

LIA Post-Western Sociologies in France and in China
CNRS-ENS Lyon/Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing)
and Beijing University

CONFERENCE
CHINESE SOCIOLOGY IN RETROSPECTION:
THEORETICAL FOCAL CONCERNS AND METHODOLOGICAL
DEBATES

by Professor LIU NENG, Department of Sociology at Beijing University,
Visiting Professor at ENS Lyon, Triangle

2015 March 5 th

ENS Lyon- room F 112

2 : 00 pm- 4 :00 pm

Triangle ENS Lyon-Site Descartes

Axe Sociologies and New Cosmopolitanisms

In this lecture, Liu Neng would like first to trace the trajectory of the reconstruction of the discipline of sociology (and partially, anthropology) in China from the late 1970s and early 1980s, up to the highly institutionalized post millennium era. Empirical areas such as developmental studies and migration, and theory-oriented interests such as social stratification and social capital, have become main threads that ultimately draw most Chinese sociologists' attention. Generally speaking, three main theoretical concerns warrant extra considerations: 1) a unique state-society relation that embodied in everyday life social

practices; 2) the long lasting impact of the legacy of communist practices on current social landscape, and 3) the Chinese way of social change in general. Second, three methodological debates have been discussed against the history of a general revival of Chinese social sciences in the last three decades: 1) globalization versus indigenization; 2) a policy oriented or a knowledge-production oriented academic world; 3) the so called qualitative and quantitative competition.

Liu Neng is currently professor and PhD supervisor at Beijing University's sociology department, and deputy director of Center for Sociological Research and Development Studies, Beijing University. He received his PhD in sociology from Beijing University in 1998, and BA and MA in sociology from Nankai University [Tianjin, China]. His main research interests include: social movements, urban studies, deviance and social problems, and youth studies. In the year of 2013, he was working on three survey projects on people with disability, people living with hemophilia, and people who live in urban villages in the South China city of Shenzhen. For the last decade, his theoretical focus is on the Chinese way of social control over disruptive collective actions, and the socio-spatial transformation of contemporary urban China. His most influential academic publications include: "Grievance Interpretation, Mobilization Structure, and Rational Choice: On the Future of Chinese Urban Collective Actions" *Open Times*, 2004; "AIDS, Stigma, and Social Discrimination" *Chinese Sociological Review*, 2006; "Collective Actions in Changing Contemporary Chinese Society: An Overview of Three Waves of Collective Actions in the Last Three Decades". *Academia Bimestris*, 2009 (4): 146-152 ;*Perceiving Local Governmental Processes from a Social Network and a Hierarchical Perspective: A Case Study of North Town* Social Sciences Litterature Press, Beijing, 2008. *The Strength of Alliance*. Beijing: Peking University Press, 2012 ; with Di, Lei, "Social Interactions and Community Identity in a Heterogeneous Residential Enclave in Suburban Beijing: The Case Study of *Sha* Village". *Journal of Harbin Institute of Technology (Social Sciences Edition)*, 2014 (2): 25-29.

Seminar LIA CNRS-ENS Lyon

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing) and Beijing University

Post Western Sociologies in France and in China

**URBANIZATION, SEGREGATION AND JUSTICE
IN EUROPEAN AND CHINESE CITIES**

2015 March 12 th

ENS Lyon- room F 112

2:00 pm-6:00 pm

Triangle ENS Lyon Sites Descartes

Axe Sociologies and New Cosmopolitanisms/Axe Urban Studies

From 1949 to 1979, the urbanization process stagnated in China before entering a period of considerable acceleration in tandem with industrialization. In Europe these two processes were spread over several centuries but only in two decades in China. This leads to the appearance of specifically Chinese economic and social phenomena which have been the subject of much recent research. The specificity of these processes has raised questions which have not really been asked in Western Europe.

We shall distinguish different boundaries in Chinese and European cities. These colonial, ethnic, social and economic boundaries are the expression of multiple dominations, which always adopts different forms and, above all, that become entangled in differentiated modes that are producing inequalities which are situated.

Contemporary Chinese cities are characterized by new urban hierarchies, which are less contrasted than in European cities, since they are scattered around the city and concentrated in certain specific areas. Individuals and social groups are caught between assignment to certain localities and flowing through the city. Depending on the moment, life phase or situation, they may seem to be trapped or able to move. Contemporary cities may have different forms of segregation, but they still allow access to different kinds of space and provide renewed opportunities to individuals and groups, making it possible to enter high

legitimacy urban spaces as demonstrated by some migrant workers who construct and experience upward social mobility

Furthermore, new risks of health, food, floods, environment and ecological disasters have produced uncertain situations, new public spaces and new inequalities in European and Chinese cities. Risks and disasters are social phenomena rather than natural events striking societies from the outside and are caused by social and economic vulnerabilities.

