

***MARXIST SOCIOLOGY***

Social Governance and Public Life : From Connection to Solidarity

..... *Feng Shizheng* 1

**Abstract:** With crucial implications for the real-life practice of China’s modernization, social governance is in urgent need for an overarching yet parsimonious theoretical framework. Based on the notion of “society”, this article lays out the key concepts and tasks of social governance in contemporary China. The findings show that the society is the outgrowth of modernization, while social governance is born out of its duality and inherent tension between the social and the public. Subsequently, one of the top objectives of social governance is to coordinate the relationship between the two, make links from “connection” to “solidarity”, and build a vibrant and organized public life. This process characterizes the trajectory of social governance in contemporary China. Currently, micro social governance still prevails, yet in the long run it is expected to transition into macro governance.

***MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES***

Social Theories

Rediscover Reproduction : From Labor to Social Theory ..... *Li Jie* 23

**Abstract:** On the basis of critically inheriting Marx and Engels’s “double life production” and women’s liberation issues, socialist feminists further explore how the special commodity of “labor” can be reproduced on the basis of family and kinship relationships and connected with maintaining

the larger capitalist system. The “separation-dependence” contradiction between production and reproduction revealed from the perspective of historical materialism analysis is a valuable reference and has practical significance for understanding and analyzing gender, family and labor issues during China’s social development against the background of population structure and reproductive policy adjustments.

### The Ontological Turn within China’s Anthropology and Its Practice Orientation

..... *Zhu Xiaoyang* 46

**Abstract:** The article takes the ontological turn within anthropology as the background and the object of dialogue, and discusses Chinese anthropology and its practical orientation related to this phenomenon. The article’s selection of the ontological approaches for review reflects the special perspective of Chinese anthropology in this multi-sourced trend of thought. The article argues that the ontological turn is a movement triggered by multi-sourced practical activities. The ontology of politics and the activist anthropology or direct action is its resounding reality. The article concludes with an ontological perspective on Chinese anthropology, emphasizing that Chinese scholars’ research regarding ontological turn has its own source of knowledge and practical motivation. The article, for example, takes the study of topographic (*dishi*) realism in the perspective of ordinary language to examine the agreement between this perspective and Jin Yuelin’s ordinary language realism, and its relationship with contemporary ordinary language philosophy. The article believes that for the current anthropologists, it is more important to see the “things” by ontological sensibility.

### Conversion, Reconstruction and Remaining Questions: Path of the Contemporary French Sociologies of the Individual .....

*Wu Zhen* 69

**Abstract:** Since the 1990s, sociologies of the individual have been flourishing in France. Rethinking social changes and theoretical accumulation, sociologists of the individual intend to cast off the holistic perspective and carry out a new research practice. On the one hand, by focusing on self-deconstruction, the experiential construction, and the autonomic solidarity, they analyze the

force of subjectivity on the real environment. On the other hand, they explore the formation logic and the internal contradictions in the interpersonal relationship and the structural system by examining the influence of individualization on individuals themselves. The differentiation of their visual angles and positions gradually formed two trains of thought, i. e. the “interpretative” and the “critical”, which also induced debates and questions about the methodology, applicability and theoretical foundation of the sociologies of the individual.

## ***PAPER***

Analysis of Heterogeneous Treatment Effect: New Opportunities and Challenges with Machine Learning Techniques ..... *Hu Anning, Wu Xiaogang & Chen Yunsong* 91

**Abstract:** Investigation on heterogeneous treatment effect has been a focus for empirical sociologists. This article uses the causal random forests and the Bayesian additive regression trees to show that new technologies based on algorithm have no model restrictions and can examine all possible interactions between the treatment and the confounding variables. The two methods, respectively, illustrating the ideas of matching and simulation, provide estimates of the individual treatment effect, which helps scholars show the empirical distribution and look into the determinants of the heterogeneity of treatment effect. However, the algorithm-based methods can also bring about new challenges. For instance, arbitrariness in terms of parameter configuration and algorithm can hurt the consistency of empirical results.

