

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

Poverty Alleviation and Completion of Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects

Community Transformation and Improvement of Governance Effectiveness from the Perspective of Building a Modorately Prosperous Society in All Respects *Zhang Yi* 1

Abstract: The process of building a well-off society involves transforming from a settled society to a relocated society, from an acquaintance community to a stranger community, as well as from *danwei*-run society to community-run society. Based on this process, the entity structure of the community and the governance structure of the community have changed greatly. While the government shapes the “ideal type” of the community from the supply side of the construction, community residents also construct the “ideal type” of the community through “democratic consultation”. The community forms its own organizational structure in the interaction with the environment. The diachronic dynamics of various forces puts the community in the process of building from a “realistic type” to an “ideal type”, manifesting characteristics of a bureaucratic governance structure, diversified community genres, heterogenous community residents, the financialization of governance funds, etc. This process results in the co-presence of “strong governance” and “weak autonomy”. To meet the needs of all interest groups, eliminate conflicts and stimulate vitality, it is necessary to balance the forces of “heteronomy” and “autonomy”, and cultivate legal channels for the “society” to participate in governance.

Eradicating Absolute Poverty: A Sociological Study of China's New Practice of Poverty Alleviation *Li Xiaoyun & Xu Jin* 20

Abstract: To analyze the process of the ongoing poverty alleviation in China, this paper subdivides the state-society system into a system composed of dynamic interactions between diverse agents, such as politics, bureaucracy, village administrative and village societal subsystems. Adopting this theoretical framework and concepts of encounter, interface and responsiveness, we construct a micro-narrative of top-down transmission of poverty interventions subject to a dynamic state-society interaction. The authors argue that China's recent poverty alleviation is in general a process of state-society integration under political agendas, which not only constructs an institutional foundation for policy implementation, but also becomes a fundamental institution that drives China's continuous progress in poverty reduction. This institution embodies China's state-driven developmental politics. The encountering and responses between poverty agendas and bureaucratic systems, village administration and village society may be influenced by social agents who have different life worlds. In general, however, poverty reduction reflects a reshaping of bureaucracies by political systems, a linking-up of village society to the modern world, and an integration of state and society. This constitutes the fundamental mechanism for progress made in poverty reduction in China.

New Mechanism for Poverty Alleviation: Organization, Operation, and Function of Work Teams Stationed in Villages *Deng Yanhua, Wang Yingyi & Liu Wei* 44

Abstract: Previous studies on work teams for poverty alleviation have explored how external environment shapes actions of members when they are stationing in villages, but paid little attention to this type of work team's organizational characteristics and their relevant impacts. In this paper, we define work teams for poverty alleviation as hybrid bureaucratic organizations, and argue that they could serve as an organizational base smoothening the transformation of campaign-style governance to routine bureaucratic politics. We lay out in detail that the organizational hybridity of work teams may facilitate the efforts of pooling resources, collecting information and training cadres, but it also leads to some management issues, such as mission drift, softening of rigorous rules and strained personal relations. In the conclusion, we further regard members of work teams for poverty alleviation as "the embodied state" which would enhance

“mutual seeing” between the state and the society as well as making the presence of the state more dynamic.

Relative Poverty and Its Long-term Mechanism of Governance: From Theories to Policies *Li Mianguan & Ngok Kinglun* 67

Abstract: Absolute poverty theory and relative poverty theory have reached reconciliation after a long debate. Relative poverty research is now experiencing “double movements”. On the one hand, it continues to build from the dimension of social perspective; on the other hand, it starts to involve the concept of “basic living needs” from a physiological perspective. The double movements affect both the approach and indicators of relative poverty theory and define relative poverty in two different ways, i. e. , low-line relative poverty and high-line relative poverty. There has been local experiences of relative poverty governance in certain areas of China. However, lacking a social perspective, absolute poverty governance still dominates. To establish a long-term systematic mechanism for relative poverty governance in China, we need to take into account the dimension of relative poverty and relevant social policies.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Social Impact of New Technologies

A New Mode of Labor Time Control and Fake Experience of Freedom —— A Study on the Labor Process of Take-out Platform Riders *Li Shenglan & Jiang Lihua* 91

Abstract: This paper is based on fieldwork on the labor process of take-out platform riders. Different from the time control of traditional factory labor, the take-out platform sets new time rules and constructs a new mode of labor time control in accordance with the industry’s features. By creating flexible working time and a relaxed work environment for workers, platform attract workers who want to have freedom at work. However, with the assistance of technologies, the labor process of take-out platform riders is strictly recorded and monitored, so that the platform and consumers can exercise control over the labor process of the riders. At the same time, the assignment mechanism, such as

“order grab”, can shape the riders’ potential experience, thoughts and feelings, construct a sense of timely and fast labor, and guide the riders to “voluntarily” become diligent laborers working around the clock. As a result, the riders end up cooperating with the time control, while the platform acquires and disguises the pursuit of profit in the name of freedom.

