## SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES

2019

(Bimonthly) 5

Vol. 34 September, 2019

## MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

Social Justice and the Construction of China's Modernization

Wu Zhongmin 1

Abstract: Social justice has significant consequences for a country's modernization. It concerns fundamental issues, such as the basic direction and orientation of the whole modernization project. There are two basic values of social justice, which are complementary and indispensable. Only following these two basic values can the basic orientation of modernization be effectively upheld. Social justice is conducive to the activation and generation of the internal driving force of modernization construction. If the basic rules of social justice are not followed, the internal driving force of modernization construction will not be formed, and modernization construction will lose vitality and creativity. Social justice has crucial and direct effect on the coordination of interests among all social groups in the whole social community, thus also the security of the whole society. Following the basic rules of social justice, the interests of various groups in society can be effectively coordinated, and the security of modernization can be ensured. At present, focusing on the issue of social justice, we need to pay attention to several basic aspects, such as creating a environment for fair competition in the market economy, establishing a medium-level social security system, and rectifying the deficiencies in the promotion of social justice.

## MONOGRAPHIC STUDY

Community Studies: From Tradition to Modernity

From Ge Mei Qi Mei to Mei Mei Yu Gong: Fei Xiaotong on Liang Shuming's Rural Construction Proposition ....................... Zhang Hao 19

Abstract: Both Liang Shuming and Fei Xiaotong are important figures in the history of

rural development and academic thought. This article mainly discusses Fei Xiaotong's attitude towards Liang Shuming's proposition of rural construction. Disciplinary training, academic inheritance from his mentors, and the gentry family background led the young Fei Xiaotong to hold a reserved attitude towards Liang Shuming's idea of rural construction. After decades of turbulent life and contemplations in his later years, Fei Xiaotong was drawn closer to Liang Shuming's thought and recognized its merits. His understanding of Liang Shuming's proposition of rural construction transformed from Ge Mei Qi Mei (find your beauty) to Mei Mei Yu Gong (share the beauty and achieve unity). These two thinkers' ideas of local reconstruction symbolize important achievements of the localization of Chinese social sciences, and continue to shed light on the existing problems of rural development in China.

Shantytown Renovation and New Type of Community Construction——A Comparative Study on Four Low-income Settlements …… Li Guoqing 44

Abstract: The large-scale shantytown renovation initiated in 2005 has completely changed the living environment of low-income residents in Chinese cities. At the same time, it has caused great changes in urban communities. The renovated communities where more than 100 million people live have become a new type of community in China's cities and towns. This paper firstly summarizes the temporal and spatial evolution of shantytown reconstruction, its characteristics and different types. Secondly, based on the fieldwork of four types of shantytown reconstruction cases, this paper expounds the urban social rupture before the shantytown transformation and the social mobility of low-income residents in the reconstructed community. It also refines the holistic feature of renovated new community as the new type of community in China. Finally, this paper argues that it is necessary to reshape the "roots and souls" of the community in order to realize "shantytown removal" and integrate the residents into the urban society in future development.

Institutional Boundary Transition and Heterogeneity of the Earmarked Project System: A Multi-case Comparison ...... Shi Puyuan 69

Abstract: As an institution of state governance, the earmarked project system does not expand infinitely, but diffuses into other institutions. During the tax distribution reformation, "tiaotiao" expands. In order to enhance incentives for "kuaikuai" and the society, the central government attempts to reduce the influences of the earmarked project system by cutting specific fiscal transfers, pulling together disparate projects, applying formula distribution, lowering local matching funds, etc. However, this results in a more complicated system. Based on two dimensions, namely local incentive and

social embeddedness, this paper constructs four ideal types of project operation, including "pressure push-overall mobilization", "hierarchical subcontracting-large project priority", "hierarchical responsibility release-micro engineering" and "technical governance-key breakthrough". All types are unstable solutions, therefore constantly changing. By conducting multi-case analysis, this paper compares four rural and agricultural projects, and expounds the micro-level mechanisms.

## **PAPER**

Co-occurrence of Equality and Prosperity? On the Instrumental Role of Social Policy in Evolving Welfare State ...... Fang Lijie 94

**Abstract:** By reviewing changes taken place in the welfare state, this paper attempts to understand the social policy as a tool to balance economic development with social equality. It was found that during the period of capitalist industrialization, the core of the "welfare state model" was the "de-commodification" of labor force, which successfully responded to the "common interests" of economic growth and social equality. However, it has failed to deal with new problems resulted from post-industrialization, aging, and globalization since the 1980s. The "common interests" of the economy and society in the new context require social policies to shift to the "recommodification" of labor.

