


Local Society in Modern State:



The Imperative of
the “Dual-rule Game”

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Introduction (1) A Case from China: Fertility Policy

Rule 1: Chinese National Fertility Policy

- n One Couple, One Child
- n Relatively Universal Rule

Rule 2: Local Norms

- n Local Knowledge and Practice
- n Multiform Capitals
 - n Social Capital – e.g. Wider Support Networks
 - n Economic Capital – e.g. More Labors
 - n Human Capital – e.g. More Income
 - n Symbolic Capital – e.g. Social Status in a Village

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Introduction (2)

- n Operation of local society in modern state as any kind of consequences of modernity
- n Imperative of the dual-rule game in local society
- n **Dual-Rule Game**
 1. state’s written regulations and law
 2. local practical rule and norms, or habits as local knowledge.

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Research Question

- n Why does the dual-rule game happen in local society (in China)?
 - n Worldwide Transition: Tradition to Modern
 - n China’s Special Features
 - n Modern History: Socialist Experiences (Scott 1998)
 - n Culture: *Guanxi* (personal relations really matter)

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Definition

- n The dual-rule-gaming society is defined as those societies which develop and implement dual rules (formal and informal rules) by people who over time engage in gaming interaction with others within an institutional order.

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Transition to the Modern World

- n **Durkheim (1964)**
 - n “mechanical solidarity” to “organic solidarity”
- n **Weber (1968)**
 - n habitual behavior to rational behavior
- n **Parsons (1951)**
 - n “functional differentiation” or “functional specialization”
- n **Luhmann (1989)**
 - n societal differentiation

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Characteristics of Modern Society

1. **Rationalization** and McDonaldization of Modern Society (Weber 1968; Ritzer 1998).
2. Development of **Disembedding Mechanisms** of Social System (Giddens 1990)
3. **Functional Differentiation** of Modern Society (Parsons 1951)
4. **“Poly-Contextuality”** or **Societal Differentiation** of Modern Society (Luhmann [1986]1989,1990; Lange and Schimank 2001).
5. **Globalization** of Economy.

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Characteristics of modern state

1. **Bureaucracy of Administration** as the Result of Rationalization (Weber1968).
2. Development of **Surveillance Capacities**. (Giddens 1990)
3. **Monopoly of Violence** and the **Monopoly of Control of the Means of Violence**. (Giddens 1990)
4. **Inseparability from Capitalism**. (Bourdieu 2001; Giddens 1990; and Tilly 1985).

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Rules of Small Group and Imperative of Local Practice

1. Imperative of Local Practice (Scott 1998)
 - n knowledge is categorized into two forms: general, abstract and universalistic knowledge and local knowledge that embedded in local experience, or practical knowledge.
2. Continuation of the Rules of Small Group in the Extended Order!

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Imperative of Local Practice

- n Modern State
 - n Stronger Interventions into Life
 - n To make a society legible (Scott 1998)
 - n For a unification of social management mostly by abstract rules
 - n Higher class wants to grasp the local/lower class power through simplified and abstract knowledge.
- n Centrally Planned Social Project by State
 - n Thin Simplification
 - n That is the social engineering or what Hayek called “constructivist rationalism”.

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Conclusion: The imperative of the dual-rule game in local society

- n **Why does the dual-rule game happen in local society in China?**
 - n Worldwide Transition: Tradition to Modern
 - n Contradictions and Conflicts
 - n more dramatic and inevitable than traditional society
 - n Norms for the Extended Order/Modern Society
 - n Local Norms based on local Knowledge and Practice

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China's Special Features

- n **Socialist and Communist Background**
 - n History: for the realization of high modern society the state-initiated social engineering (Scott 1998)
 - n Culture: *Guanxi* (personal relations really matter)
- n **Dual Rule Game Outcome so far...**
 - n 1 child/family in urban China
 - n 2 children/family in rural China (My Case Study in Henan Province)

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Future research

- A comprehensive theoretical model
- More empirical study (comparative study in different social settings)



• Thanks!