

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

The Construction of an Autonomous Knowledge System in Chinese Sociology

Sinic Perspectivism; Mutual Learning among Civilizations and the Originality of Chinese Social Science *Liang Yongjia* 1

Abstract: The paper proposes “Sinic perspectivism” that offers empirical interpretations on non-Chinese societies with Chinese thought. Modern social science is a product of Western scholars applying their observations of their own world to the worlds beyond. True innovation lies not in discovering new “exceptions” distant but in returning to their “Greek-Roman episteme” to offer new interpretations. This approach of enriching one’s own civilization through interpreting the other worlds inherits the common human wisdom of mutual learning among civilizations. “Sinic perspectivism” aims to transcend “Chinese exceptionalism” by exploring the universality of Chinese thought. It offers Sinic perspective for “cultural translation” of the infinitely complex non-Chinese world, complementing Western discourses through academic dialogue in specific empirical studies. The process hopes to foster a dynamic of producing original knowledge system in Chinese social sciences.

The Accumulation and Amnesia in Chinese Sociology from 1980 to 2022

..... *Li Junpeng & Zhou Gang* 21

Abstract: How does knowledge change? What affects it? Taking Chinese sociology since its rehabilitation and rebuilding as a case, we find that the change in knowledge from 1980 to 2022 displayed fan-shaped fluctuations in form; Chinese sociology went through the cycle of booms and busts under the law of small numbers, and was directly influenced by the process of state building;

substantively, the change in knowledge was characterized by accumulation in sub-fields but amnesia in the discipline as a whole, and such a pattern can be seen in both the generational successions of Chinese sociologists and the fragmentation of the discipline.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Social Structure and Fertility Behavior

How Social Mobility Impacts Fertility? *Cai Fang* 45

Abstract: Under conditions of very low fertility, the traditional theory that fertility declines with economic and social development provides little basis or guidance for policies aimed at increasing fertility, and policy measures to encourage fertility in reality show a tendency towards fragmentation. Based on international experience, this paper first points to the existence of a universal fertility level that is the same as the replacement level, and therefore to the general phenomenon of convergence towards that level in both the high and the low directions; it then attributes the factors that have hindered the return of fertility in both history and reality to the problem of weak social mobility; and it concludes by proposing more targeted and effective policy recommendations for raising fertility intentions.

Family Planning Policy Transition and Family's Fertility Behavior Response: An Analysis from the Social Stratification Perspective

..... *Du Yongxiao & Dong Hao* 64

Abstract: This study focuses on the interventional effects of family planning policy transition and, more importantly, identifies the systematic patterns of heterogeneous policy responses as shaped by family socioeconomic differentials. It takes advantage of the unique research opportunity set by the "Two-child Policy for One-Only-Child Couples". Using casual identification strategies incorporating non-parametric matching and regression adjustment, we analyzed the 2015 National One-Percent Population Survey microdata sample and find that, policy-targeted couples had a significantly higher probability of having a second child than non-targeted couples. Meanwhile, the couples' second-child fertility behaviors in response to the family planning policy transition were systematically

stratified by family socioeconomic status, highlighting the important roles of concerns over high costs in childbearing, rearing, and education in shaping fertility decisions in today's China.

Fiscal and Financial Studies

Origins, Development and Implications of Fiscal Sociology ····· *Ouyang Jing* 87

Abstract: Rudolf Goldscheid, known as the “father of fiscal sociology”, has clearly defined fiscal sociology, pointing out that fiscal sociology is mainly a combination of finance and sociology. Its function is to use sociological methods to study historical financial problems and real-world experience, and to explore the interrelationship among finance, the state and society. Fiscal sociology originated from Rudolf Goldscheid and Joseph A. Schumpeter's discussion of fiscal crisis, and developed from the analysis of tax order by scholars such as Isaac William Martin. Fiscal sociology will respond to the “economization” of fiscal research in China to meet the theoretical demand of the State that “finance is an important foundation and pillar of national governance”.

