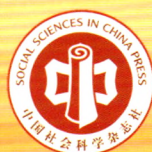


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(1) 马克思与政治美学

张盾 · 4 ·

(2) 资源错置与中国企业规模分布特征

李旭超 罗德明 金祥荣 · 25 ·

(3) 国际产能合作与重塑中国经济地理

吴福象 段巍 · 44 ·

(4) “全球风险社会”治理：复杂性范式与中国参与

范如国 · 65 ·

(5) “央强地弱” 政府信任格局的社会学分析

——基于汶川震后三期追踪数据

罗家德 帅 满 杨鲲昊 · 84 ·

(6) 事权划分法治化的中国路径

刘剑文 侯 卓 · 102 ·

(7) 我国劳动关系法律调整模式的转变

谢增毅 · 123 ·

(8) 跨学科视域下的语言研究及其方法

语言技术对语言生活及社会发展的影响 李宇明 · 145 ·

语言社会功能的当代理解 赵蓉晖 · 159 ·

“位/非位” 与跨学科研究方法 黄 行 · 171 ·

(9) 近代中国乡村改造之社会转向

杨 瑞 · 184 ·

本期论文英文摘要 (ABSTRACTS)

· 205 ·

ABSTRACTS

(1) Marx and Political Aesthetics

Zhang Dun • 4 •

Early modern aesthetics took the beauty of art as the sole paradigm of beauty and the sole standpoint of aesthetics, so that aesthetics became the aesthetics of literature and art. This form of aesthetics viewed the independence of art and the theory of aesthetic experience as its basic creed, and thus lost art's original reflective character, in which "visible beauty is an image of invisible beauty." This became the theoretical source of the crisis and decline of contemporary art. The change of direction for aesthetics is a transition from the aesthetics of literature and art to political aesthetics, a transition in the understanding of the nature of beauty from "the perfection of feeling" to "the perfection of existence," and the restoration of the theoretical thinking and transcendent dimension of aesthetics. As the standpoint of aesthetics shifts from art to politics, and reflects upon the perfection of existence from the aesthetic standpoint of "the beauty of systems" and "the beauty of human nature," aesthetics becomes political aesthetics. Political aesthetics was the original form of aesthetics; Plato, its initiator, found that politics, being the creation and appreciation of both of the beauty of systems and the beauty of human nature, was a kind of knowledge, and that true politics, or "the best political system" interfaced with philosophy, and was thus the very foundation of political aesthetics. Marx's critical investigation into the reality of capitalism not only took the "full development of every individual" in a free community as the objective in transforming the real world, but also saw it as providing deeper understanding and higher truths of systems and human nature. He thus brought modern political philosophy back to the interface of creation and cognition of the best system and the most beautiful human nature, there by restoring and carrying forward the original issues and theoretical tradition of classical political aesthetics.

(2) Misallocation of Resources and Characteristics of Chinese Enterprise Scale Distribution

Li Xuchao, Luo Deming and Jin Xiangrong • 25 •

The rational distribution of enterprise scale is a necessary condition for the transformation and upgrading of industrial structures and the optimization of urban hierarchal systems. From the perspective of misallocation of resources, an empirical analysis of the features of enterprise scale distribution in China and the mechanism behind its formation shows that the distribution of Chinese enterprise scale deviates from the optimal state determined by the distribution of productivity. The size distortion coefficient is negatively correlated with productivity, so that enterprises with high productivity are prevented from growing because of "constraints," while those with low productivity fatten thanks to irrational "subsidies." That increases the Pareto Index of scale distribution, resulting in insufficient numbers of large and

small-sized enterprises and an excess of mid-sized ones. The misallocation of resources destroys the correspondence between enterprise size and productivity, causing the inadequate utilization of advanced productive forces and excessive expansion of backward production capacity and at the same time weakening the effectiveness of related industrial policies.

