

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

Cultural Inheritance and the Construction of an Autonomous Knowledge System in Chinese Sociology

The Moral Framework of *Ren* (Benevolence), *Yi* (Righteousness), and *Li* (Ritual) and Its Practical Limitations: An Examination of the Sociology of Knowledge

..... *Zhai Xuewei* 1

Abstract: *Ren* (benevolence), *yi* (righteousness), and *li* (ritual) are a theory of moral practice that Confucius constructed by inheriting the concepts of virtue from his predecessors. From the sociology of knowledge, this paper points out that the key to whether or not this theory can be put into practice lies in whether or not the “*yi*” in it has been activated. For actors, once “*yi*” is activated, “*ren*” and “*li*” can be transformed into action, and a distinction can be made between gentleman and villain. By citing everyday examples, this paper points out that this moral practice is actually a mode of “reward” that goes beyond benefits, and it can be called “moral exchange theory” in sociology to differentiate it from other kinds of exchange theory in economics or sociology. When such moral practice meets social reality, its limitation is that it tends to operate in the primary group or the scholarly class and is constantly challenged by other theories or real interests.

The Sacred and the Agency Mode of the Sacred: The Key Concepts and Basic Propositions of Chinese Sociology of Religion *Li Xiangping* 23

Abstract: As a basic proposition of the sociology of religion, “the sacred” is a basic element in the original form of human civilization, and one of the sources of Chinese civilization’s beliefs. Based on the comparison and discussion of the concept of “the sacred” in the Chinese and Western contexts, this paper proposes “the sacred” and “the agency mode of the sacred” as the middle-level theoretical concepts and basic propositions for the Chinese sociology of religion, in order to

reinterpret the definition of “religion”. Also, through the analysis of “sanctification in the body”, “imitation of sanctity mechanism shared by the family and the nation”, and the types of the sacred, this paper goes beyond the dilemma of the discourse of “religion” as defined by the Western sociology of religion. The theoretical model of “the agency mode of the sacred” constructed in this paper can explore the path of Sinicization of the sociology of religion in the context of the mutual understanding of civilizations and promote the construction of its autonomous knowledge system.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Modernization and Moral Change

From Limited Morality to Generalized Morality: Based on The Perspective of Social Participation *Wen Yingying & Zhang Xiaoling* 44

Abstract: The belief that social morality shifts from limited morality to generalized morality as modernity progresses has been widely held. However, related theories suggest that the development of generalized morality is not necessarily inevitable. Modern society’s characteristics, such as fluidity and rationalization, can also lead to fluid morality and demoralization. Therefore, it is crucial to investigate how we can foster the development of generalized morality in modern society. Drawing upon the moral theories of Zygmunt Bauman and Platteau, as well as the analysis of recent national survey data, this paper aims to present the realistic characteristics of generalized morality in Chinese society. Additionally, it demonstrates the positive impact of social participation on the development of generalized morality, while highlighting the significant mediating effect of digital media use. Lastly, this paper delves into the enlightening significance of social participation in shaping individual moral subjectivity, based on the moral theories put forth by Zygmunt Bauman and Michel Foucault.

Constructing the Moral Foundation of the Medical Service Market: Discourses on Consultation Fees and Professional Ethical Adjustments of the Western Medicine Doctors in the Period of Republic of China *Yao Zelin* 66

Abstract: The modern market exchange of medical services for money and the professional ethics of the medical profession with “altruism” as its core characteristic constitute a tension, and the adjustment of this contradiction has become one of the key aspects of professionalization. This paper utilizes the discussion of consultation fees in the period of Republic of China (ROC) and analyzes the ethical and cultural work done by doctors’ groups to construct the ethical foundation of the

medical service market from the theoretical perspective of relational work. They clarified the ethical foundation of consultation fees and made a careful distinction between medical care and general labor, commerce, and charity, so as to construct a specific ethical connotation of consultation fees. However, this effort to reconfigure the nature of medical services and the doctor-patient relationship around consultation fees encountered challenges at the intersection of the old and the new ideologies. This paper has significant implications for the current doctor-patient relationship, the reform of the healthcare system, and even the construction of professional ethics in many other professions.

The Individual, Society and the State in the Great Transition

A Study on the Trend of National Identity Change in Transitional China

..... *Xu Yanhui & Lai Dongpeng* 88

Abstract: National identity is the emotional foundation for forging the sense of community of the Chinese nation, and plays an important role in strengthening national unity and enhancing national cohesion. Using data from the World Values Survey (WVS), this paper examines the trend of change in national identity among the Chinese population, observing certain age, period, and generational effect characteristics. The study finds that: First, individual national identity shows a gradual upward trend with age; second, national identity shows a V-shaped trend from 1995 to 2018, with a downward trend from 1995 to 2007 and an upward trend from 2008 to 2018; third, the growth environment of different generations has a profound influence on the construction of individual national identity, and the national identity of the generations born after the reform and opening up shows a trend of decline followed by an increase. The above findings are of great significance to the understanding of national identity change in transitional societies.