In these contexts of more or less uncertainty and of high social and physical liability, collective action and social mobilizations emerge and reveal new forms of citizenship in a new local and global public space. In this respect, new forms of citizenships are productive of new social exchanges, new solidarities, new moral economies, related to social inequalities in contemporary societies in turmoil. Individuals and social groups compete for material and social goods, emergent moral economies produce new social and economic frontiers, new social and moral orders where individuals and groups have to occupy new positions and statuses in European and Chinese cities.

Program

2:00 pm-2:20 pm: Introduction by Laurence Roulleau-Berger, Research Director at CNRS, Co-Director of the LIA, Triangle : *Urbanization, segregation and justice in European and Chinese cities*

2:20 pm- 3:05 pm: Liu Neng, Professor at Department of Sociology, Beijing University: *The Urban Questions: Mapping the Social and Political Roots of Chinese Urbanization, 1978-2015*

In this lecture, we will go over the whole process of Chinese urbanization since 1978, when China re-connected to the outside world in the name of “Open and Reform” after decades of Leftist(Maoist?) ruling. Three theoretical threads have been followed in order to explain the dramatic, and sometimes painstaking, fast urbanization that has absorbed almost every Chinese citizen in, and at the same time shaped their social destination in respective ways. First of all, we will discuss the population mobility, mainly rural to urban, that caused by an eventually capitalized and rationalized market economy, and the great social history of migration in contemporary China since early 1980s. Second, we will review the history of the marketisation of housing in the urban sector since late 1990s, which has greatly changed the Chinese urban landscape thus far. And finally, we will focus on the political economy of land-centered financial practices of local governments at every level, to manifest the historical dilemma of “a development without people”.

Liu Neng is currently professor and PhD supervisor at Beijing University’s sociology department, and deputy director of Center for Sociological Research and Development Studies, Beijing University. He received his PhD in sociology from Beijing University at 1998, and BA and MA in sociology from Nankai University [Tianjin, China]. His main research interests include: social movements, urban studies, deviance and social problems, and youth studies. His most influential academic publications include: “Grievance

Interpretation, Mobilization Structure, and Rational Choice: On the Future of Chinese Urban Collective Actions” *Open Times*, 2004; “AIDS, Stigma, and Social Discrimination” *Chinese Sociological Review*, 2006; “Collective Actions in Changing Contemporary Chinese Society: An Overview of Three Waves of Collective Actions in the Last Three Decades”. *Academia Bimestris*, 2009 (4): 146-152 ; *Perceiving Local Governmental Processes from a Social Network and a Hierarchical Perspective: A Case Study of North Town* Social Sciences Literature Press, Beijing, 2008. *The Strength of Alliance*. Beijing: Peking University Press, 2012 ; with Di, Lei, “Social Interactions and Community Identity in a Heterogeneous Residential Enclave in Suburban Beijing: The Case Study of *Sha* Village”. *Journal of Harbin Institute of Technology (Social Sciences Edition)*, 2014 (2): 25-29.

3:05 pm-3:50 pm: Valérie Sala Pala, Professor of political science, University Jean Monnet, Saint-Etienne, Triangle : *The institutional production of segregation and populating: social housing policies and practices in French and British cities.*

Segregation is often seen as a “natural” fact or as the result of individual processes. What is argued here is that social and ethnic segregation is to a large extent an institutional product, and especially a product of social housing policies and practices. This is particularly the case in some European cities in which social housing has historically played a crucial role in the production of the urban space. This thesis will be developed through a comparison between British and French cities (with Birmingham and Marseilles as case studies). This comparison shows the existence of an institutional production of segregation in both national contexts, but it also shows striking differences in the way in which social housing policies and practices shape the populating of urban spaces in each national context.

Valérie Sala Pala is a political scientist at the University Jean Monnet, Saint-Etienne. Her research focuses on the political sociology of ethnicity, discrimination, segregation, urban policies, and urban social movements, in a comparative perspective. She has recently published *Discriminations ethniques. Les politiques du logement social en France et au Royaume-Uni* (Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2013) and co-edited, with Fabien Desage and Christelle Morel Journel, *Le peuplement comme politiques* (Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2014). She is also the author of several articles in international journals such as *American Behavioral Scientist* (2010), *Ethnicities* (2009), *French Politics, Culture and Society* (2006).

