

Frontier Achievements in Social Epistemology: Introduction to the Philosophy of Property System

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Abstract: *The Marxism Philosophy of Property System (also known as Philosophy of Property System, in short word PPS) is a new discipline and has deep relationship with the social epistemologies, but they are different. Its penetrating power is stronger, penetrating into all aspects of human society, and its application is more extensive. This article briefly introduces the basic situation of the rise of the PPS, its development process, academic Position, basic functions, academic evaluation, the role of the era and the application cases. Finally, it calls for all circles jointly promote and share the achievements of this new discipline.*

Keywords: *Social Epistemology, Frontier, Philosophy of Property System*

1. The Background of the Rise of the Philosophy of Property System

The PPS emerged during a critical period when the world entered a new era and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Responding to the clarion call of the country, adapting to the needs of the times, promoting the construction of the Four New Projects, and building a Chinese owned knowledge system. With the support of institution such as the Central Party School (National School of Administration), Peking University, Tsinghua University, Guangxi Normal University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, and Zhongshan University and a vast array of scholars, the PPS has been created and developed.

2. The Development Process of the Philosophy of Property System

The development process of the PPS can be divided into four phases: it was infant at the Central Party School in 2014, grew up at Guangxi Normal University in 2017, piloted and promoted in 2021, and officially launched to the academia at the representative conference of the China Market Economics Society (CMES) in 2023.

In 2017, my dissertation "Research on the Philosophy of Property System" was formally defended by the Central Party School, marking the establishment of the PPS; In 2021, the PPS was first debuted at the 7th East Lake Forum hosted by Huazhong University of Science and Technology; In 2022, Guangxi Normal University selected the PPS as one of the important achievements in the innovation of the new humanities construction path in local universities, indicating that the PPS has become a regular army with a clear flag; In 2023, I was in Zhongshan university during my university visit, completing the work of tracing the origin of the PPS, The construction of the academic ideological system has been basically completed. To borrow Marx's words: "Regardless of the shortcomings of my works, they have one strength, which is that they are an artistic whole."^[1]

3. The Academic Position of the Philosophy of Property System

The PPS is a philosophical, profound, and fundamental exploration of the nature and essence of the property system. Based on a comprehensive examination of the classic works of Marx and Engels, as well as the works of famous Western classical writers from ancient Greece and Rome to the Middle Ages and modern times, a theory of the PPS was proposed. Representative works included the trilogy of the PPS: "Research on the Philosophy of Property System", "Research on the Traditional Chinese property system views", and "The Philosophy of Property System Views and the Monetary Forms transformation".

"Research on the Philosophy of Property System" is based on my dissertation, which provides a fundamental theoretical system of the PPS through systematic research; By defining "the property system as the scope of human influence," the first book responds to Thomas C. Gray's theory of "property disintegrated". "Research on the Traditional Chinese Property system views " is a systematic study of Chinese property system views from the period of the Three Emperors and Five Sovereigns to the demise of the Qing Dynasty, based on "Research on the Philosophy of Property System". This book solves the inherent contradiction of the modern property system views and establishes a practical connection between the modern property system views and the traditional Chinese property system views based on the organic position of the property system. "The Philosophy of Property System Views and the Monetary Forms transformation" takes the three-dimensional property system model proposed in "Research on the Traditional Chinese Property system views " as the starting point to reposition and conduct more abstract and systematic research on the property system. The 3D property system model is a tool that lies between defining property system as an essential concept and a broad concept of property system. Through it, we restore the past and present lives of the property system and point to its future.

4. The Basic Functions of Philosophy of Property System

The PPS provides a fundamental path to solving property system problems.

Its basic definition is: the property system is the scope of human influence^[2]. The main viewpoint is that human are the most important property system; The original meaning of the property system lies in the existence of humans, and the property system is the expansion of humans; The complete meaning of the property system lies in the scope of human influence; The essential meaning of the property system lies in the mode of production; The legal philosophical significance of the property system lies in the organic unity of the subject, object, and relationship of the property system^[3].