The Influence Mechanism of Policy Reproduction in China—A Study Based on Rural Policy Documents ..... *Liu Heqing & Liang Yucheng* 115

**Abstract:** Adopting the word embedding model, this article proposes “policy reproduction” to investigate how provincial governments update central policy content and the mode and mechanism of policy reproduction. Based on national and provincial government policy text data, the results show that the executive ability and motivation of provincial governments have a more significant impact on

policy reproduction than external pressure and financial support. The influence of the speed of policy adoption on policy reproduction presents an “inverted U-shape”, which means provinces that adopt the policy at a moderate speed, with the inflection point being 2.28 years, have a higher degree of policy reproduction.

Causal Effect and Mechanism of Institution-Spanning Social Capital on Self-Employment Income ..... *Wang Wenbi, Xiao Yang & Bian Yanjie* 137

**Abstract:** The present study focuses on the self-employed group and explores the mechanisms through which institution-spanning social capital exerts its casual effect on income. Empirical analysis draws the following findings. First, among the self-employed, the central casual mechanism through which institution-spanning social capital increases self-employment income is to increase their direct and indirect earning opportunities. Second, as for this causal mechanism, the present study uses lagged variable model, instrumental-variable, and propensity-score matching method to solve potential problems of endogeneity, thus obtaining robust results. The above findings have deepened our theoretical understanding of institution-spanning social capital and its causal effect on income of the self-employed.

Technological Change and Welfare Attitude: How Automation Replacement Affects Individuals' Eldercare Preferences ..... *Fan Ziteng & Ning Jing* 160

**Abstract:** This study explores the factors and mechanisms affecting individuals' eldercare preferences in the context of automation replacement. The study finds that first, automation replacement is most likely to increase the likelihood of individuals' preference for government-assisted eldercare programs. Second, individuals' risk expectation plays the mediating role. Third, the reinforcement effect of automation replacement varies according to different social groups, families, and regions. Specifically, the reinforcement effect is more prominent in groups who have higher income, social pension insurance, intergenerational company, and access to better public services.

Seeking Similarities or Reserving Differences? —A Study on Academic Achievement and Classroom Homogeneity ..... *Cheng Cheng* 180

**Abstract:** Which type of class structure is more conducive to students' better academic achievement? This question concerns the double challenges of efficiency and equality in China's basic education. In terms of efficiency, there is no scholarly consensus on whether homogeneous or heterogenous grouping is more conducive to better academic performance. Based on 2014 and 2015 China Education Panel Survey (CEPS) datasets, analysis reveals that homogenous and heterogeneous grouping have different influence on academic performance of students with different abilities. The comprehensive performance of low-achieving students improves with increasing classroom homogeneity. Furthermore, other outcome variables, including their academic performance in other subjects, cognitive ability, and self-efficacy, also show a consistent pattern, confirmed by robustness tests.

Field Differentiation of Property Right Practice: The Expansion and Enlightenment of Sociological Perspective on the Research of Land Development Rights ..... *Chen Qi* 203

**Abstract:** How to allocate the land value added by urbanization has induced prolific research on land development rights. Drawing upon scholarly literature on the "social construction of property rights" and "government behavior", this article proposes the concept of "field differentiation" to emphasize the institutional field and the social field as shaping mechanisms of land property rights, as well as the central significance of the local power mechanism in the institutional field when defining land rights. This article finds that local governments have developed an implicit, embedded mechanism, with the help of land planning, purchase and the "zengjianguagou" policy, can affect the definition of property rights at the grassroots level. It is this implicit, embedded mechanism, rather than the explicit one developed by the local government in land acquisition and demolition, that restricts the space for practicing farmers' property rights. The problem of urban-rural differentiation originates from the implicit differentiation between local governments and farmers in terms of profitability in different practice fields.