Abstract: Evidence-based practice model argues that the social work profession should be based on results of positivist research, and adopt valid strategies to provide service to clients. However, practice in everyday life, including professional practice, is a process of urgent improvisation triggered by the subjects' habitus, which is shaped by the structure of the social field and masked by the symbolic system. Our case of community correction demonstrates that social work profession can integrate positivist knowledge of criminal psychology with the habitus of clients and their life trajectory, follow the contingent life events to help client reflect on his/her habitual coping strategy, re-choose new coping strategy, change the life model gradually and reduce recidivism.

Media Hegemony, Cultural Circle and the Global Dissemination of the Orientalist Discourse: Taking Public Opinion on China in GDELT as an Example

······ Gong Weigang, Zhu Meng, Zhang Sai & Luo Jiaojiang 138

Abstract: This article analyzes the orientalist discourse constructed in the Western China-related opinion and the communication mechanism using the Global Database of Events, Languages, and Tone (GDELT). The study finds that in the new media era, public opinions in the U. S. continue with the connotation of traditional orientalist discourse, and depict China as an authoritarian country with human right issues and a provocative, threatening image. It also finds that the "core-edge" structure and the "cultural circle" structure exist in news dissemination, shaping the landscape of China-related opinions in the global cyberspace. The "core-edge" structure promotes the spread of the orientalist discourse constructed by hegemonic states in many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, while the "cultural circle" structure based on common language and cultural proximity weakens the spread of Western political discourse in Arab, Russia and Central and Eastern Europe. The findings can contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of Chinese international communication in the future.

Abstract: In the process of social transformation in China, identity is one of the structural positions in the vertical hierarchical sequence, or a type of horizontal connective relationship and recognition between the same level of organizations or individuals. Both the unitized identity sequence of the collectivism period, and the new dualistic social identity structure in the era of the Reform and Opening-up, show that organizational and individual identities of scarcity are shaped and defined in specific relationship structures. To obtain or possess resources through identity under the premise of social recognition indicates a kind of property right. Based on the case study of a collective enterprise in northeast China, this paper reveals the identity logic of property rights. "Identity" is introduced into the property rights analysis to investigate the property rights identification process of the enterprise organizations and workers. This paper finds that the main factors influencing the identity property rights of enterprises are their ownership level, administrative rank, scale, position in the social division of work, as well as industry attributes. Meanwhile, the identity property rights of workers depend on their ownership level, identity types (cadre or worker), professional ranks, types of work and service length. Based on these results, I propose the argument that identity is a form of property right.

Abstract: To break the stagnancy of poverty studies driven mainly by the official objective of filling the poverty gap, this research attempts at investigating how subjective poverty constructs the poor, taking children's social representations of poverty as an example. A comparative study was conducted in three primary schools in the Wenzhou area. It was found that children's social representations of poverty are much richer than the official definition. Urban children generally possess much more sophisticated poverty knowledge than children living at the outskirt or in rural areas, and the divergence widens with time. Moreover, compared with children who self-identified as rural residents, urban children name more and subtler poverty cues. The findings suggest that the differentiation between urban and rural children enlarges with age. This research reveals that by eliminating the negative connotations of poverty representations, it is possible to prevent poverty production and reproduction, and the ideal intervention time should be at Grade Three.

Why One's Jade is Difficult to be Polished by Others' Stones? On the Root Cause of the Third Sector's Dilemma ...... Luo Jing 217

Abstract: During the transformation of the Chinese society, the third sector, cooperating with the state, is expected to empower villages and reform the society. However, the third sector is likely to be caught up in dilemma. The reason behind this dilemma is that the two indispensable layers of the third sector's action logics, namely cooperation and empowerment, are difficult to be integrated. Specifically, there are differences in the connotation of cooperation and empowerment in the Chinese and Western contexts. In the West, cooperation and empowerment are intrinsically correlated, whereas in the Chinese context, their relationship is uncertain. Therefore, the dilemma of the third sector is both practical and theoretical. Only through further studies based on the historical and social roots of the Chinese society can we find effective solutions.