

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

The Construction of Chinese Autonomous Sociological Knowledge System

From Estate to Class: Qu Qiubai's Study of Chinese Scholar-Gentry and Its Evolution in Modern Times *Li Fangchun* 1

Abstract: From the May Fourth Movement to the period of the 1925 – 1927 Chinese Revolution, Qu Qiubai has persistently focused on the issue of “the scholar class” in Chinese society, and pioneered the use of Marxist sociological methods to historically analyze this social group and its evolution. In addition to the class analysis, he also took the lead in adopting the sociological conceptual tool “estate” (*fa yue*) to grasp the scholar-gentry's status characters. With his attention to the peasant movement and the land issue, Qu Qiubai then preliminarily sketched a picture of the scholar-gentry's modern historical evolution, from the “aristocratic scholar-gentry” to the “landlord-gentry”. Qu Qiubai's study of Chinese scholar-gentry is an intellectual heritage that cannot be ignored in the history of Chinese sociology.

Transcending the “Ying Chengyi Dilemma”: Methodological Imagination and Indigenous Strategy of Social Surveys in Early China *He Yijin* 23

Abstract: The social survey of Chinese scholars in the early 20th century has produced rich research outcomes. Due to tough conditions of doing social surveys, an early sociologist Ying Chengyi once proposed “a Chinese society that is not suitable of conducting social surveys”. Based on the interactions between the “Western technique” and the “Chinese context”, Chinese scholars established and extended the methodological imagination according to their personal experiences of fieldwork. They also adapted and revised research methods based on the encountered “troubles”, and developed local strategies that match the social reality. Early

Chinese Sociologists expanded the connotation of social survey methods through actions. Their intellectual resilience is also an important historical resource for the construction of Chinese autonomous sociological knowledge system in the new era.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Sociological Perspectives on Agricultural Modernization

Flowing Seeds: The Role of Modern Breeding Technology in Reshaping the Right Relationships over Plant Genetic Resources *Li Jingsong* 45

Abstract: Modern breeding technology has achieved the splitting of genetic value from seeds, making plant variety a commodity beyond farmers' control. Influenced by the Green and Gene Revolutions, property rights over seeds have been transformed from local to global commons and from global commons to commodities. Despite being a stakeholder, farmers usually remain silent, because the new right relationships and labor division have weakened their ability to participate in seed selection and breeding when flowing seeds are lifted out of the space of places and put in the space of flows. As the conservation of *in situ* crop diversity is a key issue to ensure food security, it is necessary to reclaim the public value of genetic resources, encourage farmers' contributions to on-farm maintenance, and strengthen the resilience of seed supply systems.

Research on the Agricultural-Commercial Complementary Mechanism in the Process of Urban-Rural Integration: A Case Study on the Production and Marketing of Anxi Tea *Yan Yanhua* 68

Abstract: In the context of promoting urban-rural integration, how to build a mechanism to organically connect urban and rural areas is a topic that needs to be studied in depth. Unlike previous studies that mainly started from the discussion of the complementary structure of agriculture and industry, this paper takes the production and marketing of Anxi tea as a case study to explore the phenomenon and mechanism of the complementary structure of agriculture and commerce that promotes the rooting of home and business in both urban and rural areas. With the flow of tea, Anxi merchants have formed a national business network and formed an agriculture-commerce complementary relationship with the local society. Tea merchants have promoted the rooting of business and family in the city by revitalizing and transcending rural ties, and have formed a

feedback to the rural industry through continuous returns to the countryside. The digitalization of circulation channels has endowed the complementary structure of agriculture and commerce with new meaning and provided new momentum for the development of local industries.

Socio-economic Impacts of Digital Technology Application

The Distribution of Employment Risks in the Digital Era: An Institutionalism Perspective
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Abstract: Drawing on the perspective of institutionalism in the risk society, this paper evaluates employment risks from the dimensions of unemployment risk and income risk and constructs a theoretical model of the distribution of employment risks in the digital era to conduct empirical research. The study reveals two pathways by which the digital age affects employment risks. First, the digital technology system contributes to the transformation of unemployment risk to income risk by creating employment and expanding market competition. Second, in the institutional system pathway, human capital, political capital, and social capital – representing the market mechanism, the institutional mechanism, and the guanxi mechanism respectively – have distinct distributional effects on employment risks. All three reduce the unemployment risk; political and social capital reduce income risk, while human capital increases income risk. Furthermore, the study finds that the digital technology reconstructs the role of the institutional system pathways. As the digital economy grows, the influence of the institutional system of risk distribution diminishes, resulting in the convergence of unemployment risk and the increasing differentiation of income risk.

