Abstracts

Theoretical End Not Yet Come: From "Transatlantic Debate" to "Transpacific Dialogue"

Yuan Zhengqing Gu Xiangyu (3)

【Abstract】 A decade ago, the Western international relations community held that the grand theory of international relations had come to an end. However, it only indicated the end of the paradigm of the transatlantic debate, which obscured the development of international relations theory in other parts of the world. Today's International Relations theories are undergoing a cultural and geographical migration of knowledge production, initiating an "odyssey" from the "transatlantic debate" to the "transpacific dialogue". Scholars from both Chinese and Western civilizations engage in a dialogue on "relation" in ontology, epistemology, and methodology. This dialogue transcends the debate between paradigms in the context of a single Western civilization, namely a "Columbus Style" knowledge production mode, and embodies a "Silk Road Style" knowledge production mode, which grows out of the exchanges and mutual learning of different civilizations and multiculturalism. The end of theory in the "transatlantic debate" reflects the inadequacy of the "Columbus Style" knowledge production mode under the singular Western civilization background, while the theoretical innovation based on the inclusiveness and mutual learning of Chinese and Western civilizations in the "transpacific dialogue" embodies the advantages of the "Silk Road Style" knowledge production. These two modes of knowledge production together constitute a more complete space for the production of international relations knowledge. Admittedly, these two modes cannot represent all the production modes of International Relations theories, and International Relations are oriented to a diverse and multidimensional world with countless practical and theoretical possibilities. The unfolding of the "transpacific dialogue" and the emergence of the "Silk Road Style" knowledge production mode in international relations theories not only respond to the academic mission of constructing an independent knowledge system for Chinese international relations, but also, with the advent of the "transpacific dialogue", the knowledge production of international relations theory will

usher in a new knowledge production mode, and the innovation of international relations theory will also continue in the midst of a plurality of civilizations.

【Key Words】 transatlantic debate, transpacific dialogue, relationalism, civilization, knowledge production

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【Abstract】 Influenced by the complex relationship between kingship and divinity in South Asian civilization, the organization or ordering of the medieval South Asian system mixed elements of anarchy and hierarchy, with the structure defined according to the distribution of symbolic power. By examining the historical prototype of the system's key political entities during this period, namely semi-autonomous subordinate kingdoms known as Sāmantas, we can assume that the system's structure influenced the intentions of these units, prompting them to vie for symbolic power in order to attain relative advantage. Symbolic subjugation and the pursuit of divine legitimacy emerged as the primary means through which units competed for symbolic power. Symbolic conquest involved achieving dominion by securing acknowledgment of superiority from defeated kings without necessarily resorting to their elimination or territorial annexation. Conversely, the pursuit of divine legitimacy involved engaging in activities related to divine power to enhance political authority. During the contest for symbolic power, the positions of system units constantly shifted between dominant kingdoms, semi-autonomous subordinate kingdoms, and independent kingdoms, resulting in the instability of the medieval South Asian international system. The essence of the contest for symbolic power lay in regimes striving for relative dominance by developing and expanding the influence and utility of non-material power in situations of limited material strength. Through empirical analysis of the distribution of symbolic power in the system

using GIS, the medieval South Asian system exhibits characteristics of stable multipolarity, dynamic multilayeredness, and intersecting powers, metaphorically likened to a "floating islands system".

【Key Words】 symbolic power, South Asian international system, Indianization, symbolic subjugation, Samanta

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Bidirectional Disrespect, Non-Optimal Strategical Choice and the Formation of Crisis Impasse

Yin Jiwu Jia Yuxian (69)

