

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

Cultural Inheritance, Development and Sociology with Chinese Characteristics

Approaches of the Research on the History of Chinese Social Thoughts in 45 years :
Achievements, Challenges and Future Missions

..... *Wang Chuhui, Zhu Yanlong & Gu Sha* 1

Abstract: The development of Chinese sociology has spanned 45 years since its reconstruction. As the most indigenous and fundamental discipline in the knowledge system of Chinese sociology, the history of Chinese social thoughts shows even greater research value than before. Standing at a new starting point after forty-five years development, this paper re-examines the significance and mission of the discipline, analyzes the research and development achievements of the history of Chinese social thoughts, and explores future research approaches from multiple perspectives. Over the past 45 years, this discipline has greatly enhanced its development and paradigm maturity through specific research work in six aspects. The future research may jointly focus on eight different ways to improve the self-nature of this discipline and make unique contributions to the construction of sociological theory with Chinese characteristics, the transformation of Chinese society, and governance practices.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Conceptual Evolution and Lifestyle in the Digital Age

Concept Flows: A New Perspective to Analyze Information Diffusion and Conceptual
Evolution in the Digital Age *Liu Heqing* 23

Abstract: Understanding the information diffusion in the digital age needs to deal with the increasing social dynamics and complexity. This article proposes an analytical perspective “Concept Flows” and reveals the complex landscape of concept flow within digital platforms by mining the emotions, collective views, and biases embedded in information. In the aspect of platform, the three concepts constitute a multiplicity of flows with varying rates over time. In the aspect of concept flow from platform to users, despite the fluctuations of concepts pushed by the platform due to external events, the concept differences between users do not increasingly diverge, converge, or become chaotic. Instead, they exhibit a “sympathetic resonance effect”. These findings reveal the complex interaction mechanisms among social facts, platforms, and users behind information diffusion. The Concept Flows perspective’s sensitivity and flexibility in capturing complex social dynamic changes suggest its potential application in broader important agendas about digital society.

Flow Balance, Participation in Co-creation, and Inclusive Competition: Research on the Labor Lifestyle of Semi-professional Esports Youth

..... *Zhao Yupei & Zhang Yi* 45

Abstract: Esports in China is transforming from “social blind spots” to a “national competition”. From the dual perspectives of “labor sociology” and “lifestyle sport”, this research adopts participatory observation and semi-structured interview methods to explore the diffusion mechanism of semi-professional esports as a “labor lifestyle” and examines the semi-professional esports labor model in terms of diffusion motivation, diffusion process and diffusion benefits. The development of the labor model revolves around the time standard, participation threshold and labor benefits of “labor lifestyle”, and is rooted in the triple contexts of mobile life mode, internet participation mode and inclusive identity process.

Social Stratification and Social Mobility in the Great Transformation

Structural Mobility: A Calibration-Decomposition Analytical Strategy

..... *Hu Anning* 67

Abstract: This study systematically reviews the limitations of structural mobility research in terms of theoretical support, confounding factor control, conceptualization, complexity of statistical models,

and statistical inference. It proposes a calibration-decomposition analytical strategy. By combining the Deming-Stephan algorithm and the trivariate decomposition method of mobility tables, this analytical strategy directly constructs a “counterfactual” mobility table based on the marginal distribution of the original mobility table. It presents structural mobility, exchange mobility, and their interaction through a non-parametric approach. In addition, potential confounding factors can be controlled through adjustments, and related statistical inference can be performed through parametric distribution assumption or bootstrapping. This study illustrates this analytical strategy through two empirical examples.

Inconsistency Between Income and Housing Status in China: Current Situation and Influential Factors *Gong Shun* 89

Abstract: Well-regulated order and mechanisms for income distribution and wealth accumulation are crucial for social fairness and justice. This study utilizes data from the Chinese Social Survey (CSS) conducted between 2011 and 2021 to investigate the inconsistency between income and housing status in China that has been overlooked by previous studies. This study finds that such inconsistency is increasingly prevalent among Chinese residents. In the context of housing financialization and rising property prices, the timing of the purchase of residents’ first house and the extent of financial leverage used are important factors influencing this inconsistency. Additionally, the institutional background of China’s market-oriented transformation affects housing acquisition and thus impacts status inconsistency. Even after the housing marketization, redistributive factors continue to play a significant role. This study provides insights into understanding the profound changes in China’s social structure.

