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ABSTRACTS

(1) Marx's Concept of Social Existence and Its Fundamental Significance

Zou Shipeng • 4 •

Core concepts are the cornerstone of an academic theory and its discourse system. Marx's concept of social existence still has great value as scholarly theory. In Marx's view, neither Hegel's logical ontology nor Feuerbach's theory of sensibility can shape the consciousness of social existence. On the basis of new materialism and historical materialism, Marx promoted an ontological revolution, transforming traditional abstract existence into social existence. On the basis of his critique of practice and the theory of historical production, Marx reveals the historical generation of social existence during human society's transition from the prehistoric period to the world historical era and points out why industrial society is subordinate to the historical critique of bourgeois and civil society. Based on Marx's relative distinction between the activities and the relationships of practice, we has explained how the multiple forms of human practice (production, communication, labor, life, sensibility and object-directed activity) constitute a theory of value for human existence or its connotations of philosophical anthropology, and revealed that Marx's theory of human essence being the "ensemble of social relations" is the logical part of the concept of social existence. This not only distinguishes his theory from egotism, populism and anarchism, but also constitutes the basic principle of Marxist classical social theory. Marx gives an in-depth discussion of the relationship between social existence and social consciousness, maintaining that not only does social existence determine social consciousness, but also that social consciousness is generated from social existence and is distinct from ideology. It therefore not merely presents an ideological critique, but also transforms consciousness into "true knowledge," forms "real empirical science' or historical materialism, and so develops a tradition of critical social theory.

(2) "Affairs" and Human Existence

Yang Guorong • 27 •

As human activities in the broad sense, "human affairs" not only unfold throughout the whole course of human existence, but also are inherent in all its aspects. Humans create new worlds through their affairs and thus reshape their existence. "Human affairs" are not only related to actions, but also embody essentially human strengths and are related to human feelings as well. The imprint of

action and involvement of affection mean that human affairs attain a diverse character while they sublate the original nature of material things and endow it with reality. Affairs not only change the object on which they act, but also affect people themselves; in the course of "carrying out the execution of affairs", people "perfect their virtue." The process of carrying out affairs functions through things, but is also concerned with people. Underlying the interaction between people and things is the relationship between one person and another; the unfolding of human affairs is based on this interaction between people, and constitutes the source of reality formed by the relationship of human interaction. Human existence cannot be separated from value concerns and the pursuit of meaning. As human activities, human affairs also have value connotations and are associated with the pursuit of meaning.

(3) Local Fiscal Governance: Give People Fish or Teach Them How to Fish—A Study of Fiscal Reform in Counties Directly Administered by the Province

Liu Yongzheng, Jia Junxue and Ding Siying • 43 •

Developing intergovernmental fiscal relations with clear power and responsibility division and improving local fiscal governance are the fundamental requirements for the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity. Two logical approaches to fiscal governance are increasing local tax autonomy and expanding the scale of transfer payments; but each has its advantages and disadvantages. Seizing the opportunity of fiscal reform in counties directly administered by the province, our research employs a relatively unified analytical framework to analyze the impact of these two methods of local fiscal governance upon local government revenue and expenditure behavior and upon their fiscal selfsufficiency. As the findings show, the reform has improved local tax autonomy and the scale of transfer payment; that is, they put both modes of governance into practice at the same time. As one method of fiscal governance, "teaching people how to fish" or improving local tax autonomy can curb local governments' moral hazard and cost-shifting behavior, improve local fiscal resources and control the growth of local expenditure, thus significantly enhancing local fiscal self-sufficiency. The other method of fiscal governance, "giving fish," or increasing the scale of transfer payments, has the opposite effect—the negative incentive effect is dominant, which means that it has significantly weakened local fiscal self-sufficiency and therefore has impeded the improvement of local fiscal governance. These findings should prove helpful for the optimization and adjustment of the current fiscal relationship between the central and local governments.

(4) The Cultivation of Social Capital in Community Governance

Fang Yaqin and Xia Jianzhong • 64 •

The multi-player community governance structure is an approach to the building

of a structure of jointly constructed, jointly governed and jointly shared. The key to it lies in residents' participation in community public affairs. But current urban community governance faces the dilemma of "weak participation." Community social capital provides an integrated and inclusive solution to this problem. Through an indepth study of the paths of social capital formation in M Community of H City and S Community of J City, we observed that the way to cultivate social capital is to find out residents' specific needs in community intercourse and create the corresponding structural conditions, so that the community becomes a continuous interactive system. In the new social structural conditions, residents' psychological need to belong to a community, to help each other to satisfy the shared needs of daily life and to cooperate to safeguard their common interests provide endogenous motivation for the formation of community social capital, while people-oriented community space, well developed community-level social organizations and a sound community governance structure are the structural conditions required for community interaction to be transformed into actual interactions. In the course of social capital formation in communities of strangers, the appropriate involvement of the state and the government plays the role of "procedural guidance."

