
African Civilization

The Dilemma of African Philosophy Research and the Practice of Civilization Diversity

Hu Pengzhi/3

The Historical Evolution and Impact of Newspapers in British African Colonies

Li Pengtao/20

African Development

The Threefold Logic of Populism and Political Development in Modern Tunisia

Liu Chen and Sun Fengxuan/39

Morocco's Clean Energy Diplomacy: Motivations, Pathways and Challenges

Zhao Yuechen and Jiang Wenjing/62

Qualitative Research

From Particularism to Universalism: A Perspective on New Chinese Migrant

Entrepreneurs' Philanthropy in Cameroon Li Xiyuan and Wen Guozhu/82

A Multidimensional Examination of Education for African Students in Chinese Universities

——An Analysis Based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Li Mingru/101

Thirty Years of Democratic Transition in South Africa: History, Dilemmas and Prospects

——Interview with Justice Albie Sachs, Architect of the South African Constitution

Albie Sachs and Zhu Pengfei/125

English Abstract

The Dilemma of African Philosophy Research and the Practice of Civilization Diversity

Hu Pengzhi

Abstract: After 80 years of development, the study of African philosophy has not been successful. This is evident not only in the ongoing controversy over the term “African philosophy”, but also in the tendencies within its research that exhibit essentialism, knowledge colonialism, and dehistoricization. Essentialism reinforces the role of “otherness” of African philosophy and the African civilizations in general, while knowledge colonialism leads to an excessive dependence of African disciplines on Western frameworks. Dehistoricization distances the modern development of Africa from its tradition. The subjective reasons for these tendencies stem from a lack of cultural confidence among African scholars; objectively, African scholars have not been able to raised valuable new questions based on African social practices. Their eagerness for self-validation is often met with a lack of global recognition, resulting in a dual practice that both solidifies their self-identity and compromises their position. The world is undergoing momentous changes unseen in a century, and the global landscape is shifting from unipolarity to multipolarity, making the practice of civilization diversity increasingly important. Such practices must be grounded in the “reality-in-place” and conducted through “bottom-up” research approaches. From this perspective, African philosophy is not only a discipline but also a practical pathway for advancing civilization diversity, necessitating a focus on African realities and the articulation of African problems. The more philosophical researchers understand their “reality-in-place”, the better equipped they are to propose new questions, generate innovative ideas, and engage in constructive dialogue between philosophy-in-place and those philosophy from other regions, thereby contribute to philosophical universality and civilization diversity.

Keywords: African philosophy, civilization diversity, essentialism, knowledge colonialism, dehistoricization

Author: Hu Pengzhi, Professor of School of Foreign Languages, Shaoxing University, PhD in Philosophy (Shaoxing 312000).

The Historical Evolution and Impact of Newspapers in British African Colonies

Li Pengtao

Abstract: In the latter half of the 19th century, with the cultural infiltration of European missionary groups and the gradual establishment of British colonial rule, newspapers emerged serving dual purposes of missionary work and consolidating colonial control, marking the beginning of journalism in British African colonies. By the 20th century, a new generation of African-educated elites began founding newspapers, transforming them into a significant force driving socio-cultural change in these colonies. These newspapers profoundly influenced the shaping of African national consciousness, the standardization of indigenous African languages, and the development of modern African literature. Faced with the increasingly vibrant African press, British colonial authorities implemented a series of regulatory measures, including enacting press laws, cultivating pro-British propaganda outlets, and intensifying media censorship. However, these policies exhibited evident contradictions: colonial authorities sought to exploit newspapers as instruments of colonial control while simultaneously attempting to stifle the development of the African press. These contradictions fully exposed the hypocrisy of the British colonial authorities' so-called "freedom of the press" doctrine. Despite persistent colonial pressure, African journalists and readers retained a considerable degree of autonomy, enabling newspapers to evolve into a crucial front for the anti-colonial movement by the mid-20th century.

Keywords: British African colonies, African newspapers, anti-colonial struggle, African nationalism

Author: Li Pengtao, Researcher of the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University (Jinhua 321004).