(3) Cooperation on International Production Capacity and the Reshaping of China's Economic Geography

Wu Fuxiang and Duan Wei • 44 •

Since the Chinese economy is currently facing the twofold problem of dealing with excessive production capacity and cracking the Heihe-Tengchong Line paradox, China has set up a model of the transregional flow of capital among two countries and three regions to carry out a theoretical analysis of the reshaped "Belt and Road" initiative given China's economic geography and its strategy of international cooperation in production capacity. The findings indicate that industry distribution is skewed toward the right of the Heihe-Tengchong Line, worsening the mismatch between individual economic rationality and the collective rationality of society and weakening the effect of policies of regional integration. Moreover, China's industry distribution is characterized by a bell-shaped curve between the extent and the benefits of agglomeration. Objectively, this necessitates a shift from Krugman's model of "from dispersion to agglomeration" to Helpman's model of "from agglomeration to dispersion." For this reason, the reshaping of China's economic geography requires a two-pronged approach involving cooperation in international production capacity and the management of negative lists plus realization of spatial functional complementation between the spillover effect of capital flows and the growth effect of capital accumulation. The rebuilding of an international production system with China as the main force will strengthen China's leading position in the "Belt and Road" value chain.

(4) Governance of "Global Risk Society": The Paradigm of Complexity and Chinese Participation

Fan Ruguo • 65 •

The world is entering a highly uncertain "risk society." Risk is a major feature of modern society, changing society's operational logic and rules; society's values and modes of behavior are being systematically reconstructed, and global governance is evolving into the governance of a "global risk society." At present, global risk governance is fragmented and inefficient, and existing modes of public management and international governance are as yet unsuited to the requirements of risk society governance. Modern society is an intricate system of endogenous complexity, unpredictability and fragility, etc. Complexity is the fundamental mechanism driving the formation of global risk society, a society whose governance cannot but depend upon the paradigm of complexity and on Chinese participation. Research on the complexity mechanism behind the formation of the global risk society and the construction of values, culture and mechanisms that address its governance is significant for both theory and practice, enabling us to develop collaborative governance and an "anti-fragile" capacity that will identify and overcome risks.

(5) A Sociological Analysis of the Pattern of Trust in Government When “the Center Is Strong and Local Government Weak”: Based on Third-stage Tracking Data Following the Wenchuan Earthquake *Luo Jiade, Shuai Man and Yang Kunhao* • 84 •

Individual and community social capital exert a marked influence upon the gap between trust in higher-level government and base-level government. When we introduced data on 30 villages after the Wenchuan earthquake into our model, we found that the size of the Chinese New Year greeting network and the cadre network at township level and above, as well as the level of trust between people from the same village, had a significant negative effect upon the gap between trust in higher and lower levels of government. The construction of individual and community social capital is conducive to creating a balanced level of trust in different levels of government: individuals and communities with effective cooperation have more channels for solving their own livelihood problems, and can significantly improve the efficiency of their exploitation of resources and increase communication and interaction with government in their contacts with resources from different quarters and with government. This enhances their trust in base-level government and decreases the gap between trust in different levels of government.

(6) A Chinese Path to Bringing the Demarcation of Powers and Responsibilities under the Rule of Law *Liu Jianwen and Hou Zhuo* • 102 •

Facilitating the normalization and legalization of government powers and responsibilities at all levels is an important measure for deepening fiscal and tax reform and building finance and tax governed by the rule of law. At the legal level, China should specify the demarcation of powers and responsibilities among governments at all levels, and should use legal mechanisms to encourage governments at all levels to exercise these powers and responsibilities and to ensure that they do so. Government is endowed with powers and responsibilities in order to effectively ensure the realization of citizens' basic rights. On the premise of clarifying the boundaries of government functions, it uses legal means to define the range of these responsibilities and powers in accordance with the principle of restraint. The economic standard for the demarcation of powers is even more fundamental; the consequent demarcations are subject to adjustment by legal standards. Government powers can be divided into legislative oversight and regulation and the exercise of powers and responsibilities. The disposition of legislative oversight and regulation under the existing legal system is relatively rational, but its powers, especially of its judicial powers, should be appropriately concentrated at the central government level. The exercise of powers and responsibilities under the existing system leaves room for the demarcation of administrative powers, and the homogenization of powers among different levels of government is quite noticeable. Bringing the demarcation of powers under the rule of law requires the formulation of basic financial law in such a way as to specify the powers of different levels of government. The division of financial powers among governments, optimization of the transfer payment system and the achievement of hard budget constraints are institutional guarantee for

the demarcation of powers. Fundamentally, the legal recognition of civilian rights is conducive to the implementation of statutory powers.

