
Abstract

An Analysis of Social Strata and Inter-Generational Change in Urban China : Evidence from Tianjin Social Surveys in 1997 and 2008

Shanping Yan and Yi Wei

This paper examines social stratification and determinants of social movement in the Chinese metropolis of Tianjin. Using data from citizen surveys conducted in Tianjin in 1997 and 2008, this paper empirically analyzes how individual human and political capital and household backgrounds affect occupational stratification and income, and it interprets how these factors have changed with time.

The structure of the paper is as follows. The first section considers methods of analysis for generational mobility and provides a framework for this research. Additionally, this section explains the micro-data from the two surveys. The second section aggregates the data and describes the basic situation for human and political capital and households in 1997 and 2008. The third section will first examine how class is stratified, and then provide a complete picture of Tianjin's class structure via an analysis of the city's census. This section will also reveal the reality of parent-child intergenerational mobility, with regard to occupations and education, by utilizing a movement table that has been obtained from the micro-data. The fourth section will quantitatively analyze class formation and social mobility. More specifically, this section will provide quantitative models and hypotheses, estimate earnings functions, conduct a path analysis of income, and simulate models for class formation as well as for upper class permanence and upward mobility. The final section concludes the paper.

Abstract

What is the Difference between China's State-owned and Joint-Stock Banks?: A Stochastic Frontier Analysis of the Cost Functions

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It is said that the main source of financing for Chinese firms is the bank loan, and the large state-owned commercial banks (SCBs) account for nearly seventy percent of this business.

SCBs have a number of non-performing loans, but they dominate China's banking sector. They need to improve their management. One of the most important issues of China's financial system is banking sector reform that changes the SCBs' behavior. Many studies on this topic have been done using qualitative and quantitative methods. Econometricians have also focused on this issue; Fu and Heffernan [2007], Berger, Hasan, and Zhou [2007] and Matthews, Guo, and Zhang [2007] studied the efficiency of banks in China, and Yuan [2006] measured the competitiveness of China's financial markets. These studies assumed that SCBs and the Joint Stock Commercial Banks (JSCBs), that is to say, non-SCB commercial banks, have the same cost functions, except for efficiency, although qualitative studies have pointed out that the historical and initial business of SCBs and JSCBs differed, and their objectives and business are currently not the same either.

We investigated the features of the SCBs and JSCBs by estimating the cost functions and measuring the structures of their cost-sharing, their economies of scale, and their scope. We make clear that the SCBs and JSCBs have different cost functions; they are not the same kind of financial institution. Our results also suggest that former econometric studies have been based on the wrong assumptions and that the recent reforms of the SCBs are not enough, in that SCBs differ from JSCBs, which seem to be intent on maximizing their profits.

Abstract

Transformation in the Dual Leadership System of the Nahdlatul Ulama: Separating Political Leadership from Religious Authority

Yasuko Kobayashi

The Nahdlatul Ulama (Revival of the Religious Scholars: NU), the largest Muslim association in Indonesia, mainly consists of *ulama* and their followers (*ummat*). Reflecting this dual character, since its founding in 1926, NU has been led by two boards, the Syuriah (Ulama Council) and the Tanfidziah (Executive Board, which is headed by a Ketua Umum (a General Chairperson)). The Syuriah chair, Rois Aam, is the supreme leader of NU and symbolizes the *ulama*'s religious authority, while the Ketua Umum is responsible for the administration of the organization. However, this dual system has recently been the cause of frequent conflicts between the two boards because, as the NU has become involved in politics, the Tanfidziah has gained more influence. The reestablishment of the Syuriah as the supreme board and keeping the organization detached from politics have repeatedly been advocated, but the NU has moved in the opposite direction, especially during the Reformasi (democratization) period. Many NU leaders jumped into political activities and utilized their mass followers for their own purposes, and the *ummat* became distrustful of the organization's leaders. On the other hand, there was a general consensus that the NU must be managed more effectively as an organization, although it is almost impossible to find a charismatic figure who is both religiously authoritative and possesses the great leadership skills needed to head such a huge organization. The number of influential *ulama*, who are the main pillars of the NU, is now falling. This problem culminated in the leadership election during the 32nd congress in March 2010, in which the incumbent Rois Aam was challenged by the incumbent Ketua Umum, who was not only a capable manager but also politically ambitious. In the bitter competition, the NU finally chose the authoritative religious scholar Rois Aam, although strong leadership could not be expected from such a figure. Outside interference played a part, but the victorious consensus was that involvement in politics had done great harm to the organization. Outwardly the dual leadership is retained, however its substance has changed. Rois Aam is primarily a symbol or a spiritual leader, and for that very reason he is expected to maintain a distance from political affairs. Improving the administration of the organization remains a big task.