The Threefold Logic of Populism and Political Development in Modern Tunisia

Liu Chen and Sun Fengxuan

Abstract: Employing a threefold populist logic framework, this study systematically examines the contestation and construction of "the people" in Tunisia from French colonial period to contemporary political transitions. The study identifies three interwoven dimensions of populist practice: The nationalist logic constructs national

identity through the opposition between “colonizers and nationals”, evolving from a tool of national liberation during the Bourguiba era to a key asset for post – independence political elites competing for power. The logic of democratic underdevelopment manifests in the relationship between “rulers and subjects” as a compromise between authoritarianism and democracy. From Bourguiba’s charismatic leadership to Saied’s authoritarian resurgence, populism has consistently played a transitional and accommodative role. The religious logic, characterized by the division between “secularists and believers”, reveals a dual process of political sacralization and religious politicization; while secular regimes invoke Islamic symbols to reinforce their legitimacy, political Islamist forces mobilize religious populism to challenge the secular elite. The study finds that populism in Tunisian political practice is marked by apparent instrumentalism; various political actors strive to define “the people” in ways that shape collective identity and political legitimacy in their favor. This dynamic constitutes a driving force of Tunisia’s political transformation, reflecting the intricacies of democratic transitions in non – Western societies. At the same time, populism reveals intrinsic limitations; while effective in sparking political change and emotional mobilization, it struggles to provide sustainable governance solutions. The Tunisian case illustrates the diversity, multiplicity, and multidirectionality of populism, offering a perspective that transcends Western – centrism and providing critical insights into international strategies amid the ongoing global populist wave.

Keywords: Tunisia, populism, nationalism, democratic transition, political development

Authors: Liu Chen, Associate Professor of the School of Arabic Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University (Beijing 100089); Sun Fengxuan, PhD Candidate of the School of Arabic Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University (Beijing 100089).

Morocco’s Clean Energy Diplomacy: Motivations, Pathways and Challenges

Zhao Yuechen and Jiang Wenjing

Abstract: In recent years, clean energy development in developing countries has shown a collective rise. Morocco has strategically leveraged clean energy diplomacy as a strategic lever to respond to global climate governance initiatives and pursue geopolitical interests externally, as well as a green engine to strengthen domestic energy security and

consolidate socio-economic stability internally. Guided by green development principles, supported by multidimensional cooperation platforms, and bolstered by relative technological advantages, Morocco has enhanced its centrality in global energy cooperation networks through practices such as multi-directional network building, agenda-setting, and energy interconnectivity. While these intertwined strategies have yielded progress in fostering endogenous development momentum, constructing national competitive advantages, and elevating international status, challenges persist, including constraints posed by the Western Sahara issue, regional homogeneous competition, and international asymmetrical relations, which hinder the further advancement of Morocco's clean energy diplomacy. Against the backdrop of a widening "North-South divide" in global energy transitions, Morocco's clean energy diplomacy model not only sets a new paradigm for developing countries transitioning from the periphery to the center of international power, but also offers opportunities for China to deepen clean energy cooperation with Morocco.

Keywords: Morocco, clean energy diplomacy, Climate Change, green development

Authors: Zhao Yuechen, Assistant Researcher of Institute of the Belt and Road Studies and Institute of International Relations, Yunnan University (Kunming 650091); Jiang Wenjing, Postgraduate student of Institute of International Relations, Yunnan University (Kunming 650091).

From Particularism to Universalism: A Perspective on New Chinese Migrant Entrepreneurs' Philanthropy in Cameroon

Li Xiyuan and Wen Guozhu

Abstract: This study focuses on philanthropic initiatives undertaken by new Chinese migrant entrepreneurs in Cameroon who began business ventures since the late 1990s. Drawing on in-depth interviews with 34 new Chinese migrant entrepreneurs in Cameroon, this study reveals that their philanthropic engagement is fundamentally motivated by three interconnected dimensions: state-level promotion of China-Africa cooperation, community-level support from transnational hometown networks, and individual-level sense of social responsibility. The philanthropic practices of new Chinese migrant entrepreneurs in Cameroon feature multi-community engagement,

