

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

“Collective” Revisited: Reflections on Marx’s Commune Studies *Pan Lu* 1

Abstract: In the study of rural collective economy, Chinese sociology is faced with the challenge of how to conceptualize the “collective”, and Marx’s idea of the commune provides theoretical inspiration for this. In his study of ancient social history, Marx established the historical universality of the commune as a form of human social organization and summarized the multiple forms of the clan commune, the family commune, and the rural commune and their evolution. The core of Marx’s concept of “commune” (*Gemeinwesen*) is the social connection and commonality formed in historical practice, and the commune embodies the integration and unity of the individual and the collective. Combining Marx’s thoughts with Chinese practice, this article conceptualizes the “collective” in contemporary China and provides a new perspective for understanding and guiding the development of the rural collective economy.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Sociology of Finance

Symbol Production, Relation Embeddedness, and the Operation of Research Reports—The Actions of Brokerage Analysts and Their Social Embeddedness

..... *Lu Yilong & Li Guangda* 23

Abstract: In the financial market, analysts of brokerage firms play a special role in collecting, collating and analyzing information on listed companies, researching and judging the trend of the securities market, producing research reports, and providing professional investment advice and

services to investors. As the value of research reports diminishes, analysts' "research report production" has evolved into symbol production, and "research report selling" is embedded in the social network of brokerage firms with institutional investors, analysts and fund managers. The production and operation of research reports maps out the structural changes in the relationship between finance and society, and signals the quiet emergence of a financialized society, and the issue of "financial embeddedness and de-embeddedness" not only reproduces the trajectory of the formation of a financialized society, but also implies the potential risks of financialization and its root causes.

How Financial Fraud Organizations Work in the Digital Age—An Example Based on a Cyber Ethnographic Study of Financial Fraud in *Feikuang* Company

..... *Ai Yun, Li Xiang & Xiang Jinglin* 45

Abstract: This study carries out a field survey on a series of financial businesses of a *Feikuang* company by means of cyber ethnography, presents in detail the operation mechanism of financial fraud organizations in the digital era, and constructs the basic analytical framework of "digital social characteristics-organizational operation mechanism-consequences of financial fraud". The connectivity, computational and virtual nature of society in the digital age have shaped new ways of social interaction, giving rise to network cascade mechanisms, platform management mechanisms and transaction offshore mechanisms, which have brought about the effects of organizational scale diffusion, control and concentration, and operational concealment, and have provided stable structural conditions for organized financial fraud.

Sociology of Economics

How Are the Government-Business Relations Institutionalized? A Historical Analysis of the City M in China *Ye Zhipeng & Li Shuoyan* 67

Abstract: Explaining the institutionalization of government-business dynamics is crucial for fostering a novel form of "intimate" yet "transparent" government-business relations in China. Through historical analysis of the City M, it is found that the shift from patronage to institutionalization of regional government-business relations is the result of the mutual shaping of specific industrial

organization, local government and local cadres' personalities. The industrial cooperation network and interest alliance based on interest and trust mechanism empowers business groups to organize themselves to participate in government-business interactions, and pushes the local government to self-limit its power and enhance the institutional linkage between government and enterprises. Institutionalized government-business relations depend on the maintenance of regional growth alliances and the renewal of the spirit of the local cadres' personalities.

A Study of the Bankruptcy Process and Mechanism of *Danwei* Enterprises in the Early Reform Period—An Analytical Framework of the Sociology of Property Rights
..... *Wang Qingming* 89

Abstract: This article focuses on the specific process and internal mechanism of bankruptcy of *danwei* enterprises at the early stage of reform when the market mechanism and legal system were not sound and the property rights of enterprises were vague. It finds that the initial enterprise bankruptcy was the result of the state's overburdening and "shaking off the burden" with the help of the market competition discourse, which was a selective marketization; the market at that time was not only a set of concepts of the law of fair competition, but also a means of the state's risk-avoidance and promotion of reforms; after bankruptcy, the discourse of ownership, "workers are the owners of the enterprise", was the basis for workers to emphasize their identity and property rights. The government-enterprise relationship, the work-enterprise relationship and its dynamic evolutionary process in the transition shaped the unique logic of defining property rights in enterprises.

