

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

Studying the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee: Building a Modern Socialist Country in an All-round Way

The New Stage of China’s Modernization from the Sociological Perspective

..... *Li Peilin* 1

Abstract: The year of 2020 marks an important episode in the history of China’s modernization. China has achieved the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way as scheduled, and put forward the national economic and social development plan for 2021–2025 and the long-term goal for 2030, starting a new stage of Chinese socialist modernization. From the sociological perspective, this paper explains the meaning and significance of the “new stage of China’s modernization” from four dimensions, namely, the new stage of long-term development strategy, the new stage of development concept transformation, the new stage of coping with new challenges in the new period, and the new stage of stepping out of development traps. The paper also analyzes the experiences and lessons of modernization reflected by the evolution of western modernization theory, to serve as a mirror for China’s future development.

The New Journey of China’s Moderation and New Approaches to Social Governance

..... *Li Youmei* 14

Abstract: The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee marked the beginning of a new journey towards a modern socialist country. Meanwhile, the modernization of China’s governance system and capacity is reaching a new stage. Faced with evolution of the principal social

contradiction, high-quality development, and people's new needs for a better life, how can China develop new approaches to social governance? This study discusses the appropriate epistemology and methodology for Chinese sociologists to interpret the transformation of social governance.

Towards Common Prosperity: Sociological Reflection on the Practice and Path of Agricultural and Rural Modernization *Wang Chunguang* 29

Abstract: In 2017, the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China put forward the strategy of rural revitalization. This was to become China's most important development strategy in the following decades. It concerns whether China's modernization and development can succeed. Agricultural modernization and rural modernization are two key measures to realize rural revitalization. Previously, only the modernization of agriculture was proposed as one of the "Four Modernizations". But now the modernization of rural areas was proposed on an equal footing. The reason behind this is that effective link, conversion, and mutual support have not been built between these two kinds of modernization. This paper analyzes the actors of multiple practices in agricultural and rural modernization and their relations. It hopes to reveal possible paths to realize agricultural and rural modernization in the future, and put forward thoughts and suggestions for policy innovation.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Social Research Methods: Classics and Innovation

Classical Social Theories and Comparative Historical Analysis—A Critical Appraisal
..... *Ying Xing* 46

Abstract: Comparative historical analysis is an interdisciplinary theoretical paradigm flourished in American social sciences in the mid-1960s, but its true origins can be traced back to the European classic social science tradition before the 1920s. This article takes the perspective of the sociology of knowledge to explicate the embeddedness of the European classic tradition of comparative historical

analysis, the “switch” and its revival in the American academia, and analyzes how the mainstream school of comparative historical analysis in the United States (represented by Barrington Moore and Theda Skocpol) understands classic works from Marx and Weber. This article criticizes the middle-level theorization for reducing the complexity of classics, and proposes a new starting point for comparative historical analysis for the Chinese academia.

A New Paradigm of Combining Big Data and Survey Data Based on the Theoretical Perspective *Luo Jar-der, Gao Xin, Zhou Tao et al.* 69

Abstract: When big data based on social network, social media, and sensors is combined with ground truths collected through qualitative or quantitative social survey methods in social sciences, a new research method is created based on the combination of big data and structural data driven by social theories. Using traditional survey methods to collect small-scale ground truths makes it possible to combine social science research questions, ground truths with existing big data, to establish a prediction model that provides a triangular reciprocal dialogue for data mining, theoretical modeling with causality inference, and prediction algorithm. Taking the research of the *guanxi* circle model as an example, this paper combines the ground truths obtained from the survey data with the big data of a widely used social network software in China to build a *guanxi* classification model. In the dialogue between theory, data mining and prediction algorithms, increasingly accurate prediction models are developed and a measurement of tie strength is created after multiple runs of sampling and model modification.

PAPER

Local Harvester Drivers and Foreign Reapers—A Sociological Study of the Mechanization of Agriculture Enterprise *Xu Zongyang* 92

Abstract: This study analyzes a case in which the harvesters of an agriculture enterprise were left unused during the harvest season, as the result of a transition from employing local harvester drivers to foreign reapers. By examining these two groups of local harvesters and foreign reapers within

specific social structures and local contexts, this study finds that the unused harvesters were the outcome of the interaction between the foreign enterprise owner and the local harvester drivers. The success of employing foreign reapers, however, was determined by the kinship network of the reapers, their relationship with the reaper agents, and their social status as outsiders. The mechanization of agriculture cannot be achieved by the purchase and upgrade of machines. The social structure and public attitudes in the local context should also be taken into consideration.