3:50 pm- 4:00 pm: break

4:00pm-4:45 pm: Guillaume Faburel, Professor at Université Lyon 2, Triangle : *Environmental inequalities and “just (fair? Right?) city” : towards a cosmopolitical perspective for urban policies*

The global urbanization and metropolisation phenomena lead return of questions about justice in the city. Between social, spatial and environmental justices, the concept of “just city” appeared in recent years. Here we show that it brings a cosmopolitical approach of environmental justice to this concept, and what it could bring to urban policies of metropolitan cities in terms of “right to the city”.

Guillaume Faburel is Professor at University Lyon 2, teaching also at Sciences Po Lyon and Sciences Po Lille. He was Research Fellow Invited at M.I.T. in 2001-2002. His scientific works and lessons focuses on ecological crises for urban policies, sustainable cities and urban planning, environmental justice in urban settings and new forms of involvements in urban lifestyles. He recently began coordinating the Urban studies field at Triangle Laboratory, and coordinates the 4th Metropolis Workshop Unit at LabEx IMU (Smartness on Urban Worlds).

4:45 pm-5:45 pm: Discussion by Bruno Cousin, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Lille 1, CLERSE

Seminar LIA CNRS-ENS Lyon

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing) and Beijing University

Post Western Sociologies in France and in China

**GLOBALIZED CAPITALISM, NEW COLLECTIVE ACTION
AND STRUGGLE FOR PUBLIC RECOGNITION
IN EUROPE AND IN CHINA**

2015 March the 20th

9:00 am-1:00 pm

room F102

Triangle ENS Lyon-Site Descartes

Axe Sociologies and New Cosmopolitisms

Pôle Politization and Participation

We have entered into a new globalized capitalist regime in which the wage-earning societies went through dramatic changes while inequalities between social positions have increased. Access to resources and goods is becoming less and less common, while more and more people are lacking resources and are facing the risk of the public space material poverty, and are in the same time less and less protected and cared by the welfare system.

Mass unemployment, growing uncertainties in work relations and labor, the decline of institution, the recomposition of new institutional forms, everything concurred in Western Europe to point out a modernity all about the wavering of an actor forced to define again and again his place and identity. On one hand, social, economic and ethnical inequalities keep growing along with new forms of exploitation, reject, stigmatization and even destitution of the “weakest”. On the other hand, cultural domination, recognition denial and disrespect are creating situations of injustice. Exploited workers, young people facing high uncertainties, migrants and ethnic minorities are subject to racial

discriminations, express recognition demands which can break into public space at any time like social movements, riots, rebellions. In such instances, they force a redistribution of social, moral and public recognition and they redefine the hierarchy of identities.

In China conflicts around recognition are expressed in controlled forms, particularly resistance movements among peasants, workers and city dwellers linked to the middle classes. Social conflicts and collective struggles in China are centered on property rights. Property rights are conflict-laden because of farmland evictions, demolitions which cause eviction and drive to moving out leading to an insecure access to private property in cities. New forms of collective actions are dominating these conflicts against the State, local governments and private actors, while being part of the shaping of civil society. Recently sociologists have been focusing on three new forms of collective action against health insecurity and risks environment, and via Internet.

In Europe and in China recognition demands has increased with the rising number of conflicting socialization and recognitions situations, as the actors had to keep redefining their place and identities. As violence and sufferings have become more common in public space, recognition demands are upheld disclosing structural emergencies, anomie areas, all symptoms of social, cultural and economic breaching. Recognition demands are indeed expressed in many different ways in these two contexts. These recognition demands are arising from social, economic and ethnical inequalities and the experience of disrespect, social domination and contempt.

Program

9:00 am-9:20 am: Introduction by Laurence Roulleau-Berger, Research Director at CNRS, Co-Director of the LIA, Triangle: *Capitalisms, new collective action and struggle for public recognition in Europe and in China*

9:20 am- 10:05 am: Liu Neng, Professor at Department of Sociology, Peking University:

The Double-Face of Resistance and Riots in Contemporary China: Political Expression Model versus Material Defense Model

This lecture wants to give an explanation of the nature of waves of Chinese collective actions after 1989. Political opportunity, grievance production and interpretation, and a cultural mentality of crude justice (with the cultural belief of violence as a vehicle for restoring justice), among other sources, have been singled out as three main intriguing factors of Chinese insurgencies. Thus, factors such as movement organization, behavioral habits (socialized civil participation), and the legal status of citizenship, have failed to forecast, or explain the rise of Chinese collective actions. After this theoretical clarification, three typical Chinese ways of collective expression have been analyzed in order to understand the POLITICAL dimension of contemporary Chinese society: 1) collective petitioning; 2) massive grassroots riots; and 3) middle class homeowner movements, including NIMBY movements.

