

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

The Construction of an Autonomous Knowledge System in China’s Philosophy and Social Sciences

Civilization as A Method: A New Path for the Localization and Autonomy Construction of Chinese Social Sciences *Yang Lihua* 1

Abstract: Based on a systematic review of the various debates on the localization and autonomy of Chinese social sciences, an exploration of the root causes of their differences and the relationship network of related concepts, as well as an in-depth interpretation of the dual nature of science and civilization in social sciences, this study proposes a complete scientific view that encompasses civilization and emphasizes the objectivity of civilization and the different levels and boundaries of science, in contrast to the traditional incomplete scientific view that does not include civilization and neglects the objectivity of civilization and the levels and boundaries between civilization and science. It further advocates taking civilization as a method, incorporating the method of civilization into social science research, and building a complex social science system. It also conducts a preliminary exploration of the connotation, advantages, basic paths and principles of this method, laying the foundation for more in-depth and systematic research in the future.

The Social Foundation of China’s Economic Soaring

Confucian Economic Ethics and China’s Economic Transformation: An Analytical Perspective of Institutional-Cultural Coupling *Wang Ning* 25

Abstract: Combining work ethics and consumption ethics into one analytical unit can more clearly reveal the evolutionary trajectory of the relationship between economy and culture. Daniel Bell argued that as capitalist industrialization in Protestant countries (such as the United States)

progressed to a certain stage, the frugal consumption ethics deviated from the Protestant ethic, and turned to consumerism and hedonism. In contrast, after decades of industrialization in China, work ethics (diligence) and consumption ethics (thrift) remain integrated. The roots of this difference warrant further exploration. This paper employs the method of governmental documentary analysis and adopts an institutional-cultural coupling perspective to examine the distinct evolution of the relationship between economy and culture in contemporary China, which is different from that in Western Protestant countries.

“Starting from Scratch”: The Bitter Narrative of *Yiwu* Merchants and Its Moral Foundation *Zhou Yi* 47

Abstract: Self-employed entrepreneurs often say that their success is “achieved through hard work from scratch”. This paper takes the entrepreneurial narratives of *Yiwu* merchants as an example to explore the “bitterness” in their narratives and the underlying moral factors. It finds that the content of the merchants’ “bitterness” narratives varies by stage; the essence of “bitterness” is attributed to relational structural factors; the expression of “bitterness” is related to the shared moral values of society. The moral standard of being a “good person” who “always keeps in tune with the shared values of society” serves as an intangible collective suggestive force and resource, giving rise to the “bitterness” narratives of *Yiwu* merchants. This paper interprets the structural economic factors in the merchants’ “bitterness” narratives from four dimensions of moral considerations: “endurance and hard work discourse”, “institutional dependence habitus”, “identity dilemma of merchants”, and “market value”.

Family, Intimate Relationships and Entrepreneurship: A Sociological Analysis Based on the Entrepreneurial History of the T family *Liang Bo & Ai Lihua* 70

Abstract: This study examines the interactive relationship among family, intimate relationships and entrepreneurship from the perspective of “family” by taking the entrepreneurial history of the T family as an example. It finds that small and medium-sized entrepreneurship in some fields is closely linked to “family” and often relies on intimate relationships in the context of an increasingly individualized and rationalized society. Intimate relationships within the “family” domain can influence entrepreneurship through three mechanisms: “family planning (*jia ji*)” facilitating consensus on cooperation, “family love(*jia ai*)” providing emotional support, and “family wisdom (*jia shi*)” helping to cope with risks; while the tension between interests and kinship can lead entrepreneurs to form new perceptions of intimate relationships and thereby affect their re-choice in entrepreneurship. It can be argued that entrepreneurship is not a process of completely “leaving

family” and striving to break away from intimate relationships, but rather a process of being entangled with family and intimate relationships and maintaining a moderate balance.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Government Governance with Chinese Characteristics

Narrative and Re-narrative: The Interaction Between National Ministries and Local Governments in the Process of Policy Pilots Wang Luhao 92

Abstract: Although many policy pilots are actually initiated and led by national ministries, the interaction between national ministries and local governments during the policy pilot process has not received sufficient attention. This paper constructs an exploratory analytical framework based on the relevant theories of narrative work and conducts a narrative analysis study on the case of the S Ministry guiding the construction of National Innovation Demonstration Zones (NIDZs). It finds that through the interaction of narrative and re-narrative, the Ministry S and local governments jointly promoted the implementation of narrative works, thereby facilitating the achievement of policy goals at different stages; and it is precisely under the collaboration and tension of narrative and re-narrative that the power of both the ministry and local governments was ultimately constructed. Therefore, this paper calls for attention to the ministry-local relationship and the issues of agency and strategy within it.