【Abstract】 When some international crises are used as a means for initiators, rational leaders are supposed to tend to avoid costing too much, and hope to end the crises as soon as possible. Such crises are originally just conceived as a means to achieve the leaders' primary goals. While these kinds of crises cause continuous and unnecessary losses to both sides, rational leaders do not end them quickly and then the crisis may escalate into the next stage of over-prolonged stalemates. The traditional signaling game theory's explanation to the puzzle above is limited due to its idealized rational behavior assumption, and the political psychological approach also lacks a specific causal mechanism. Since the disrespect factor is a deep motivator of such crises, the authors propose a bounded rationality signaling game model by introducing the disrespect factor into traditional signaling game theory. It suggests that the disrespectful behavior towards each other during a crisis could generate misperceptions and emotions of both the leaders and the public, and then trigger irrational choices among the leaders. Finally, both sides may deviate from the optimal solution that could end the crisis, and choose a non-optimal strategy, which ultimately falls into an unintended impasse situation. As a case study, the Iran hostage crisis validates the theoretical explanatory power of the bounded rationality signaling game model through analyzing the formation of crisis impasse.

【Key Words】 international crisis, disrespectful behavior, game of signaling, crisis impasse, Iran hostage crisis

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How Science and Technology Agreements Affect Bilateral Relations: A Causal Analysis Based on a Difference-in-Differences Model

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【Abstract】Science and technology issues have increasingly become the focus of major power relations. However, will bilateral science and technology ties improve or worsen bilateral relations? The existing literature either views scientific and technological cooperation as an accessory to power politics and holds that scientific and technological cooperation to improve relations cannot achieve its goals, or it regards scientific and technological cooperation as a symbol of national foreign policy preferences and believes that scientific and technological cooperation will improve bilateral relations. From the perspective of cooperation institutions, bilateral science and technology agreements in international politics not only play a role in promoting scientific and technological exchanges but also have low potential costs, involve few disputes, are highly flexible, and can easily generate extensive transnational connections. The mechanism promotes bilateral cooperation to improve bilateral relations, thereby acting as an accelerator of cooperation between countries. Large-sample statistics based on the "difference-in-differences" model show that the signing of bilateral science and technology agreements can promote the improvement of bilateral trade and diplomatic relations. However, this cooperative diffusion effect is generally weak, and its effect does not increase linearly with time. As the socialization effect of cooperation institutions emerges, transnational scientific and technological connections will expand beyond the scope of government control, touch on security issues, trigger security concerns, and weaken the cooperative diffusion effect of bilateral science and technology agreements.

【Key Words】bilateral scientific and technological cooperation, socialization mechanism, scientific and technological competition, major power relations, difference-in-differences Model

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Institutional Environment, Knowledge Production and Sources of Authority in International Organizations

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【Abstract】 Knowledge serves as a vital foundation of professional authority for international organizations. Understanding the intricacies of knowledge production is crucial for comprehending the operational dynamics of these entities. Three distinct categories of knowledge can be generated by international organizations: data quantification, elucidations, and advisory recommendations. These varying forms of knowledge assume different roles within the decision-making procedure of international organizations. However, it is important to note that international organizations often lack autonomy in categorizing the knowledge they produce, as their output are subject to internal and external influences. The institutional environment in which an international organization operates significantly influences the type of knowledge it produces, by affecting its legitimacy and production capability. This hypothesis is verified by two case studies delineating the evolutionary trajectory of knowledge production within the purview of environmental and health governance at the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Notably, both the EEA and WHO embarked upon their technical advisory endeavors with a focus on data quantification, subsequently undergoing a paradigm shift in the typology of knowledge production, which was spurred by external critiques. Nevertheless, the EEA focused more on creating indicators, immediately providing interpretive evaluations that are essential for problem solving and implementation tracking, while the WHO acted mainly as an advisory body, selecting and ranking different options. This disparity is a result of the following fact: the EEA has the ability to define the objectives of knowledge production relatively clearly and has the ability to effectively adapt its organizational structure to meet the new requirements, but the WHO lacks the capacity to do so and can only passively transform knowledge production. Unveiling the "black box" of knowledge production in international organizations underscores the inherently political underpinnings inherent to this process.

【Key Words】 knowledge production, international organizations, institutional environment, European Environment Agency, World Health Organization

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