

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

The Construction of Sociology with Chinese Characteristics from a Global Perspective

The Evolution of Food Regime Theory and Its Significance for China: An Agricultural Sociology Perspective *Xiong Chunwen, Ke Xuelong & Li Mengqi* 1

Abstract: As a long-standing theoretical approach in agricultural sociology, the food regime theory reveals the complex power and interest relationships underlying the global agricultural and food systems. In the current context where trade disputes, political struggles and geopolitical conflicts continue, applying this theory to the study of Chinese agriculture and food systems holds significant value. This paper systematically reviews the origins, content, and evolution of food regime theory and discusses the potential of applying this theory to the study of China. The food regime theory contributes to the understanding of the constitution of modern agricultural system, the development of China's overseas agricultural systems, the exploration of the agricultural modernization path of "large country, small holders", and the refinement of China's domestic food system. Integrating this theory with the realities of China's experiences responses to the latest trends in the research of international food regime theory and represents a meaningful attempt to develop a locally grounded Chinese agricultural sociology.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

China's Indigenous Family Theory: Membership Definition and Responsibility Ethics

Who Are Your Family Members? Survey Experiments on how Chinese People Define Family Boundaries *Zhang Chunni & Sun Yan* 24

Abstract: The definition of family boundaries in China involves a theoretical issue pertaining to the

unique characteristics of Chinese families, a practical concern regarding the changing dynamics of family structures in modern society, and a methodological challenge in accurately measuring family boundaries in household surveys. This study attends to the perception elasticity of, and the criteria for, defining a family's boundaries in contemporary China. Based on survey experiments, this study finds that Chinese respondents' perceptions of family boundaries change depending on different contexts. Immediate family bonds precede co-residence and economic interdependence in identifying family relationships. Additionally, intergenerational co-residence and intergenerational childcare support are important factors that people consider in defining a stem family. This study provides empirical evidence for both classical and contemporary Chinese family theories and discusses the challenges faced by social surveys in measuring family boundaries in China.

Urban Family's Responsibility Ethics and Economic Practice of Home Ownership

..... *Xu Hongzhi* 47

Abstract: This study analyzes the practices of home ownership among ordinary urban families from the perspective of family responsibility ethics. Through interviews with families with different life experiences, working situations and marital status in Fujian, this study finds that ordinary urban families' motivation to own a house derives from the ethical responsibility of family stability and continuity. This motivation can not only accumulate over the family life cycle but also continuously adapt itself in the process of urbanization. Moreover, the family responsibility ethics also constitute the value source of home ownership, extend the strategy set of flexible budgeting, shape the subjective criteria for asset evaluation, and thus generate a unique economic logic of home ownership practice for urban families. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the important role of family in China's socio-economic transformation.

National Governance and Government Action

Power, Interests, and Values: The Mechanisms of Urban Digital Risk Prevention and Control — Based on a Survey of Eleven Mega Cities

..... *Wu Xiaolin & Xing Yifei* 69

Abstract: Why do cities with similar socio-economic conditions exhibit significant differences in digital risk prevention and control? A comparative study of 17 cases in 11 cities reveals that technological application is not a sufficient and necessary condition for achieving digital

transformation. Instead, the “Power-Interests-Values” mechanism is the key to unlocking digital transformation. The power mechanism emphasizes the enhancement of the dominant actors’ influence, where the higher their authoritative position, the more support the transformation receives. The interest mechanism focuses on incentivizing related actors, facilitating the transformation through compatible benefits and risk-sharing. The value mechanism, grounded in consensus-building and co-creation of shared values, ensures the sustainable operation of digital platforms. These findings go beyond the conventional understanding of the “technology-organization” interface and help open the theoretical “black box” of inter-organizational dynamics in digital transformation.

The Effects and Predicament of Demonstration: Squeezing Situation and Grassroots Policy Implementation — A Case Study on Rural Revitalization in Shi Town

..... *Li Mianguan, Su Rui & Tan Tianxi* 92

Abstract: As a governance mechanism, demonstration serves for multiple governance goals, which leads to the complexity of demonstration effects. From the great success of “seedling town” to the formalized implementation of “all-for-one rural revitalization”, the case of Shi Town exhibits disparity between the construction of demonstration sites and the application of demonstration sites’ experience in the grassroots practices of rural revitalization. The essence of the disparity lies in target substitution of demonstration effects. Task-oriented demonstration, with the objective of producing policy knowledge and spreading appropriate policy models, has been replaced with political performance-oriented demonstration, with the goal of winning political performance competition. The dynamic “squeezing situation” situates the grassroots government in different policy implementation situations at the stages of demonstration construction and demonstration application, which shapes the differentiated policy implementation logics of grassroots executives. The “squeezing situation” and its structural changes are the fundamental reasons for the difficulties of the demonstration application.