Employment Skills and Occupational Differentiation: Differences in the Quality of Employment of Migrant Workers and Its Social Consequences
..... *Cui Yan & Huang Yongliang* 112

Abstract: This article focuses on the influencing factors behind the heterogeneity in the employment quality of migrant workers in the context of China's economic and social transformation. It finds that the differentiation in the quality of employment of migrant workers can be explained from the perspectives of structural changes in the labor skills of migrant workers, the differentiating features of skill-biased technological progress among industries, and the high degree of occupational differentiation brought about by new business models. Against the backdrop of technological

upgrading in industries and the expanding scale of new occupations, effectively improving the employment quality of middle- and low-skilled rural migrant workers is of great significance in promoting China's realization of high-quality development in the new stage and the sustained expansion of the middle-income group.

Spatial Order Transformation and the Rooting and Uprooting of “Home”: A Sociological Case Study of Mobile Vendors Moving into the City

..... *Chen Qi & Ao Yaxuan* 134

Abstract: The question of how informal spatial resources enable rural migrant groups to reproduce their families is a topic for study. The case study of mobile vendors reveals that the inclusivity in urban space under grassroots order is a ground for street vendors to find a livelihood and to be rooted in community. The spatial arrangement of living in close proximity to the place of livelihood facilitates them to balance their livelihoods and household chores, and makes it possible for family members to live together, for intergenerational cooperation, and even for the next generation to move to the city. However, shifts in the formalization of the spatial order can close down inclusiveness in the grassroots order. Once evicted from their place of livelihood, migrant groups are unable to continue the unifying meaning of the original spatial arrangement, and their local path of urbanization is thus interrupted.

PAPER

How to Help Children Attain Remarkable Achievements? The Role of Parenting Styles in Access to High-quality Higher Education *Xu Danhong & Gui Yong* 157

Abstract: The academic discussion on “what kind of parenting style can help children succeed” can be divided into two completely different theoretical perspectives: cultural reproduction and cultural mobility. Using data from the 2017 Chinese University Students Social Attitudes Survey, this study empirically analyzes the impact of parenting styles on children's access to high-quality higher education. The results show that parenting styles not only partially serve as intermediate mechanisms of family socioeconomic status in accessing high-quality higher education for children, but also independently influence their access to high-quality higher education. Specifically, the

indulgent parenting style is found to be particularly conducive to children's enrollment in elite universities.

Social Differentiation of Adult Depression in China: A Dynamic and Intersectional Perspective *Qiu Liya & Li Jianxin* 180

Abstract: Based on Hierarchical APC-cross classified random effects models, the study analyzes the social differentiation of adult depression and its evolutionary trends in China using data from China Family Panel Studies (2010 – 2020) from both a dynamic perspective and the intersectional perspective. It has been found that there is a differentiation in the level of depression among adults in terms of education, income, and gender. Additionally, this differentiation tends to increase with age and over time, showing “outliers” and complex variations within birth cohorts. Furthermore, it also finds that adult depression levels diverge at the intersection of education and gender, with education ameliorating depression levels more markedly in females, but that this effect diminishes with age; in terms of period change, gender differences in depression levels remain stable across education group cohorts; and in terms of birth cohort change, gender differences in depression levels persist across education group cohorts among those born after the mid-1980s.

Second-order Observations and Their Limitations of Risk: An Analysis of Luhmann's Sociological Theory of Risk *Lv Fuhua* 203

Abstract: Niklas Luhmann's theory of risk is highly respected but obscure. Based on a historical review of risk research, this article interprets Luhmann's perspectives through systems theory which integrated temporal, factual and social dimensions. As a temporal semantic used to describe future uncertainty, risk is a neologism accompanying by modern transformation and that all social systems must make decisions with second-order observations. Risk can be defined as the internal attribution of possible facts caused by system's decision, while a possible fact caused by the environment can be called danger. The perception and communication of risk are restricted by decision makers and those affected, and the risk of one system may be the danger of another. None of systems can be fully responsible for the risk, only the structural coupling and transparent observations could cope with the unknown. The analysis of Luhmann's perspectives and blind spots will address more reflections on risk.