Labor Order under Digital Control: A Study on the Labor Control of Take-out Platform Riders *Chen Long* 113

Abstract: Following Marx’s analysis of technical control, this article studies the labor process of take-out riders from the perspectives of organizational technology and scientific technology. On the one hand, by redistributing control power, platform system (software) and consumers replace the platform company (manager) to manage take-out riders. The platform company seems to have given up direct control over riders; however, it downplays the employer’s responsibility and transfers labor conflicts to the platform system and consumers. On the other hand, “digital control” has changed from physical machines and computer equipments to virtual software and data. The platform system makes labor order possible through subtly collecting and analyzing data from the riders, and using these data analysis result to manage them. Thus, “digital control” not only weakens the rider’s willingness to resist, gradually reduces their autonomy, but also invites them to participate in an implicit process of self-management. The control methods of the capital are changing from autocracy to hegemony, from physical to virtual.

“Self as Enterprise”: Over-Marketization and the Self-Management of R&D Engineers *Yan Xia* 136

Abstract: This article analyzes the self-enterprising mechanism of Research & Development (R&D) engineers based on a case study of labor control in a high-tech company. “Self as enterprise” controls the labor process through workers’ self-management according to the market principle. It is neither a form of normative control built upon the acceptance and internalization of the market-oriented values, nor the responsible autonomy aiming to enhance workers’ organizational commitment. It is the fact that R&D workers’ reproduction of current living-standard depends heavily on performance-based merit salary that forces them to pragmatically comply with the rule of

the market. In the circumstance when both the reproduction of labor and the labor market have been over-marketized, R&D workers are under high risk of living-standard downgrading and double job insecurity. They have to manage their work and life in an enterprising way to maximize labor value before being devalued.

PAPER

Social Change and Health Inequalities — Evidence from the Fifth Phase of the Epidemiologic Transition in Urban China

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Abstract: Drawing upon the epidemiologic-transition theory, this study investigates social changes in China, in particular changes of the population's health condition. Using nine waves of survey data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS), we find a steady increase in the rate of overweight and inactivity among urban residents in China, which can be attributed to three types of temporal effects (i. e. , age, period, and cohort effects). The inequalities in overweight and inactivity are more relevant to education and political power instead of income. More specifically, a socio-economic crossover has been observed in the period effects of overweight, and the risks of overweight and inactivity increase with age. Moreover, birth cohorts experiencing the Great Famine during infancy and early childhood reported distinct patterns of overweight and time spent walking. These findings help us understand epidemiological transition in China, as well as providing a basis on which the effectiveness of public-health policies in China can be assessed.

Diversion Patterns and Educational Inequality in the Education System: An International Comparison Based on PISA 2015 Data

Hou Liming 186

Abstract: Educational inequality is not only the result of family reproduction mechanisms from a micro perspective, but also influenced by the educational system from a macro perspective. To better explore the characteristics of educational inequality in China and its relative position around the world, this study examines the impact of different institutional arrangements on educational inequality by international comparison of secondary education systems. The present study classifies twenty-two countries into five types of education systems according to the differences in the classification process,

including dual-track education system, pedagogical education system, liberal education system, egalitarian education system, and exam-oriented education system, and examines the mediating role of educational systems in education inequality. The results show that the association between the socio-economic status of the family and children's academic performance differ substantially under different education systems. Specifically, the structural characteristics of educational inequality are similar across countries with the same education system, but significantly different across countries with different education systems. The main reason for these findings is the variability of screening and diversions mechanisms across different education systems.

Keeping an Eye on Society: A Sketch for Technical Governance in Our Times *Peng Yaping* 212

Abstract: How do we understand technical governance using a holistic framework? This paper integrates information, administration, and power techniques under a general concept of technique, thus treating state governance as a technique for the state to “look after” the society. In order to “look after” the society, the state has to first “look at” the society and be able to see it clearly. The techniques of social identification and utility analysis make “seeing” possible. Problem-oriented and causality mechanisms then rearrange social problems into chains of interpretations. The state replaces the society by these social problems, and this presupposes the power of how to “look”. Once this power is challenged, technical governance system would create its own problems and spawn new techniques to fix them. Based on the deduction above, this paper incorporates a variety of practices of technical governance into its analysis and provides reinterpretation of exiting literature.