

MARXIST SOCIOLOGY

In the Service of Chinese Modernization: 40 Years of Sociology Discipline Construction *Hu Jie & Zhou Xiaohong* 1

Abstract: Since the reestablishment of the earliest group of sociology departments in Chinese mainland in 1982, sociology under reconstruction in China has gone through a 40 – year path of disciplinary or professional construction. Based on professional literature, the Annals of Sociology, and personal biographies of reconstruction participants, supplemented by oral history interviews of 40 sociologists, this article traces the two major periods and several stages of discipline construction against the historical background of the process of reform and opening up or Chinese-style modernization. It also discusses the basic framework of disciplinary construction, which is likened to the “five internal organs”, the academic practice of serving Chinese modernization that adheres to the purpose of disciplinary construction, and the two basic issues of professionalization (disciplinarity) and indigenization. On this basis, based on the goal of serving socialist modernization, the construction achievements of the discipline of sociology are discussed in terms of faculty building and talent (students) training.

MONOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Studies on Digital Society

Digital Sociology: Origins, Development and Prospects in International Perspective *Zhao Yizhang & Wang Mingyu* 26

Abstract: In order to explore the rapid development of digital technology and its far-reaching impact on human behavior and social operation, and to study the mechanism of interaction between digital

technology and social environment, a new branch of sociology, i. e. digital sociology, has emerged and is rapidly entering a flourishing stage. This article provides a brief introduction of digital sociology, compares the research progress of digital sociology in six areas: labor economy and production, digital politics and power, social relations and interaction, body and self, social inequality and methodological innovation, and on this basis compares the research status of digital sociology in China and the West. The rapid development of China in the field of digital technology provides a rare opportunity for sociological research, and digital sociology has great potential for development in China.

A Perspective on the Black Box of Algorithms: The Heterogeneity of Digital Platforms' Arithmetic Regulations and Information Push *Liu Heqing & Liang Yucheng* 49

Abstract: Drawing on experimental and reverse engineering approaches, this study analyzes the impact of arithmetic regulations on the heterogeneity of user information access by setting up several virtual accounts to interact with digital platforms for long periods of time in a real attempt to truly enter the politicized space of algorithms. The empirical results reveal the high complexity, refinement and concealment of algorithmic regulation in the digital era. From the information subject dimension, algorithms increase individuals' access to diverse subject information. And from the semantic dimension of information, algorithms reinforce the filter bubble effect, and there appears a narrowing and solidification of information pushing, where different individuals are framed by algorithms in relatively fixed positions in the semantic vector space and only get pushed information of specific semantic dimensions.

Social Theory Studies

The Basic Categories of Object-Human Relations: A Synthesis of the Sociological Theories of New Materialism *Cheng Tsuo-Yu* 72

Abstract: New materialism, which reckons things as research topics, is a highly influential emerging paradigm in contemporary sociology, yet the discussions of things in neomaterialist sociology is often too broad and lacks focus. To solve this problem, this article attempts to discuss and synthesize the three main theoretical axes of new materialism, namely, posthumanism, agential realism, and object-oriented ontology, in order to classify the four basic categories of object-human relations, namely, resonance, alienation, catastrophe and appropriation. In this way, the themes

of discussion and the strengths and weaknesses of each theory of new materialism can be clarified, and the normative foundation and critique guidelines of new materialist sociology can also be established.

Structure, Emotion, and Morality: A Moral Sociological Exploration of Moral Transformation *Wang Xiaozhang* 93

Abstract: Sociology of morality focuses on empirical moral facts consisting of three basic levels: moral norms, moral behaviors, and moral public opinion, rather than the abstract moral laws contemplated by moral philosophy. The three basic levels that constitute moral facts are also the three levels that embody moral emotion. With the transition from the traditional closed, static, homogeneous, and densely interacting small society of acquaintances to an open, mobile, heterogeneous, and alienated society of strangers in the process of modernization, the three levels of moral emotions have changed accordingly. In response to these changes, morality must make necessary adjustments, including the separation of public morality and private morality, highlighting “negative obligations” in daily public morality, and the generalization and formalization of moral forms, etc. In short, morality must shift from a conventional, self-evident form of “tacit agreement” to a “reflexive” self-conscious form.