In order to help people have a better understanding and application for the PPS to solve the problems in practice, three major models of the PPS have been proposed: the three-dimensional property system model, the property system hierarchy model, and the property system transformation model. The three-dimensional property system model is used to describe the basic structure of a single property system body, which is believed to be the composed of the subjects, objects, and relationships (including the subject relationships of the property system, the object relationships of the property system, and the relationships of the property system between subjects and objects) of the property system. Although this model may seem simple, but due to the fact that practice is an extremely complex process, the specific property system model involves at least 4 levels and 19 factors, which will be unpredictable in practical applications. People who are interested in the PPS are able to delve deeper into it^[4]. The hierarchy model is used to describe the structure of complex property system bodies, believing that the property system body forms a structure as onions' according to the gradual constraints of "individual → family → group → place → country → region → world". The idea of this model coincides with the concept of "cave dwelling dialogue", which states: "One person, one family, one group, one place, and even one country, many units have not jumped out of the control of this cycle rate..."^[5] The dialogue between Zedong Mao and Yanpei Huang reflects an important aspect of the difficulty of governing the country, which is the complexity of these hierarchy. The property system transformation model is used to describe the internal mechanisms of the development and changes of the property system body. Marx has given a talk that "In all forms of society, there is a certain production that determines the status and influence of all other production, and therefore its relationships also determine the status and influence of all other relationships. This is a shining light that covers up all other colors and changes their characteristics."^[6] In that way, the replacement of dominant property system by non dominant property system as new dominant property system implies a change in the nature of a bigger property system body has changed. Just talking at the human social level, it means moving forward or backward.

5. Academic Evaluation of Philosophy of Property System

Since the birth date, the academic evaluation of the PPS has attracted a lot of attention, including leading figures in the Chinese academic community. For example, Kang Ouyang, the dean of the National Governance Research Institute of Huazhong University of Science and Technology once said to me in an conversation, "Congratulations on exploring the research of the Philosophy of Property System, which is a completely new field." Similarly, Professor Ziyi Feng from the Philosophy Department of Peking University encouraged me personally, saying, "Congratulations on your outstanding achievements in the research of the Philosophy of Property System!" Summarizing the evaluation of the PPS since 2014, it

can be summarized as one sentence: the academic community believes that the Philosophy of Property System is a new formulation, new project, new methodology, new school, and a completely new field, which is an original doctrine with Chinese meteorology, the Chinese school Philosophy of Property System, and original theory, unique, and it has become a business card of Guangxi Normal University.

6. The Role of the Philosophy of Property System in the new Era

The PPS is a new achievement in the world's knowledge system, at the same time it is also an effective way to reshape China's teaching and research system effective mean.

The PPS is based on the unique new vocabulary of "property system", which originated in modern China. It is China's own knowledge innovation and a new achievement of the world knowledge system. In ancient China, "wealth" was used more than "Property system", as we all know, "people die for wealth, birds die for food." Up till the present moment, I have only found two times of the term "Cai Chan" in the classics. One is that in the classics "Commentary on Accumulation and Storage," it is said: "... there are few who live, but many who are wasted... how can all the Cai Chan of the world not to be wasted?^[7]" The second is that in the "Wei Ji-No.Five" of the "Wei Ji", it is said: " At the time, the hunting method was severe, and those who killed deer in forbidden areas died. There were no officials in the charge of "Property system", and those who could be aware of it were rewarded generously^[7]. "Moreover the term "Property system" here differs greatly from our current usage of "Property system", just only the pronunciation is the same. Since modern times, the frequency of using "Property system" in China has begun to increase. Through analyzing the massive amount of newspaper materials in the "Professional Database of Chinese Modern and Contemporary Thought History (1830-1930)", it was found that the term "Property system" was used 0 times during the period of "1895-1900", but it frequently appeared after 1901, with 45 times used between 1901-1914. Along with the increasing frequency of the use of the term "Property system", there are also words such as happiness, ideology, law, politics, life, and labor, which are clearly the result of the impact of Western civilization. However, this does not prove that the term "Property system" comes from the West, because the corresponding phrase for "Property system" cannot be found in foreign literature. Locke's so-called "Property system" does not have a unified usage, at least including "property" and "possessions", "estates", "fortunes" and "goods", as well as "human life and freedom", and even "human labor and behavioral norms". By comparing the English version of Smith's "AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS" with the classic Chinese translation, it can be found that the English words and phrases that were translated into "Property system" at least include: "Fortune" and "Property" and "Legacy" and "Endowment" and "Benefices" and "Patrimony" and "what is worth" etc. On the contrary, there is a phenomenon of multiple translations of one word. The term "Eigentum" in Marx's Critique of Political Economy (1857-1858 manuscript) were translated into "Property system", "Ownership", "Right of ownership", and "Institution of ownership" according to the context; When associated with land, it is translated as "Right of land ownership", "Institution of land ownership" and "Real estate". From the above analysis, it can be seen that the term "Cai Chan" is a new term created by the Chinese people in modern times to achieve the integration of Chinese and Western civilizations. Taking into account various factors, in order to accurately express its meaning, I have designated it as "property system" in English. Based on this discovery, we believe that the Philosophy of Property System belongs to the new humanities, is China's own knowledge innovation, and is a new contribution of the Chinese people to the world knowledge system.

