

Youth and new collective action in China

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Plan

- 1) Research object and hypothesis: young graduates, intermediate spaces and new collective action in China
- 2) Methodology : of « close », « distant » and « mined » fieldwork
- 3) Research posture - How to think situations of collective action in China ?

1) Research object and hypothesis: young graduates, intermediate spaces and new collective action in China

- Context of transformation in recent years China as furthering the emergence of interstitial spaces
- « **Intermediate spaces** » : « places that allow breaks with established spaces, correspond to a physical and symbolic markings in the city and contain discrete social forms, asymmetric tactics, political, social and economic micro-organizations by gathering material, social and symbolic resources for the production of shared standards through recognition struggles (Laurence Roulleau-Berger, 1991, 1999, 2014)»

1) Research object and hypothesis (2)

- Structural disqualification of Chinese diplomas → disconnection between ideas of "entering university" and "change fate " (LI Chunling, 2013)
- Background of young graduates workers put together around spatial and professional mobilities.
- "Youth spaces" as markers of taking place in one the city for some young university graduates
- Also necessary to think these spaces as places of arrangements between individual and collective resources, particularly through the analysis of some micro-mobilizations in "public arenas" (Cefäi, 2007)

1) Research object and hypothesis (3)

- Hypothesis:

Today, in China, in a constraint political context and economic change always in evolution, a fraction of young men and women aged 22 to 30 years that are higher education graduates, whose careers are organized around spatial and professional mobility, are involved in the production of "intermediate spaces" which reveal both some forms of registration in the city, and can also lead to the emergence of temporary figures of "ordinary citizenship".

2) Methodology : of « close », « distant » and « mined » fieldwork

A) Taking place in the fieldwork: concomitance of "close" and "distant" fieldworks

- Age proximity, university graduates, sometimes forms of social proximity are elements revealing a "close" fieldwork and allowing access to a common language generating a regime of trust.
- Representing the figure of "abroad" let dialogue some temporalities of "close" and "distant" fieldworks
- When the fieldwork became more "mined", generating forms of reversible breaks in the regime of trust.

2) Methodology : of « close », « distant » and « mined » fieldwork (2)

B) Methodological measures

- Ethnographic observations, biographical interviews
- Face to face interviews sometimes too difficult to negotiate with certain individuals.
- “city stories” (Rouilleau-Berger, 1991)? Very high geographical mobility of individuals with whom we have done interviews did not allow such a methodological choice.

Only at the margin that we used sketches of ‘city stories’: access multiple narratives, importance of the movement

3) Research posture - How to think situations of collective action in China ?

- Although this PhD thesis is not only on issues related to collective action or policy, these last two points widely questioned me about my research posture:

→ To understand collective action as "social movement" or as a form of political mobilization poses questions relating to constraints related to the Chinese political system and can be a screen for the analysis when the question of politics is then erected in as a cardinal point.

→ How to define the concept of "collective action"?

3) Research posture - How to think situations of collective action in China ? (2)

- Daniel Cefaï (2007) : more defining elements than a precise definition; elements leading us to think particularly the multiple aims of collective action and its entanglement in a space-time context.

→ The situated character of this action, its multiple aims, the fact that the situation is not enclosed in the space-time circle of co-presence and the arrangement of individual resources and collective resources for the emergence of a temporary collective actor that allow to think collective action in this Chinese socio-political context without reducing it to some characteristics that would be only related to this national context.

3) Research posture - How to think situations of collective action in China ? (3)

- Allow to see the emergence of a group formed as a collective actor, which is widely informed, in its contingency, by a constraint political context. However, these premises allow us to think of forms of "ordinary citizenship" (Cefai, 2007) that can be even better revealed that they pass by **micro-mobilizations**.
- Focus on these micro-mobilizations help uncover **continuities between different social spaces**, beyond the simple categorization of a political system, but rather thinking continuities between regimes that carry within them forms of democratic authoritarianism an authoritarian democracy (Dabène, Geisser, Massardier, 2008).

谢谢！