How Does Land Finance Shape the Middle Class in China? — From the Perspective of Financial Sociology ·········· *Ge Tianren, Yang Xiaochen & Zheng Lu* 110

Abstract: Land finance is a crucial dimension for comprehending the substantial and swift ascent of China's middle class. Prior research has not adequately addressed this issue, and economic and financial analyses frequently overlook its social ramifications. This article seeks to establish an analytical framework from the perspective of financial sociology to explore the relationship between land finance and the emergence of the middle class, scrutinizing the driving mechanisms and consequences of land finance in shaping the middle class. Land finance has played a pivotal role in facilitating industrial upgrading and the expansion of the professional middle class. It has stimulated currency creation and leveraged the rapid enhancement of the housing status of the middle class. Additionally, the provision of public resources has influenced the identity of the middle class, hastening the development and growth of the Chinese middle class. However, simultaneously, it introduces the accumulation of social and financial risks. In conclusion, this article puts forth policy recommendations aimed at mitigating the risks associated with land finance, emphasizing the importance of addressing both social and financial aspects.

PAPER

The Reform of the Official System and State Governance Transformation in the Late Qing and Early Republican Era *Di Jinhua* 133

Abstract: The reform of the official system in the late Qing Dynasty was a process of transforming the traditional “internal-external” official system by applying the external “central-local” official system after the opening of the door of modern China, and its purpose was to solve the internal difficulties through the adjustment of administrative power and to improve administrative efficiency to cope with international competition. This paper brings the issue of the provincial system back to the discussion of administrative decentralization. Taking the fact of the reform of the official system, an important event in the transformation of state governance, this paper explored a historical changing process in which the administration characteristic of imperial China shifted from the “one-officer-government” organizational structure and the institutional setup focusing on “prevention of malpractice” to the construction of a complete administrative structure centered on the “governance of affairs”. This paper delved into the dilemmas and the modern administration governance structure in this process, and based on that, the paper made reflections on the organizational conditions and institutional foundations of administrative decentralization.

Decision-making Substitution by Artificial Intelligence and Its Social Buffering: A Case Study of the X Intelligent Power Plant *Chen Chuan & Li Xiaoman* 156

Abstract: In the context of the new technological and industrial revolution, artificial intelligence presents the possibility of replacing human decision-making. In the digital transformation of the X Intelligent Power Plant, the objective material properties of artificial intelligence technology constitute a partial decision-making substitute for engineers and an impact on the established organizational power structure. Multiple factors, such as the nature of the enterprise, strategic goals, and established interest patterns, have led various actors to form a social buffer against the impact of AI technology through practical strategies such as algorithmic rewriting, strategic abandonment, and conversion of substitution. The findings of this paper reveal that the impact of AI on human society will trigger different social buffering mechanisms, with social factors acting as buffer layers and filters for the social impact of the technology.

The Dual Structure of Rural Social Subjectivity and Its Catalyst: A Case Study of an Environmental NGO and Its Practices *Sun Feiyu & Zhang Yuxin* 180

Abstract: Based on the materials from qualitative studies, this paper adopts the theoretical perspective of phenomenological sociology and employs the process-event method, and takes the case inspired by the environmental protection initiatives of an NGO, particularly focusing on their Program of Community Mutual Fund, in an attempt to gain insights into the subjectivity of the Chinese rural society from the perspective of the structure of the life world. Through case studies, this paper reveals that the social space as a whole and the historical context of families, clans and villages are the primary vehicles of the subjectivity of local societies, which is characterized by structural dispersion across the social space and continuity in the socio-temporal-historical dimension. Emotions and reasons from these ethical relationships and moral practices within these local communities serves as catalysts for shaping this subjectivity.

REVIEW

Eventful Sociology: From Structural—Eventful Analysis to Relational—Eventful Analysis *Yan Fei & Liu Mingxuan* 204

Abstract: “Event” is a critical variable in historical and sociological studies. However, the endorsement of event in history has been questioned by the French Annales School in the 20th century, especially through Braudel’s theory of the “longue durée”. In contrast, sociology employs event to explore the underlying social mechanisms in historical episodes, revealing the dialectical relationships between events and structures. This paper draws on William Sewell’s classic study of eventful sociology to examine the meaning of event from the perspectives of history and sociology. Moreover, this paper proposes a new analytical framework called “relational-eventful” to understand the relational essence of eventful temporalities in social science research.