(5) Norm Systems in Contemporary China: Theory and Institutional Structure

Liu Zuoxiang • 85 •

The governance of modern countries and societies is manifest primarily in the governance of their norm systems. The formation of norm systems occurs in response to the needs of the state and social governance and the modernization of governance capabilities. Norms create rules for the actions of various bodies such as organs of state, political parties, social organizations and individual citizens, and observes these rules. By reviewing and describing the institutional structure and theoretical issues of contemporary Chinese norm systems and demonstrating the existence of various types of norms, we can see that legal norms, party regulations, Party policies, state policies, and social norms are the types of norms objectively existing in contemporary Chinese society. Each of these plays a role in its own field; each has its own character, and their sources also differ. Legal norms come from organs of state with legislative power; internal Party rules and policies come from the ruling Party organizations; state policies come from the organs of state power; and social norms come from society itself and various social organizations. Due to their different sources, norms have varying legal status, roles and functions. The basic institutional structure in contemporary China is consisted of the various types of norms systems organically combined. In the rule of law construction in China, we should give an appropriate legal position to them and accurately define their status, role and interrelationship in social governance structure and rule of law structure, so as to construct the theory and institutional structure of norm systems of contemporary China.

(6) Regulation of Social Risk through Criminal Law and the Its Model Reform

Jiang Tao • 109 •

The increase in social risks and their complex pattern in the transition period have led to an expansion of criminalization in the development of criminal law. Criminal law legislation manifests an obvious intent to prevent and control social risks. The root of this functional change from response to prevention in Chinese criminal law lies in risk criminal law; this leads not only to the appearance of the "four trends" of development in the constitution of crimes, but also to the "five new" developmental features in legal dogmatics. Given these trends and features, criminal law theory faces a major proposition: how can we abandon the simplistic logic of justifying risk criminal law on the pretext of risk society, bring the scientific protection of collective legal interests into risk criminal law, analyze and demonstrate the situational changes and the causes of such changes brought about by this type of law, and rationally consider the rule of law paradox which states that risk criminal law "while responding to society's need for security, brings with it criminal law risk." In the theoretical orientation and choice of method of risk criminal law, one should attach importance to criminalization based on legal protection + criminal law restraint + examination of consequences; advocate innovation in the dualistic criminal model; and make a restrictive interpretation of collective legal interests, so as to reduce the risks brought about by criminal law itself and create a new and vital model.

(7) Diasporic Literature as a Reflection of the Age and Its World Significance: A Case Study of African Literature in English Zhu Zhenwu and Yuan Junqing • 135 •

Diasporic literature usually refers to literary works created by writers who have experienced cross-country and cross-cultural life. But in addition to this foreign diaspora, there are two important diasporic literary lineages: the diaspora on home ground and the colonial diaspora. Some writers have been immersed in foreign cultures for so long that, although they have never experienced the diaspora of foreign residence or migration, their works are stamped with the marks of the diaspora: anxiety over identity, racial discrimination, home seeking, cultural hybridization, marginalized experience, etc. As an important part of "nonmainstream" English literature, African literature in English invariably has these characteristics. This symptomatic diaspora is the outcome of the fierce clashes, conflicts and integration between African and Western culture resulting from colonial, anti-colonial and national liberation movements. Being aware of and understanding the imprint of the diaspora in African literature in English and thence reinterpreting the basic concept of diasporic literature is important if we are to gain a proper understanding of literary phenomena, creativity and cultural factors worldwide and reveal the complex origins and development and the profound cultural significance of world literature.

(8) Cross-disciplinary Exploration of the Construction of the Historiography of Information $Wang\ Xudong \cdot 159 \cdot$

The historiography of the 21th century occurs in an information age; benefits from the progress of information society; and must serve the needs of consultation and decision-making of that society. Exploration of the theoretical construction of the historiography of information and essays at its practical application represent an active reaction to the new challenge presented to historians. The historiography of information holds that the fundamental principle of historiography is information: the reading and writing undertaken in historical research constitute an information flow between subject and object; and the whole course of historical research is a complete process of information processing. The aim of the historiography of information is to deconstruct and abstract history, historical cognition, and historical interpretation to the level of information and then systematically synthesize and apply the relevant ideas, methods, technological support and realization techniques to information, information theory, information science, and applied informatization, with a view to in-depth exploration of issues in the field of historiography (including what is history; the subject/object in history; qualitative and quantitative historical research; historical relations and roles; the process of expression; the presentation of historical conclusions; etc.) Both the theoretical construction of the historiography of information and its practical application represent cross-disciplinary breakthroughs in historical thinking and modes of expression.

(9) Regional Governance in International Relations: Theoretical Construction and Comparative Analysis $Zhang\ Yun \cdot 186 \cdot$

Regions are non-state social and historical units, and regional governance is a social practice based on the geographic environment, ethnic and community distribution and legacy of civilization in different areas, in which the unit is the region. In the second half of the 20th century, with the diffusion and "hollowing out" of national power, different international relations factors have been readjusted on regional scope. Regional governance has increasingly become a normal mechanism for promoting regional cooperation, stabilization and good governance. Taking regional connectivity, regional institutionalization and regional powers as basic factors, regional governance has formed three basic mechanisms: regional coordination, regional management, and regional supervision. An analysis of regional governance practice in Europe, North America and East Asia shows that governance in different regions each has their own paths of evolution and own modes. They have both features in common and of their own, which has enriched the regional level of global governance.

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