MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

Urban Governance with Chinese Characteristics

Abstract：Spatial governance constitutes a crucial component of the modernization of national governance systems and governance capacity. This paper introduces the concept of rescaling, analyzing its content and process through three dimensions：spatial scale，relational scale and governance scale. Based on the practice analysis of City C from 2003 to 2021，it is proposed that urban spatial governance involves the rescaling in administrative boundaries and spatial structures, power relations and organizational institutions，as well as coordination mechanisms and governance approaches，and it emerges as the outcome of three interactive processes：national spatial strategic planning，transformation of governance models，and multi-agent gaming. This study enriches the theoretical perspectives of spatial governance studies，while also contributing to the development of a China-specific knowledge map regarding rescaling.

Abstract：This paper conceptualizes community as a dynamic relational process generated through social interactions. Community workers，leveraging their multiple identities（political，administrative, and interpersonal）in social interactions，complete social interactions and facilitate the formation of communities between the family and the state，thereby constituting a crucial "intermediary group" through dual mechanisms that bridge the familial and the political spheres. First，community workers merge，switch and combine multiple identities to construct institutionalized reciprocal relationships and activate community networks. Second，they synthesize multiple ethics which are

related to politics, life, and law through "quasi-familial yet non-familial" practices to constitute community ethics. It is through resident-oriented interactions that community workers potentially develop enriched personal agency and subjectivity. This fundamental attribute explains both their pivotal role in shaping community political order and their resistance to complete institutionalization. The key to constructing community order lies in providing space for community workers to practice their subjectivity.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

New Economic Organizations and New Employment Groups

The Legitimacy Acquisition Mechanism of Online Freight Forwarding Enterprises in the Digital Economy: A Sociological Study Based on Listed Company LG

Abstract: Traditional freight forwarding enterprises often faces the dilemma of legitimacy deficiency during digital transformation. This paper reveals three specific mechanisms for legitimacy acquisition taking an online freight forwarding enterprise as a case study: First, the enterprise adopts buffering strategies to obtain regulatory legitimacy under formal rules. Second, it secures pragmatic legitimacy related to interest calculation through concession strategies. Third, it achieves cognitive legitimacy associated with official organizational identification via political connection strategies. Each category of action strategies encompasses multiple pathways, and the diverse forms of legitimacy obtained can be flexibly transformed. This study argues that entrepreneurial values and their practices influence the selection of specific strategies, demonstrating significant potential in prompting organizational legitimacy construction, establishing industry norms, and stabilizing social order.

The Glamor Labor and Control of Modulation of Cultural Producers on Digital Platform: Taking Fashion and Lifestyle Bloggers as an Example

Abstract: This study employs in-depth interviews, life history research and online ethnography to collect qualitative data for exploring the labor process and labor control mechanisms among fashion and lifestyle bloggers on digital platforms. The research reveals emerging labor forms and control mechanisms—glamourous labor and control of modulation. The core of control of modulation lies in the dynamic operations of continuously commodifying glamour within commercial circuits and their

derived hierarchical structures. Workers embedded in an open operational commercial systems perpetually engage in self-regulation and self-transformation under established relationships, rules and frameworks. Driven by profit imperatives and data logic, the control mechanisms which modulate personalized, flexible and highly uncertain labor process facilitate the emergence of self-alienating and self-exploiting subjects.

Primary-Level Governance with Chinese Characteristics

Abstract: The phenomenon of "buck-passing" often arises under "incomplete" institutional arrangements of obligations, yet current theoretical exploration of its underlying mechanisms remains insufficient. Drawing upon ideal types of moral identity recognition among obligation-holders, this study constructs a set of theoretical models of incomplete obligations: a payoff-decision model and strategy combinations. Using the demarcation of educational responsibility for migrant children as a case, it analyzes the gradual elimination process of "buck-passing" between sending and receiving regions. The findings reveal that incomplete obligations manifest contextually in dimensions such as identity attribution, scope of obligations, and modes of fulfillment, exhibiting non-linear relationship with "buck-passing" dynamics. Based on moral identity recognition, actors strategically weigh institutional returns, spill-over returns, and associated costs to decide whether to act on obligation fufillment. This research extends the theoretical understanding of institutional incompleteness and the concept of "incomplete obligations" have their potential for development.