Studies on Agricultural Modernization

Skill Reorganization and Construction of Small Farmer Subjectivity in the Process of Agricultural Industrialization: Analysis of the Process Based on the Change of Tea Making Industry in Village M *Wang Xing & Zhou Zhongli* 115

Abstract: In the process of agricultural industrialization, the “company + farmer” model introduces the standardized industrial production mechanism into the labor process of tea production, triggering the reorganization of tea-making skills. In the cultivation and picking process, the tea farmers’ skills are upgraded to recognized standardized skills due to external empowerment, and the quality of tea and farmers’ income are improved; while in the links of fresh leaf acquisition, tea frying and finished product sales, the skills control is transferred from the farmers to the rural capital, and the tea farmers’ skills are downgraded and replaced. The dual standardization of tea farmers and their tea-making skills intersect and interact in the rural scene, becoming a practical logic that affects the effect of tea industrialization. Upgrading farmers’ skills and constructing

farmers' subjectivity will enable farmers to truly enjoy the benefits of industrial development and agricultural transformation.

The Transformation of Agricultural Capital Accumulation in the Era of Financialization: An Ethnographic Study Based on the Development of Maca Industry in Southwest Highlands of China *Ruan Chiyin & Ding Ling* 135

Abstract: The topic of financialization of the global agri-food system has received increasing attention. Related studies have focused mainly on speculative activities in the distribution sector. This article includes the dimension of production and examines the transformation of capital accumulation methods in agriculture from a holistic perspective, as a way to capture the characteristics of the financialization of agriculture and its impact on farmer household production. An examination of the Maca industry reveals that chain control based on seed monopoly is both a source of excess monopoly profits and a basis for agricultural investors to capture speculative profits. It suggests that the financialization of agriculture is not only a speculative transformation of capital accumulation, but also an increase in the monopoly of capital accumulation. In a monopolistic accumulation structure, small producers cannot survive and grow by winning the market with low-cost operations. Meanwhile, they are often also the crisis bearers in the speculative profit model.

PAPER

From “Self-Protective Enforcement” to Effective Governance: Transformation of the Institutional Path of Local Autonomy Practices *Fang Ke, Zhang Xiang, Jiang Zhuoyu & Lian Hong* 158

Abstract: The autonomy of local governments is the key to effective governance at the grassroots level, but the existing literature has focused on the informal institutional paths for local governments to exercise autonomy, and there is a relative lack of examination of the formal institutional paths. In recent years, local civil affairs departments have chosen to reduce their autonomy under the regulatory pressure of “emphasizing wrong coverage over missing coverage”, resulting in an uneven achievement of the governance goal of *dibao*. Based on the case of Province A, this article finds that some local civil affairs departments have exercised their autonomy based on the formal institutional path to include special hardship cases and formed a self-protection mechanism based on formal rules to achieve effective governance while avoiding accountability risks.

Succession and Coexistence of Social Spaces: A Sociological Study of Urbanization in a Suburban Village *Lu Bingzhe* 182

Abstract: Under the influence of the dualistic economic structure theory, the urban-rural dualistic analysis paradigm has long dominated the urbanization research in China. In the face of the deepening trend of urban-rural integration, this article proposes a socio-spatial analysis framework of urbanization, which understands urbanization as a dialectical process of multiple urban-rural social representations in a contextual space. Among them, the “spatial succession” of villages constitutes the process of urbanization, and the intersection and coexistence of multiple urban-rural social representations create a picture of rural transformation with multiple spatial meanings. The socio-spatial perspective emphasizes the contextuality of explanation, which helps to compensate for the limitations of linear transformation presupposition and urban centrism, and enriches the thinking of urbanization research.

Regional Differences and Formation Mechanisms of Intergenerational Mobility in China: An Empirical Study Based on Spatial Analysis Techniques *Wang Yuanchao* 204

Abstract: Spatial perspective is one of the important growth points of intergenerational mobility research. Using CGSS data from 2010 – 2017, this paper explores the regional differences and formation mechanisms of intergenerational mobility. The study finds that there are significant regional differences in intergenerational mobility in China, showing a distribution trend of “large dispersion and small concentration”. What determines a region’s intergenerational mobility is not only its internal social structural characteristics, but also its external spatial relations, i. e. , its spatial location and the surrounding social resources. The advanced industrialization level, large income dispersion and sufficient social welfare resources in the surrounding areas can promote intergenerational mobility in the region, namely the “spatial spillover effect”.