On the “Dual Effect” of Project System—Data Analysis of Urban and Rural Community Projects *Chen Jiajian & Gong Yuexuan* 115

Abstract: The project system is of great significance in state governance, but its allocation mechanism and effectiveness also cause controversy. This paper examines project distribution and its influence factors. Overall, the allocation of projects presents a “dual effect”. That is, at the macro level, the economically underdeveloped western provinces and rural areas receive more resources; however, within a specific region, counties and communities with higher level of economic development enjoy more resources. Combined with case study and data analysis, this paper uses a mixed research method to explore the formative mechanism of “dual effect”. The study finds that the central government uses the project system to promote the balance of public services, which results in equal distribution at the macro level. However, below the provincial level, in order to perform better in the assessment, local governments tend to allocate projects to areas with better economic conditions. The phenomenon of polarized distribution shows a displacement of policy objectives by management objectives during the implementation of project system.

Does Competition at College Rely on Family Background? —The Effect of Family Background on Human Capital Accumulation of College Students
..... *Li Chunling & Guo Yaping* 138

Abstract: This paper examines the effect of family background on the accumulation of human capital of college students based on 2017 Panel Survey of Chinese University Students. The result shows

that there are differences in the influence of family background among different universities and colleges. In elite universities, family background hardly displays its effect, and selective attrition effect is prominent. In other universities, on the contrary, family background shows a strong effect, and cultural reproduction mechanism plays an important role. In vocational colleges, neither cultural reproduction mechanism nor meritocracy reveals significant effect on the accumulation of human capital of students. The fast expansion of higher education has led to the differentiation of universities in competition rules. Cultural reproduction theory or selective elimination hypothesis cannot provide a full explanation for the changes in today's Chinese universities as they play different roles in different types of universities.

New Perspective on Intergenerational Relations, Social Pensions, and Elderly Care in Urban China *Guo Yu & Zhang Yinkai* 160

Abstract: This mix-methods research draws a picture of the coexistence of resilience and flexibility, unity and tension within family intergenerational relations against the background of modernization. Social pension has become key to urban elderly's economic independence, helping to achieve a "considerate care pattern". Social pensions and individual modernization further interacted with intergenerational relationships, shaping the expectation for how formal arrangement and family support would coexist. In the future, the government should continue to optimize its function, introduce a reasonable mix of market and social forces, and solve the "impossible trinity of elderly care" through the joint efforts of the government, society, market, family and individuals.

Protection of Women's rights by Women's Federation against the Background of China's Political and Legal Tradition (1980 – 2016) *Chen Weijie* 181

Abstract: Since the 1980s, China's Women's Federations have maintained their political goal in safeguarding women's rights, obtained unique organizational authorization decreed by the law, and established an embedded rights protection network connecting the state's powerful institutions. These meso-structures in turn affect the strategies adopted in safeguarding women's rights, including

participation, law education and relief. During the formation of meso-structures and the choice of strategies, there are two kinds of practice mechanisms, namely, “integrating law into politics” and “integrating politics into law”. The rights protection of Women’s Federations’ shows characteristics of politics of rights and strategic flexibility. Politics of rights stipulates the direction of rights protection, under which women’s federations have the flexibility to choose a mixed path of politics and law.

Waste as a Vibrant Matter; Waste Study under the Perspective of Materiality

..... Zhang Jieying 204

Abstract: Drawing on the theory of materiality, this article seeks a new understanding of the waste. It first explores how the idea of waste changes in the history of modernization, and then examines various waste production and treatment practices as well as related environmental and social issues in different societies. Further, this article proposes an analytical framework for empirical studies of waste by employing ANT (Actor-Network-Theory). Based on the examination of the materiality of waste and the ANT analysis, this article points out that waste is not just a filthy or dead object defined by modern environmental projects as well as mainstream technologies, but a “vibrant matter” with a social life. It is produced, moved and transformed in the society; it interacts and assembles with different social actors and engages in the construction of social facts. Waste influences the environment and society in often unexpected manners. On the one hand, it constantly challenges the existing environmental governance. On the other hand, it provokes the reproduction of alternative technologies, notions, practices and actions.