The 4-City Survey: Analyzing the effects of housing types on personal community networks (Survey Report and Questionnaire)

OTANI Shinsuke

ABSTRACT

This is the questionnaire of our 4-City Survey that was conducted in 1999. The purpose of this survey was to answer the following question: Is neighborhood weakened by urbanism in contemporary Japan? I would like to strongly emphasize that researchers must consider the influences of housing type when answering such a question.

In order to address this issue, I devised a new sampling method in this survey. A new four part housing typology was assumed in order to evaluate the impact of housing type on personal community networks. The typology consisted of (1) Single-unit houses in traditional residential areas, (2) Single-unit houses in suburban areas, (3) Owned condos, and (4) Public apartments. I selected four cities: Musashino, Hachioji, Matsuyama, and Nishinomiya, because each city had specific characteristic which allowed for a comparison of these four housing types. Systematic random samples of each housing type were obtained using data from census-books obtained at each city hall. After this procedure, a mailed questionnaire was conducted.

Key Words: personal community network, urbanism, housing types
Applying Facet Theory to Studies of Japanese Society:
Verification of laws of human behavior

MANABE Kazufumi

ABSTRACT

This Paper is an attempt to summarize and develop the Facet Theory and related data analysis methodology. Needless to say, however, theories and methodologies cannot exist if they are isolated from reality. Rather we can say that it is deep, keen insight that makes it possible to develop effective theories and methodologies. Researchers of the Facet Theory are no exception in that they have to start with the subjective confirmation of the reality of each theory and methodology. Now, what “reality” implies for me here is Japanese society that provides the backdrop to my own life.

In this paper I attempt to review the Facet Theory, then I organize the findings of my empirical research by applying Facet Theory to various aspects of Japanese society.

Those findings are classified as follows:
1. Laws of Polytone Regression: The principal components, namely intensity, closure, and involvement have polytone relations on the attitude.
   An example: A Study of Foreign Students’ Attitudes toward Japan (1983)

2. The First Law (Monotonicity: the “sign” of correlation): If any two items are selected from the universe of attitude (closure, involvement, norm, intelligence) items, and if the population observed is not selected artificially, then the population regressions between those two items will be monotone and positive or zero.
   An example: Political Involvement and Political Information (1983)

3. The Second Laws (Monotonicity: the “size” of correlation): Theories of size of correlation that have proved to be successful are of a variety that is called regional. Each facet of the domain of variables corresponds to a partitioning of the SSA space into as many regions as there are elements to the facet. Three major kinds of partitions are: axial, polar and modular.
   i) An example of AXIAL: Political Involvement and Political Information (1983)
   ii) An example of MODULAR: The Structure of Conservative Attitude (1981)

I have developed further the methods I acquired and made them my own, applying them to the analysis of a wide range of Japanese social phenomena. This paper is the result of such efforts.

Key Words: facet, first law, second laws, laws of polytone regression
The Present State of Ethnic Groups in Japan
—A view into ‘internationalization within’—

NAKANO Hideichiro

ABSTRACT

The state of ethnic groups in Japanese society has drastically changed, particularly during the past decade, quantitatively as well as qualitatively. The number of registered foreign residents (who completed foreign registration) has increased to over 1.5 times more than ten years ago and the ratio of those coming from Latin America, China, and South Asian countries has risen rapidly. The number of working foreigners has also risen 1.6 times during this period. Consequently, their relations with the host society have also changed and numerous sociological studies have revealed the new dimensions of ethnic relations in this once firmly closed society. This paper aims, among other things, at depicting a clear picture of the state of ethnic groups in Japan today and assessing whether the Japanese have successfully attained (or failed to attain) a multiethnic Japanese society. The author is grateful to the participants of the symposium organized at the 53rd Kansai Sociological Association Annual Convention held on May 26, 2002 for their academic stimuli and insightful reports and discussions on this topic.

Key Words: internationalization, ethnic group, Japanese society
Personal Status in Social Relations

LI Wei

ABSTRACT

“Social relations” as well as “role” have been established as basic concepts of sociology. The role concept is also used as the basic unit of social structure. Social relations are composed of roles. But, personal status is formed within a given social status related to the role. For example, role theory can’t explain the social action in Japan of delivering a patient “kokorozuke (a gratuity)” to a doctor, I want to conceptualize forms of social phenomenon seen in everyday life to construct a new concept of “personal status” for analytical use. After role theory and social network theory are examined, the concept of personal status is proposed in the present paper.

Key Words: Social relations, Role, Social network, Personal status.
The Myth of Reflexivity: 
The Possibility and impossibility of social constructionism

TANAKA Koichi

ABSTRACT

The insight that the meaning of an action is not determined by its intrinsic property, but is socially constituted through its interaction with others’ action, which the labeling theory of deviance suggested, is closely related to the problem of how we should think about the nature of “the social”. This insight, however, has been obscured with the decline of the labeling theory resulting from its controversy with the positivistic approach. Following the tradition of the definitional approach, Spector and Kitsuse proposed the social constructionist approach to social problems.