Sociological Analysis of Organizational and Institutional Change

Divisible Membership Rights: Multiple Logics of Share Distribution in a Collective Economic Organization *Li Hongbo* 111

Abstract: This paper examines the relationship between the collective and the members associated with membership by analyzing the practice and logics of allocating shares in a collective economic organization. The process of clearing assets has made the previously vague and overarching right to membership become divisible. In this process, the multiple logics of household registration, land

contracting, and occupation have shaped two complementary orientations in the criteria for determining shares. One emphasises economic attributes and calculable “contribution”, while the other focuses on relational attributes and contains flexible “reasoning”. The division of membership rights allows the ratio of shares to be set in order to distinguish a differentiated hierarchy of “insider and outsider”. The concept of “family” enables the logic of distribution at different levels to unfold in specific contexts and resolve tensions.

Institutional Environment, Corporate Ownership, and the Dissolution of Interlock Network *Yang Zhangbo & Gao Yating* 133

Abstract: The paper examines how changes in the institutional environment lead to the dissolution of inter-organizational network ties. Drawing on longitudinal data from 18020 independent directors across 3764 companies and employing continuous difference-in-differences models and causal network estimation methods, the study finds that the dissolution of interlock network exhibit a dual heterogeneity in terms of ownership and space following the implementation of the Ministry of Education’s policy on independent directors in academic field in 2015. The higher the proportion of state-owned shares, the more frequent the dissolution of interlock ties, and the greater the impact on structural hole positions. Moreover, the further a firm is located from the policy’s origin, the weaker the effect of ownership differences on the dissolution of interlock network. This is because the variations in legitimacy pressures and policy enforcement across organizations. Based on the evolution process of ties formation, dissolution, and reconstruction, this paper constructs an theoretical framework of how institutions impact network dissolution.

PAPER

Schumpeter’s Legacy: Tracing the Origins of Disruptive and Combinatorial Innovation in Innovation Research *Li Linzhuo & Zhao Nannan* 154

Abstract: Despite the increasing reliance on science and technological innovation, understanding how innovation emerges remains a complex challenge for our society. This paper traces the epistemological evolution of two major theoretical paradigms about innovation over the the past century, disruptive innovation and combinatorial innovation, to reveal the efforts that open the black box and explore the endogenous mechanisms of innovation. Key points discussed include: (1) both

theories about innovation originate from Schumpeter's original ideas but have gradually evolved into independent frameworks;(2) the two frameworks have new implications for China's research policy and innovation policy practices; and (3) future innovation research should continue to focus on understanding the endogenous mechanisms of innovation.

Waiting: A Sociological Expression of General Temporal Experiences

..... *Deng Yuexin* 176

Abstract: Drawing on the traditional research approach of sociology of time that focuses on temporal experience, this article explores the dilemma of lacking subjectivity in the theory of social time by focusing on waiting. Tracing back the theoretical foundations of waiting as temporal experience, this article explores the dual attributes of waiting, i. e. , the sociality of other-reference and the subjectivity of self-reference, thereby revealing the social significance of the hope in waiting in bridging time, self, and the others. By justifying the negative subject within the framework of social time, this article establishes an analytical approach that balances the sociality and subjectivity of social time.

“Reciprocal Triangle” from the Perspective of Gift Relationship: A Study of Online Monthly Donation

Zhao Jiexiang, Zhu Jiangang & Xiong Jingru 200

Abstract: This article focuses on the emerging practice of online monthly donation and analyzes the interaction between donors and non-profit organizations from the perspective of gift theory. The study finds that non-profit organizations construct a balanced gift relationship with monthly donors through the strategies of clarification, community-building, and concretization. Donors, recipients/givers, and beneficiaries jointly form an interconnected “reciprocity triangle”. Monthly donors get involved in the gift relationship and realize the circulation of gifts through self-focused, beneficiary-focused and industry-focused perspectives. “Giving with a return” in monthly donations reflects a balance between public and private interests. This logic encourages constant individual participation in public affairs and fosters social solidarity in the current context.