benefiting three groups: Chinese living in their hometown, Chinese living or working in Africa, and African living in their neighbor communities. Their philanthropic support covers areas including education, disaster relief, community safety initiatives, and public infrastructure development. Unlike traditional charity, these practices transcend ostentatious homecoming gestures or detached benevolence. They stem from practical needs of transnational livelihoods and shared responsibility toward communities vital to their business and social well-being. This study uncovers the mechanism driving new Chinese migrant entrepreneurs' shift from philanthropic particularism to universalism in Cameroon: particularism persists toward ancestral hometowns and kin groups, motivated by practical hometown solidarity and securing social capital through hometown-origin networks; universalism extends to local African communities, driven by livelihood demands and the need to build harmonious local relations. Such philanthropy embodies the transnational adaptation of traditional Chinese communal values, specifically co-residence and reciprocal goodwill. The philanthropic practices of new Chinese migrant entrepreneurs in Cameroon offer a unique case study for transnationalism research among globally mobile communities. The results challenge the classical Weberian notion that particularism and universalism are rigidly separate, revealing how these entrepreneurs build amicable community ties in both origin and receiving societies: not to assimilate or integrate to either mainstream society, but to converge different communities to support their cross-border business and living.

Keywords: new Chinese migrant entrepreneurs in Cameroon, philanthropic behavior, particularism, universalism

Authors: Li Xiyuan, Professor of Institute of Guangdong Hong Kong and Macao Development Studies, Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou 510275); Wen Guozhu, Lecturer of School of Marxism, Nanjing Institute of Technology (Nanjing 211167).

A Multidimensional Examination of Education for African Students in Chinese Universities—An Analysis Based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Li Mingru

Abstract: This study employs Maslow's hierarchy of needs to analyze the motivations and experiences of 56 African students and alumni in China through semi-

structured interviews. Findings indicate that their decision to study in China is primarily driven by material needs, including affordable costs, scholarship support, a safe environment, streamlined application procedures, and recommendations from family and friends. After arrival, their focus shifts towards satisfying higher – level psychosocial needs such as belonging, self – esteem, and self – actualization, while facing challenges including cultural barriers, social isolation, social biases, disparities in academic support, and degree recognition. Results suggest that although physiological and safety needs are generally met, satisfaction of psychosocial needs directly shapes the emotional tone of the “China’s story” narrative of African students studying in China. University rankings, language of instruction and international degree recognition significantly influence the fulfillment of self – actualization needs. To this end, this study proposes optimizing the experience of African international students by enhancing scholarship systems, building platforms for multicultural integration, imcreasing the quality of education, improving the social environment, and boosting degree recognition, so that they can become active ambassadors for cultural exchanges between China and Africa. This study provides micro empirical references for the internationalization of higher education in China and the friendly cooperation between China and Africa.

Keywords: African students in China, Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, Cross – Cultural adaption, Internationalization of higher education

Author: Li Mingru, Postdoctoral Fellow of School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University (Shanghai, 200433).

Thirty Years of Democratic Transition in South Africa: History, Dilemmas and Prospects

——Interview with Justice Albie Sachs, Architect of the South African Constitution

Albie Sachs and Zhu Pengfei

Abstract: This study presents a comprehensive review and analysis of South Africa’s democratic transition through an in – depth interview with Albie Sachs, the former Justice of the South African Constitutional Court widely recognized as the “Father of the Constitution”. Drawing on his dual perspective as both an institutional architect and key participant, this study examines historical processes and contemporary dilemmas of South Africa’s democratic transition. The interview covers Sachs’ revolutionary

engagement, the constitution – draft process during the critical transition period of South Africa from 1990 to 1994, the role and limitations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as well as core issues facing South Africa such as state capture, social anomie, ethnic group conflicts, and indigenous rights. Sachs offers a differentiated assessment of South Africa's democratic transition: political transformation scores 110/100, rights protection rates 80 – 90/100, yet quality – of – life improvement registers only 30 – 40/100, revealing the complex relationship between political liberation and socio – economic transformation. As invaluable oral history, this interview not only provides a rare “insider perspective” for South African studies to address research gaps in existing scholarship, but also supplies essential empirical material for understanding issues such as transitional politics and postcolonial governance. Its insights offer critical guidance for other transitional countries.

Keywords: democratic transition of South Africa, transitional justice, state capture, identity politics

Authors: Albie Sachs, the former Justice of the South African Constitutional Court, widely recognized as the “Father of the Constitution” of South Africa; Zhu Pengfei, Lecturer of the Institute of Country and Area Studies, the Capital Normal University (Beijing 100048).