Life Experience in Transition: The Dual Temporality of Social Change in Northeast China

Xie Wen 111

Abstract: The sociology of transition investigates transitional phenomena using institutional change as the primary clue, but often neglects the life experience of ordinary people. The paper expands the “institution-society” perspective in the sociology of transition into an “institution-life-society” framework, aiming to analyze the intricate interactive mechanisms between life time and institutional time, with a particular focus on biographical planning, agency, and the generational dynamics. The goal is to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the social change via analyzing the life experience in transition. The paper explains this theoretical perspective by retracing the

history of market transition in the Northeast region, pointing out that the life experience of ordinary people has shaped the transition posture, development dynamics and social composition of the region in different periods, and thereby played an important mediating role in the transformation process.

PAPER

Emergence in Complex Social Systems: An Analysis of Structure and Action Co-evolution through Big Data *Luo Jar-der, Wan Yi & Gao Xin* 134

Abstract: Through empirical case studies, this paper aims to explore how social computing can be used to study emergent phenomena in social systems. The case of China's venture capital (VC) industry demonstrates how positive feedback between VC investment behavior and industry network structure leads to the emergence of a "small-world network with an elite-clique". This explains how individual actions contribute to collective emergence. The case of a large technology company illustrates the evolution process of team innovation and the factors behind the emergence of a team's high innovative ability. Additionally, it demonstrates differences in factors influencing the innovation capabilities of internal subsystems before and after systemic transformation, shedding light on the impact of non-linear development on employee behavior. These cases highlight the feasibility of combining survey data with big data and employing various social computing methods in complex system research.

The Production of the "Interface": The Practical Mechanism in the Construction of the Grassroots Governance Openness *Shi Yunqing* 156

Abstract: Faced with the complex reality, the construction of openness has become a key issue in the modernization of governance, but how can it be achieved in the interaction with closure rooted in the general demands that exist with China's national governance? Taking the construction of a new public cultural space as an example, this paper explains how actors can produce an "interface" as the connecting mechanism and an "intermediary" as the translator by making an issue of the interface point (space), interface (culture and society) and junction mechanism (governance mechanism), so as to dissolve the tension and open the field of grass-roots governance. "The production of the interface" reveals the production of inclusive institutional flexibility and the process of constructing the State-society interface mechanism, reflecting the hidden flexibility of power operations, and is of theoretical and practical significance in exploring the frontiers of Chinese-style governance modernization.

Female Educational Advancement and Changes in Fertility Behavior: A Study Based on the Couple Matching Perspective *Qing Shisong* 179

Abstract: The rise in women's education and shifts in gender roles have profoundly influenced marriage and childbirth. This paper uses household-level data to explore cohort changes in couples' educational matching patterns and their impact on fertility. It finds a decrease in traditional gradient marriages and an increase in highly educated homogeneous marriages and female downward marriages, as well as significant differences in fertility across pairs with different educational matching patterns. Among homogeneous marriages, there was a negative gradient relationship between education and fertility, with highly educated couples having the lowest number of children and probability of having a second child. At the same time, the more educated a wife is above her husband, the lower the probability of having a second child. However, the fertility disadvantages of highly educated homogeneous marriages and women's downward marriages weakened over time. The study reveals the impact of changes in gender roles, the relative status of couples and the gender division of labor on the mechanism of fertility decision-making, which provides a reference for parsing fertility trends and policy formulation.

REVIEW

New Developments in the Sociology of Professions: Towards More Inclusive Concepts and Theoretical Framework *Jian Yilun & Xiao Suowei* 203

Abstract: The sociology of professions is of great significance in our understanding of modern society. With the changes in the global socio-economic landscape, the field of sociology of professions has faced a crisis, revealing a series of limitations brought about by its Anglo-Saxon societal presuppositions. In this context, scholars have redeveloped the research paradigms of the sociology of professions, seeking to de-essentialize the concept of profession, and reflecting on abstract knowledge and autonomy assumptions about professions, adopting a more relational and contextualized approach to understand professions. This revitalization has allowed the sociology of professions to regain its explanatory power for social reality, making it more applicable to different countries and regions. In this process, empirical research within the sociology of professions has also expanded. This article systematically reviews these new developments in the sociology of professions and discusses their significance and inspiration for relevant research in China.