In this paper, in order to accurately understand the nature of “the social” or the meaning of “being socially constructed (constituted)”, we will examine (1) the constructionist program of Spector and Kitsuse, (2) the criticism of “ontological gerrymandering” by Woolgar and Pawluch and the reformulation of “strict constructionism” by Ibarra and Kitsuse, (3) the argument of Pollner in favor of reflexive observation or description, and that of Bogen and Lynch against reflexivity.

It should be noticed that although Pollner assumes a sociologist’s reflexive observation or description (taking the theoretical or analytical attitude) of a member’s observation or description (taking the natural attitude), the natural attitude, as Bogen and Lynch argue, includes every attitude and there is no standpoint from which we can observe or describe the natural attitude entirely.

It is concluded that an action is socially constructed (constituted) as such not through being “referred to” (observed or described) as such by others on the meta-level. We should regard “the social” as involved in the realm of not being “referred to” but being “displayed” (in Wittgenstein’s sense) in social interaction.

Key Words: reflexivity, social constructionism, social problems
A Social Psychological Study of Pilgrimage Behavior as Self Process (6)

FUJIHARA Takehiro

ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe and analyze the pilgrim’s behavior from the point of view of self process. Twenty one books on pilgrimage experience were studied using content analysis. All writers had visited the 88 sacred places of Shikoku by foot as pilgrims. The results indicated that the typical pilgrims were males with high educational attainment, retired or close to retirement, around 60 years old, who had no religious faith, and their pilgrimages were not religiously motivated, but based on self realized motivation, and they experienced positive after effects. The positive effects of pilgrimage behavior on participants’ physical and psychological state indicated the possibility that the pilgrimage might be used as psychological therapy. Theoretical implications and psychological mechanisms for pilgrimage psychological therapy were discussed.

Key Words: pilgrimage behavior, self process, the 88 sacred places of Shikoku, content analysis
Current Status and Tasks of a Villagers’ Committee in Contemporary China

KOSAKA Kenji

ABSTRACT

A villagers’ committee in China is, under the law, an autonomous organization of residents in a rural community. It has, however, a dual nature in that it fulfills its functions as an autonomous organization by making proposals to meet villagers’ demands and resolving civil conflicts among people on the one hand, while on the other hand it also functions as a terminal office for a governing body and the party by assisting them to implement policies. The present paper also sheds light on the nature of a villagers’ committee by comparing it with the equivalent residential organizations in Japan. Problems with the ideal of ‘grassroots democracy,’ conflicts between the chairman of a committee and village Party secretaries, and migration of villagers to towns and cities are all discussed as constituting issues to tackle in contemporary Chinese society.

Key Words: villagers’ committee, autonomous organization, Chinese society
Deux penseurs modernes
—Descartes et Soseki—
（Ⅱ）

KONDA Chitoshi

RÉSUMÉ

Descartes et Sôseki ont tous les deux eu une enfance peu heureuse. Le premier a perdu sa mère à peine un an après sa naissance, et il a été élevé par une nourrice. Le second a lui aussi été mis en nourrice tout de suite après sa naissance parce que sa mère était trop vieille pour s'occuper d'un nouveau-né. À l'âge de deux ans, il a été adopté par un couple sans enfant.

Ces deux penseurs ont manqué de véritable affection maternelle pendant leur enfance : quelle influence a-t-il eu sur leur psychisme? Pour répondre à cette question, nous examinerons le point de vue de psychologues modernes comme K. Horney et A. Maslow.

Mot-clefs: enfance malheureuse, angoisse fondamentale, libération
Experimental Studies on Group Decision-Making in terms of Davis’ SDS Theory

SASAKI Kaoru

ABSTRACT

Two experiments were conducted in terms of J.H.Davis’ SDS (social decision scheme) theory. Experiment I dealt with the effects of task type (true-or-false type vs. preference type) and group size (3-person vs. 8-person groups) upon the decision schemes (majority, plurality, proportionality, equiprobability, or Lorge–Solomon=truth-win) adopted by the groups. Subjects were recruited from junior high school (352 pupils in total) and assigned to sex-homogeneous groups. Results showed: (1) 8-person groups working on a true-or-false task deliberated according to a Lorge–Solomon scheme, while 3-person groups tended to adopt a majority scheme, and (2) groups of both sizes with a preference type task adopted a scheme which was an indiscernible mixture of majority, proportionality and equiprobability, but when they were asked in post-experiment questionnaires, 3-person groups answered that their decision scheme had been closer to ‘equiprobable’ whereas 8-person groups were closer to ‘majority’.

Experiment II with 22 3-person sex-homogeneous groups of college students studied the effect of time pressure on group decision-making. Results showed: (3) groups with a task of true-or-false type adopted a Lorge–Solomon scheme when they could afford plenty of time for work, but they resorted to a majority scheme under time pressure and (4) groups with a task of preference type made their decisions with a majority scheme when enough time was given, but under time pressure they shifted to a ‘conflict-avoiding’ scheme of decision-making, a term which we coined to explain our particular result.

Key Words: group decision-making, social decision scheme, group size, type of task, time pressure