Time Consciousness of Sociology: Tracing History and Looking into the Future

Governance as *Ren*: A Sociological Study Based on the Case of *Mujian*

..... *Wang Shaochen* 114

Abstract: Regarding the basic character of traditional authority in the practice of local governance in traditional China, existing research has not yet built a fundamental bridge between the mentality of

scholars and the practice of governance. By examining the arrangements and contents of *Mujian*, “Confucian scholars’ discussions” and the “words of classics and commentaries”, this article finds that as one of the *Guanzhen* (official books), *Mujian* bears distinct characteristics of Neo-Confucianism. Furthermore, this article analyzes the examples of figures cited, suggesting that county magistrates, as traditional authorities, inevitably exhibit three distinct yet unified images in governance practice: “educators”, “parents-like officials”, and “capable officials”. This article summarizes this traditional governance ideal type, i. e., the unique way of handling the relationship between classics and governance, as “governance as *Ren*”. Finally, it points out the inherent value dilemma that *Mujian* inevitably encounters in the modern world and its transcendent value.

Sociology to the “Future”: Cognitive Extension and Key Issues *Wu Yuefei* 137

Abstract: In comparison to the representation of past and present experiences, the importance of the future has long been overlooked by sociological research and has never entered the mainstream domain. Since the 21st century, sociology has been reviving its interest in the future and thinking the new cognitive channels and ways of knowledge production towards the future. In current situation, the future has gained its modern connotation and become an important cognition category for understanding human agency and the openness of time in social transition. Centered on “objective future”, “subjective future”, “latent future” and “alternative future”, the sociological research of future explores diverse approaches to authentic experiences of human future, latent social processes, and desirable development spaces.

PAPER

Multiple Imprints, Institutional Sedimentation, and Organizational Evolving: A Grounded Theory Analysis of Higher Education Organizations

..... *Han Yi, Fan Wen & Zheng Enying* 159

Abstract: Using universities as cases, we explore how organizations seek for institutional resources for development from their own history. We employ grounded theory methods and engage in the dialogue between theories of organizational sociology, cultural sociology, and empirical data to develop a new model of organizational evolving. Through the replication logic of multiple case studies, this research integrates sociological new institutionalism and organizational imprinting theory, proposing a theory of institutional sedimentation. The findings reveal that universities actively construct such

institutional resources during their development to strengthen their organizational capabilities and potential. This study takes universities as study subjects. The proposed theory can also be applied to other types of organizations to understand and guide their cumulative development.

Does Social Security Construct National Identity? A Study on the Heterogeneous Effects of Social Security on National Identity *Huang Zhongbin* 181

Abstract: Social security serves as a pivotal cornerstone for the cultivation of national identity, wherein social exchange mechanisms play a crucial role in constructing national identity. Prior research assumed that individuals' participation in social security systems naturally fosters a sense of national identity, but insufficiently discussed the heterogeneous effects of different social security types. Utilizing social exchange theory and based on the Chinese Social Survey (CSS) dataset, this paper analyzes which specific types of social security contribute to the formation of national identity. It finds that concerning the provisioning agent, individuals enrolled in government-subsidized schemes exhibit a significant enhancement in their national identity. In terms of distribution principles, neither universal nor selective social security exhibit a notable impact on national identity. Regarding benefit levels, the effect on identity formation demonstrates a marginally declining effect, with moderately treated social security playing more significant effects.

The Development of Flexible Employment and Labor-Dealing Function of Capital: An Analysis Based on Flexible Accumulation *Wang Jianhua* 203

Abstract: The research on flexible employment-related issues lacks a systematic theoretical analysis perspective. Guided by the perspective of Marxist political economy, this paper develops the analysis of circular movement of capital and analyzes the mechanisms of the development of flexible employment and labor-dealing function of capital under flexible accumulation. In the context of flexible production networks and the platform economy, commercial capital in the stage of circulation ($W'-G'$) generates a deep demand for flexible employment by collecting, analyzing, and transmitting market demand information and continuously reorganizing production. The enterprises' rapidly increasing demand for flexible employment further leads to the deepening of labor-dealing functions of capital in the stage of circulation ($G-W$). The relevant capital entities primarily ensure the production in a flexible, low-cost manner by avoiding the constraints of standard labor relation and supplying labor in accordance with quantity, quality, and timing requirements.