Liu Neng is currently professor and PhD supervisor at Beijing University's sociology department, and deputy director of Center for Sociological Research and Development Studies, Beijing University. He received his PhD in sociology from Beijing University at 1998, and BA and MA in sociology from Nankai University [Tianjin, China]. His main research interests include: social movements, urban studies, deviance and social problems, and youth studies. His most influential academic publications include: "Grievance Interpretation, Mobilization Structure, and Rational Choice: On the Future of Chinese Urban Collective Actions" *Open Times*, 2004; "AIDS, Stigma, and Social Discrimination" *Chinese Sociological Review*, 2006; "Collective Actions in Changing

Contemporary Chinese Society: An Overview of Three Waves of Collective Actions in the Last Three Decades". *Academia Bimestris*, 2009 (4): 146-152 ; *Perceiving Local Governmental Processes from a Social Network and a Hierarchical Perspective: A Case Study of North Town* Social Sciences Literature Press, Beijing, 2008. *The Strength of Alliance*. Beijing: Peking University Press, 2012 ; with Di, Lei, "Social Interactions and Community Identity in a Heterogeneous Residential Enclave in Suburban Beijing: The Case Study of *Sha Village*". *Journal of Harbin Institute of Technology (Social Sciences Edition)*, 2014 (2): 25-29.

10:05 am-10:50 am: Lilian Mathieu, Research Director at CNRS, Centre Max Weber: *Material struggles as struggles for recognition*

The analysis current called "new social movements" has been developed in Europe from the 1970s on an assumption: that "materialist" causes driven by the labor movement and claims like the improvement of living conditions would be condemned to disappear and to be replaced by unprecedented "post-materialist" causes more based on identity or moral issues. This way to oppose - but also to rank - claims of social movements appears incorrect today. Contributions by recognition philosophies as an attentive study of social conflicts (past as present) shows that material demands and dignity requests are inseparable.

Lilian Mathieu is sociologist and Research Director at the CNRS (Centre Max Weber, ENS de Lyon). Specialized on social movements, he has published *La Démocratie protestataire. Mouvements sociaux et politique aujourd'hui* (Presses de Sciences Po, 2011), *L'Espace des mouvements sociaux* (Le Croquant, 2012) and *La Fin du tapin. Sociologie de la croisade pour l'abolition de la prostitution* (François Bourin, 2014).

10:50 am- 11:00 am : break

11:00 am-11:45 am : Sophie Bérout, Assistant Professor, Department of political sciences, University Lyon 2, Triangle : *Workers, conflicts and mobilizations in Europe*

The hypothesis of a decline of the strikes, especially in the industrial sector, has become a dominant reading frame in France since the late 1980s. Deep restructuring of the production structure, via the reduction of some parts of the industry, the development of outsourcing, the destabilization of work collectives and the diffusion of precarious jobs are phenomena that fuel the idea of a strong tendency to reflux and the marginalization of the strike practice in the private sector. We show in this paper that the reality is more complex. Strikes have not disappeared from the private sector, even if they have changed. Other sectors, such as trade, are experiencing unprecedented struggles, led notably by precarious workers.

Sophie Bérout is a Lecturer in political science in the University of Lyon 2 and member of Triangle Centre for research (UMR 5206, ENS-LSH, IEP, Lyon 2). She is a specialist in the study of strikes and in the contemporary transformation of French trade unionism. Among her last publications : «Une campagne de syndicalisation au féminin. Une expérience militante dans le secteur de l'aide à domicile », *Travail, genre et société*, n°30, 2013/2, pp. 111-128 ; « Perspectives critiques sur la participation dans le monde du travail : éléments de repérage et de discussion », *Participations*, vol. 1, n°5, 2013, pp. 5-32 ; « The organization of the unemployed in Spain : local and fragmented dynamics » in Didier Chabanet, Jean Faniel, ed., *The Mobilization of the unemployed in Europe : from acquiescence to protest ?*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012 p.155-174 ; *Quand le travail se précarise, quelles résistances collectives ?*, Paris, La Dispute, 2009 (co-direction avec Paul Bouffartigue).

11:45 am-12:45 pm: Discussion by Camille Hamidi, Assistant Professor, Department of political sciences, Triangle, University Lyon 2