Abstract: This study investigates the structural origins of overloaded grassroots responsibilities by taking the safety responsibilities in primary and secondary schools as an example. Based on the interaction among the state, grassroots units, and the public, a "dual-layer risk transformation" analytical framework is constructed. The research reveals that the overloaded grassroots responsibilities stem from two layers of risk transformation: first, the "accident risk—social risk" transformation between the state and the public, which is determined by the boundaries of state responsibility and vertical institutional linkages; second, the "social risk—accountability risk" transformation between the state and grassroots units, which is contingent upon accountability orientation types and information symmetry levels. When both layers demonstrate high transformation

efficiency, the three types of risks become tightly coupled, invalidating conventional blame avoidance strategies and compelling grassroots units to adopt overloaded responsibility fulfillment models.

PAPER

The Construction of "Visibility": The Central-Local Interactions and the Change of Government-Enterprise Relations in Statistical Data Production

Abstract：Economic statistics play a central role in the national economic governance, yet sociological research in this area remains insufficient. While China's economic data quality has significantly improved through institutional reforms, including "regular services statistics programs" and "unified regional GDP accounting mechanism", local governments still retain potential involvement in statistical data production. This paper examines county-level economic statistical practices through the lens of "visibility construction", revealing that top-down statistical reforms from the central government aim to establish enterprise-facing "visibility" by circumventing local governments' influence; local governments cope with this through interactions with enterprises and using "number techniques". The central government, local governments and enterprises jointly construct the "visibility" in the field of statistics. This process has enhanced enterprises' bargaining power, which has further expanded the scope for "negotiated win-win cooperation" within the "interest alliance" between governments and enterprises.

Land and Livelihood: The Dual Social Logics of Land Finance and the Housing Price-Consumption Relationship

Abstract：The role of urban housing prices in China's persistent household consumption dilemma has long been a contentious academic issue. Using big data from e-commerce platforms, this study shows that during China's housing market transition from 2013 to 2017, rising housing prices significantly suppressed consumption and exacerbated consumption disparities. It further explores under the perspective of soial transition theory and reveals how the land finance regime shapes the housing price-consumption relationship through dual social mechanisms：First, the mutual reinforcement of land finance and housing prices increased household debt and savings due to widespread housing demand, and thereby distorts the housing price-consumption relationship. Second, the structural imbalance arising from land finance's decoupling from public welfare development intensifies this distortion. These findings offer theoretical and empirical insights for

addressing consumption stagnation and strengthening people's livelihood construction policy reforms.

Moderate Preference: Global Measurement and Cultural Mechanism of Likert Scale Response Patterns

Abstract: Different cultures shape diverse modes of thinking, leading to systematic response bias among cross-cultural respondents when answering Likert scales. Drawing on merged data from seven waves of the World Value Survey from 1981 to 2022, which covers over 430,000 samples across 106 countries or regions, this paper constructs a Moderate Preference Index (MPI) to estimate the likelihood of individuals adopting moderate response patterns. The findings reveal a robust hierarchical ranking of MPI across cultural zones: East Asian Confucian cultures > English Speaking and other European cultures > West and South Asian cultures > Latin American cultures > African and Islamic cultures. The primary reason for the highest MPI in Confucian cultural zones is respondents' stronger inclination toward moderate responses rather than midpoint responses. Notably, when confronted with questions concerning family ethics and moral judgments, respondents from the Confucian cultural zones exhibit a higher probability of giving extreme responses.

Age Discrimination in Employment and Job Opportunities for Older Workers: A Study Based on a Mixed-methods Approach

Abstract: The employment of older workers in the era of population aging is a major issue concerning the sustainable development of the economy and society. Age discrimination in employment is detrimental to high-quality and full employment, and this issue still lacks systematic research. This paper based on a mixed-method found that even when controlling for productivity factors in resumes, employers still discriminate against older workers, and the older job-seekers need to submit twice as many resumes to get similar job opportunities as the younger group. Jobs with higher interaction frequencies between employees and consumers and cities located at the core of regional economic circles have higher degrees of employment age discrimination. Employment age discrimination has diversified characteristics including statistical discrimination, preference discrimination, and implicit discrimination. This indicates that relying solely on employment promotion policies is insufficient to ensure the successful job search of older workers. It is necessary to improve employment equity policies and foster an age-fair employment environment.