“Qingfa Liangping”: Local Industrial Development and Labor Governance of Local Governments Liu Jian 114

Abstract: This paper explores the practical process and *qing-fa* process implications of labor dispute governance in the context of long-term industrial development, and examines the differentiated issues in local governments’ mediation of labor disputes. The study finds that the local industrial foundation and its changes have profoundly shaped the *qing-fa* perceptions of local governments, leading them to adopt distinct governance styles in bottom-line disputes and compensation disputes: the former follows the logic of morality and bureaucracy, tending to substantively guarantee the basic rights of workers demonstrating an orientation of emotional-moral protection and legal pragmatism; the latter adheres to the local logic centered on the realities of industrial development, tending to protect the operation of local enterprises, revealing the adaptive role of regional *qingli* reason in labor law. Although local governments practice “*Qingfa Liangping*” through mediation, it is still necessary to be vigilant against overinterpreting *qingli* reason and ceding workers’ rights.

Weak Incentive Innovation: An Analysis of Industrial Behaviors of Grassroots Governments *Ling Zheng & Guo Ning* 137

Abstract: How do grassroots governments cultivate new industries? Existing research focuses on the behavior of “typical industry building” under “strong incentives” at the grassroots level. This paper takes the e-commerce industry in Town L as an example and finds that the development of this industry does not conform to the logic of building typical industries. This is because the internal incentive structure within the grassroots government is not uniform and aligned. Under strong incentives, the development of industry is usually led by the leadership team and the main functional departments through “leading interventions”, while under weak incentives, the development is explored autonomously by peripheral departments. This paper refines the latter’s industry-building behavior as “weak-incentive innovation”. The weak incentive structure provides institutional conditions beyond the “incentive paradox” for the innovation of the above-mentioned objects. Grassroots governments can solve problems at a lower cost through long-term exploration, avoid falling into the “inefficient operation—changing industries” inertial cycle and bring “unexpected gains” to the development of industries. Weak incentive innovation provides a new perspective for understanding the issue of “incentives and government behavior”.

PAPER

The Digital Transformation of Chinese Youth Culture: Taste Dispositions, Social Distinction, and Platformization *Liu Taishi* 159

Abstract: The coupling of the digital technology and Chinese youth culture has raised novel theoretical and empirical questions. Taking the digital traces of a certain youth culture platform as an example, this study examines the digital situations and transformations of Chinese youth culture through “computational grounding”. It finds that platformized Chinese youth culture presents a pattern of omnivorousness as the main body and univorousness coexisting, and has homology with social distinction factors such as gender and generation. Further examination of digital transformation reveals that the youth culture platform has gone through the development stages of subculture, diversification and mainstreaming, which is the result of the joint effect of youth cultural practices and platform technology operations under the macro social process. The vigorous development of youth culture in the digital age has made it increasingly closely linked with mainstream culture, becoming an important driver and creator of contemporary Chinese culture.

The Moral Changes in Contemporary China: An Analysis Based on Online Memorial
Texts for the Deceased *Zheng Guangjing* 182

Abstract: Based on publicly available online memorial texts for the deceased, this paper explores the period effect of moral change from 1950 to 2019 and the cohort effect of moral change from 1900 to 2000, using the four-category model of morality. It reveals that moral change in contemporary China exhibits a “double inflection point, two-stage” characteristic, namely, the “illennium inflection point” in terms of period change and the “founding generation inflection point” in terms of cohort-based change. Before these two inflection points, self-development morality shows a downward trend, while self-restraint, development-oriented altruism, and restraint-oriented altruism morality show an upward trend. After these two inflection points, the trends are reversed. This study contributes the first historical picture of moral change in contemporary Chinese society, and corrects the previous theories such as the “reform and opening-up inflection point theory” and the “moral decline hypothesis”.

From Earthbound China to Urban-Rural China: The Evolution of Housing Choices
among Rural-Urban Migrants and Its Influencing Mechanisms *Wu Kaize* 204

Abstract: This study develops a multi-dimensional analytical framework of “macro-meso-micro” in the context of dual transformation of economy and society, and studies the changes in housing choices of rural-urban migrants and their influencing mechanisms. The macro-economic and social transformation, meso institutional change and population mobility transition, and micro family demands and economic capabilities respectively affect the possibility, accessibility, and affordability of the housing choices of rural-urban migrants. During the transition from Earthbound China to Urban-Rural China, the social development of urban and rural areas in China’ has experienced a “two-phase, four-stage” process of rural industrialization, industrial urbanization, land urbanization, and population urbanization. The housing choices of rural-urban migrants have undergone changes from building dwellings in home villages, renting in cities and building in home villages, to urban-rural gradient housing and diversified urban housing.