(7) The Changing Mode of Legal Regulation of Labor Relations in China

Xie Zengyi • 123 •

Chinese labor relations operate under a unitary model of legal regulation in which labor law is applied to workers as whole, with everyone treated equally. This causes a number of problems. In reality, due to constantly changing modes of employment and the flexibility of workers' "affiliation," forms of employment are highly diverse. In addition to regular employees, there are also "quasi-employees" whose affiliation is quite weak, and other special employees. This necessitates the updating of the legislative ideas behind labor law. While holding fast to the assumption that workers are a vulnerable group, we should review the differences between different types of employees and draw up the corresponding regulations on the basis of specific situations. Where legislative technique is concerned, we should do away with the traditional one-size-fits-all legislative model in favor of a dedicated model that targets particular types of subject and particular circumstances. The legal regulation of labor relations should be based on category and differential treatment.

(8) Language Studies and Methods from the Cross-disciplinary Perspective

Li Yuming, Zhao Ronghui and Huang Xing • 144 •

The development of contemporary society is intricate, and accordingly, any important question has its high comprehensiveness and unity, so both the discovery and the resolution of such question calls for multi-discipline instead of a single one, and that requires the mutual reference of research methods first. To thinking about language and linguistic life from the point of view of multi-discipline is helpful for the expansion of path and vision of contemporary linguistic research. In order to boost corresponding academic development, the editorial office of the Social Sciences in China Press and the Institute of Linguistics of the Shanghai International Studies University held "the fourth Symposium on Research Methods and Methodology of Chinese Linguistics" in May 2015. The three essays under this special topic are just the achievement of this symposium. Li Yuming, Professor at Beijing Language and Culture University believes that historically, as the media conveying language evolved from sound waves to light waves and thence to electronic waves, so language communication variants have adapted themselves to a diversity of contexts and communicative tools, substantially enriching the vocabulary, grammar and discourse of human language and expanding language functions. Language technology has exerted a significant influence on language life and even social development. Today, as the world enters the age of online media, we are witnessing tremendous strides in "language apparatus" and language life. Such advances, along with the development of new media language, present new challenges to the field of contemporary linguistics. Zhao Ronghui, Professor at the Institute of Linguistics of Shanghai International Studies University and Research Fellow at the Research Center for

Foreign Language Strategies, State Language Commission points out that in the new historical period, the social functions of language have unprecedentedly developed. Language is not only a communicative tool, cognitive instrument and carrier of information, but more of a means of social construction and an approach to social cognition. Contemporarily, language, as an element of hard strength, can become a readiness resource of modern national defense, exert influence upon economic potential, and midwife linguistic industries, so it is a kernel element of technological strength; and being an element and mark of soft strength, language can serve as a political symbol, and acts as a medium and means of public diplomacy to take part in the establishment of and contest for discourse power, hence it is one of the basic forms of contemporary political activities. The expanded social functions of language will make linguistics integrate more deeply with such social sciences as sociology and politics. Huang Xing, Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences holds that linguistics and anthropology appear to have much in common in terms of research category and methodology. Whereas the emic/etic approach in linguistics distinguishes the socio-psychological qualities of the sound system of a specific language from the physico-physiological qualities of supra-language sounds, the same approach in anthropology attempts to draw a demarcation line between the “inside” and the “outside” view of culture. Both approaches involve a set of dualistic relationships between linguistic relativity and cultural relativity, linguistic universality and cultural universality, and linguistic/cultural diversity and genetic diversity. Due to authentication difficulties, “linguistic relativity” has received a cold welcome from linguistics. However, “cultural relativity” now constitutes the core of modern anthropology. The inherent links and functional similarity between linguistic/cultural diversity and biological diversity renders possible methodological exchanges across disciplines.

(9) The Social Turn of Rural Transformation in the Early Period of Modern China

Yang Rui • 184 •

The theory and practice of village transformation took an important turn in the Early Period of Modern China. By the 1920s, rural issues had become a core subject for academic discussion and social transformation. Different schools' approaches to and programs for rural problems overlapped, but each had its own distinctive features. Adherents of Western functionalism took individual villages, townships or counties as units to be totally transformed; the Chinese Association of Agricultural Science Societies and rural economists who had studied in Japan stressed the role of the tenancy relationship in finding a way out; the Kuomintang started economic, technical and organizational “new village construction”; and the CPC and left-wing groups rose above the various schools, observed the situation at home and abroad, and sought a fundamental solution in socialization. Since all schools tried to change the spatial relationship between urban and rural areas by means of rural industrialization, urbanization or socialization and sought to bring about the synchronous development of a new form of modern countryside, they inevitably fell into the trap of reformism. Consequently, they were historically fundamentally obliterated by the CPC's theory and policies of rural revolution.

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