perspectives of “action-structure” and “agency-construction”, this paper studies the influences of structural exclusion and subjective initiative in differentiating the identification of agricultural transfer population (ATP). It finds that: (1) The identification of ATP showed a tendency of “tiered development”; (2) The structural factors that affect the identification of ATP are discrete, as some factors have incentive effect, such as the reform on household registration system, the transformation of rural villages to urban communities and land acquisition policy, etc. Some factors have hindered the identification process, including housing services, administration services and public health services in urban areas, whereas other elements have been ignored, such as the provision of the basic education service. (3) At the level of individual’s activities, the logic for identity differentiation has moved from “process” to “outcome”.

“A Straw Shows which Way the Wind Blows”: New Media in the Context of Community Governance

Chen Fuping & Li Rongyu 170

Abstract: This research employs a mixed research design that combines online and offline data to explore the relationship between community governance and the new media, the latter demonstrating characteristics of media, social network and governmental platform. The result shows that the resource network of new media available to the residents improves the level of community governance, whereas the official platform has little impact. Through further analysis, it is found that the hierarchical community governance structure causes the bifurcation of the content production of the official platform and community-based information and interactive needs of the residents. This leads to the narrowing of technological functions. Therefore, coordinated development of information technology and community governance structure is critical to community development.

Differentiation of the Elite; *Xiahai* and *canzheng* Entrepreneurs in Dispute Resolution

Zhang Hua & Wu Yue 194

Abstract: In the debate of China’s market transition, *xiahai* entrepreneurs and *canzheng* entrepreneurs represent business elites with different political connections and experiences in politics. This article uses data from the 2006 Chinese Private Entrepreneurs Survey to construct dispute resolution models for entrepreneurs. We introduce three types of entrepreneurs who have shown different characteristics as

political elites. The *xiahai canzheng* entrepreneurs and *caogen canzheng* entrepreneurs tend to rely on institutions such as the government and associations to resolve disputes. The *xiahai* entrepreneurs, on the other hand, are inclined to rely on personal channels, or even contentious methods to settle disputes outside the institution. Controlling the size of enterprises and educations levels, what affects whether the entrepreneurs settle disputes through legal means are their subjective values and past experiences, rather than political capital.

REVIEW

Mobility Turn in Policy Transfer Research: From State-Centric to Comparative Urban Approach *Xiao Yun* 219

Abstract: In the age of globalization, frequent inter-urban policy transfer profoundly transforms the urban governance by connecting local policy regimes to the global urban policy community. Cities have become the most active participants in the global governance system, absorbing and contributing to different models of best practices. However, the traditional policy transfer research is marked by a state-centered approach, which lacks a comparative urban framework to conceptualize the precise process. In light of this deficiency, scholars coined a new term “policy mobility” to account for the inter-urban policy transfer from a multidisciplinary perspective. Policy mobility framework also directs the attention to the global-relational and socio-spatial construction along the process of policy transfer. This paper reviews the origin, theoretical basis and practical significance of the mobility turn. It also proposes future research projects, with the hope to contribute to comparative urban study and the multidisciplinary conversation in policy study in China.