Dual Emergence and Market Position Attainment of Online Car-Hailing: An Analysis Based on the Platform-Type Social Production Structure
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Abstract: From the perspective of platform-type social production structure, this paper systematically explores the market position attainment of online car-hailing and its particular approach. In the operation of the platform-type social production structure, the combination of powerful information processing capabilities and open transaction structure enables the platform system to evolve into a complex system. Under the impetus of bidirectional technology empowerment, the platform system has seen a dual emergence. The first one is the emergence of a mega market on the basis of platform enterprises, which implies the market construction outside of the traditional system of market regulation. The second one is

the emergence of a powerful society on the basis of the platform market, which lays the social foundation for the development of online car-hailing. Both the “form” of market construction and the “force” of social foundation emerging from the platform system promote the state’s recognition, acceptance and authorization of online car-hailing services.

Labor Process in the Context of Globalization and Financialization

The Generation of Labor-Management Equilibrium: A Study on White-Collar Workers from Middle- and High-Income Countries Migrating to China *Yang Yang* 137

Abstract: By investigating white-collar workers from middle- and high-income countries migrating to China, this paper analyzes the production regime of international migrant labor regulated by the direction of migration. When workers migrate from their countries of origin to the country with lower or similar per capita gross national income, their identity and skills are at a premium, and they have a low degree of dependence on their employers regarding the reproduction of labor power. The host country also manages their employment quite flexibly. Meanwhile, labor market intermediaries also shape these workers’ autonomy. Accordingly, the production regime that workers are under has an individual bargaining system, which disperses labor-management conflict and generates labor-management equilibrium. This paper offers a novel perspective on the production regime of international migrant labor, and it contributes to the research on transnational labor market intermediaries within the field of international migration studies.

The Reconstruction of Labor Process by Financialization: A Research on Platform Financialization and the Labor Process of Platform Workers

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Abstract: Through the field investigation of online car-hailing drivers, this paper finds that the financialization of online car-hailing platforms has a profound impact on the labor process of online car-hailing platform workers, and the platform will organize and reconstruct the specific labor and production process of platform workers according to the valuation logic of the financial market. The specific manifestations are: the flexibility of employment, the financialization of labor tools and the productization of labor data. The restructuring of the labor process of platform workers by platform financialization leads to the blurring of the labor employment relationship of platform workers, and strengthens the control and management ability of capital on the labor process of workers by

intensifying the competition between workers and increasing the degree of workers' dependence on capital. To understand how work and labor are changing, it is necessary to consider finance as a driving force beyond digitalization.

PAPER

International Comparison of Individual Social Capital: Dual Perspectives on Structural Crossing and Resource Attainment *Li Xiaoguang & Guo Xiaoxian* 180

Abstract: This article delves into the international comparison of individual social capital and underlying mechanisms. Drawing on data from the 2017 International Social Survey Programme, this article uses position and resource generators to measure individual social capital, allowing for empirical comparisons across 29 countries worldwide. The study finds that: firstly, substantial variations exist in individual social capital across countries, primarily manifested in the structural crossing in the construction and maintenance of social capital, as well as the resource attainment during the activation and mobilization of social capital. Secondly, the convergence and divergence dynamics across economic, cultural, and social dimensions at the country level serve as profound institutional forces shaping the global variances in individual social capital. These insights are crucial for understanding the international differences in interpersonal interaction patterns from a global view.

The Written and the Oral: The Ritual Practice and Mediation Process of the “Three Kings’ Birthday” in the Dulu River Basin *Huang Yu* 204

Abstract: The transformation of etiquette and cultural traditions in a local society encompasses the dynamic interface between written and oral communication. This article focuses on the “Three Wangs’ Birthday” ceremony in the Dulu River Basin dating back to the Qing Dynasty. It unveils that in the ritual practice processes, how the cultural intermediary roles played by ritual practitioners, opera performers, and singing master enable the inter-translation between dynastic ritual system and local cultural customs in written and oral traditions, which shapes local cultural traditions and assimilates the dynastic ritual system. This article provides a more comprehensive approach to examining the historical progression of social and cultural development in Southwest China and understands the dissemination mechanism of ideas carried by written and oral traditions in the process of “etiquette to the countryside”.