The innovative practice and research of the PPS have become an effective means to reshape China's teaching and research system. Due to the absence of the Industrial Revolution, China was in a position of learner and follower in the process of modernization. Its teaching and research system can be seen as an imitation of the Western academic system, which obviously cannot meet the needs of the world entering a new era and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. During key person inspection at Tsinghua University, he emphasized we need to make good use of the catalyst for interdisciplinary integration, strengthen the ability to cultivate basic disciplines, break down disciplinary barriers, adjust and upgrade the existing disciplinary and professional system, target the forefront of science and technology and key areas, promote the construction of new engineering, new medical, new agricultural, and new humanities, and accelerate the cultivation of scarce talents. Later, during his research conducted at Renmin University of China, it was pointed out that "accelerating the construction of philosophy and social sciences with Chinese characteristics ultimately boils down to the construction of China's own knowledge system." The unique position of the PPS in China precisely meets this requirement. As a new humanities, new disciplines, and new curriculum, as well as China's own knowledge innovation, as long as it can grow up, it can provide valuable experience for reshaping China's teaching and research system.

In fact, after more than 10 years of development, the PPS has made significant breakthroughs in 10 aspects, including papers, works, projects, teaching institutions, scientific research institutions, practical institutions, annual conferences, curriculum construction, textbook construction, and publicity and promotion, and has become a vanguard in the construction of the new humanities fields and China's own knowledge systems. This discipline has received strong support and has won over 10 projects at various levels, including national, provincial, and school levels. The PPS is also on the list of the most fiercely competitive national social science fund projects in the domestic academic community. In 2020, the General Project of the National Social Science Foundation of China, titled "Research on the Philosophy of Property System Positioning of Modernization of China's National Governance System and Governance Capacity" (Project No. 20BZX025), was approved. Of particular note, the research achievements in the PPS have been transformed into university courses, and undergraduate courses have been offered in six universities across all the country. These schools are Guangxi Normal University, Guangxi Normal University for Nationalities, Guangxi Mechanical and Electrical Vocational and Technical College, Beibu Gulf University, Guilin University of Electronic Science and Technology, and Yanbian University. Guangxi Normal University also took the lead in offering a master's degree program in the study of the Philosophy of Property System. This has made it an effective means of landing to reshape China's teaching and research system.

7. Application Cases of Philosophy of Property System

The PPS due to its strong penetrating power, can be applied to various levels of research, not only countries internal issues, but also international issues.

From a domestic perspective, China's revolution, construction, and reform can all be analyzed by the PPS. The main goal of the centennial struggle of the CPC is to solve the property system problems. Revolution is to eliminate feudal property system relations, construction is to eliminate capitalist property system relations, and reform is to eliminate rigid socialist property system relations. Similarly, the comprehensive deepening of reform in the new era still focuses on property system issues. The essence of the main social contradictions and changes is the change of property system contradictions, while Chinese style modernization means the overall upgrading and replacement of the property system.

As far as the international perspective, disputes and cooperation, war and peace between countries all point to the property system issues, so scientific analysis can be conducted through the basic model of the PPS. For example, the EU's strategic positioning for China is "systemic rival", We can use three models to determine their common cognition, individual cognition, and historical cognition, and then come up with strategies to define a new China Europe relationship under the principle of competition and cooperation.

8. Appeal

Based on the above situation, it can be seen that the PPS has already taken shape as a discipline. We sincerely appeal to all circles to attach great importance to the PPS, jointly promoting its healthy growth. We are warmly to welcome scholars from various countries to exchange ideas on the PPS, and we sincerely hope that the PPS is able to bring another bright color to the academic development of countries around the world.

9. Conclusions

As a new subject, the Marxist property philosophy has been broadly explored in the China, including the development process, the academic status, the basic function, the academic evaluation, the new period's function and the application examples and so on. And it has shown the immense prospects of the development and the continuous vitality of the academic. In the facts, the Marxist philosophy of property is still continually developing in the theory and practice, and it will spread and develop to many countries. In the future, it will become a new standard to leading the world's political economy. Therefore, the starting and developing of Marxist property philosophy has original contribution and firstly create significance. Moreover, it has been a tendency to spread internationally.

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