

Literature Review of Embedded Governance Research

Jianing Niu*

School of Physical Education, Southwest University, Chongqing, China

*Corresponding author email: njn1999@163.com

ABSTRACT

The embedded English word is “Embeddedness”, which means “tightly buried” in Chinese. It vividly shows the combination of two things. The word opposite to embedding is “de-embedding”, which, as the name suggests, means that one part of a thing is detached and becomes a completely independent thing. The core of embedding lies in “integration”, emphasizing the mutual connection and integration of the two, and the core of disembedding emphasizes “separation”, emphasizing the mutual exclusion and separation of the two. Polanyi introduced the concept of embeddedness into the new economic sociology for the first time, and Granovetter further reshaped the concept of embeddedness, which became a new milestone in the research process of embeddedness theory. In China's academic circles, the concept of “embeddedness” first appeared in the field of political science. Domestic scholars have further expanded the “embeddedness theory” and put forward the concept of “embedded governance.” Relevant research mainly involves the fields of administration and national administration, Chinese politics and international politics, rural economy, higher education, medical and health policies and laws and regulations.

KEYWORDS

Embedded Governance; Related Research; Summary.

1. INTRODUCTION

The theory of embedded governance came into being in the dilemma of a certain social environment. Multiple subjects participate in governance to make up for the problems caused by the loss of market and government. China began to study this theory in the early 1990s. And after decades of development, the theory has been infiltrated into many disciplines. Some extend to the cooperation of government departments, and some apply it to the process of local autonomy to achieve embedded autonomy. The western embedding theory emphasizes the relationship between economic behavior and social system from the original application, and the embedding theory refers to the Chinese political practice and pays more attention to the field of grass-roots governance. The academic circles have given a lot of localization connotation when using the western embedding theory. In view of this, by combing the relevant literature of embedded governance, this paper aims to understand and grasp the research progress of this topic as a whole, and try to explore the feasibility of applying the theory of embedded governance to rural public sports services.

2. LITERATURE STATISTICS

This paper takes CNKI as the main retrieval platform, through the advanced retrieval mode, inputs the keywords of “embedded governance”, and makes statistics on the literature officially published in the core journals of the China Knowledge Resource Database. The results are as follows :

Table 1. Literature quantity statistics summary table

classification of documents	Published time / Year	Total / Article	Published time / Year	Total / Article	Published time / Year	Total / Article
Embedded Governance	2024	6	2018	3	2011	1
	2023	15	2017	3	2009	3
	2022	16	2016	4		
	2021	9	2015	4		
	2020	12	2014	1		
	2019	11	2013	2		

2.1. The Number of Literature

From the results, the literature on " embedded governance " first appeared in 2009.As of May 2024, a total of 90 articles were officially published in core journals in the China Knowledge Resource Database.

2.2. The Literature Involves Fields

Table 2. Literature involving field statistical summary table

classification of documents	Correlative Field	Quantity	Correlative Field	Quantity
Embedded Governance	Administration and national administration	24	Marxism	2
	The Communist Party of China, Chinese politics and international politics, political parties and mass organizations	52	Educational Theory and Educational Management	1
	Agricultural Economy	7	Talent and Labor Science	1
	Finance, Enterprise economy, Macroeconomic management and sustainable development, Trade economy	5	Preventive Medicine	1
	Sociology and Statistics	4	Audit	1
	Higher Education	2	Meteorology	1
	Physical Education	10	Public Safety	4
Subtotal : The study covered 14 areas				

2.3. Literature Review

At this stage, the main research directions and contents of the literature on " embedded governance " in China include :

2.3.1. Direction One : Using the Embedding Theory to Study the Embedding Characteristics of a Political Behavior.

Shen Qian^[1] believes that the transition and complexity of the village-to-community community can promote the embedding of property management into community governance, so as to realize the innovation of governance model and improve governance efficiency, so as to explore how to embed property services into the community governance system and debug the governance efficiency under the background of the transformation of village-to-community governance. Taking “ the relationship between the state, farmers and the market ” as the analytical framework, introducing the “ embedded perspective”, relying on the mechanism innovation of the three-level property linkage platform carried out by the red property, improving the coordination mechanism of the multiple governance subjects of the village-to-community community and improving the governance efficiency, breaking through the “ participation” dilemma, “ suspension” dilemma, “ market failure” dilemma and “ integration” dilemma of the village-to-community community governance, and providing path thinking for the construction of the village-to-community community governance theory with Chinese characteristics. Zhang Dandan^[2] believes that the “ village-to-residence” community led by the government will inevitably face the long-term coexistence of the dual governance subjects of the village committee and the neighborhood committee, and finds that the “ village-to-residence” community has a high degree of administration of the neighborhood committee, the unclear function orientation of the village committee, and the governance dilemma of the community autonomous organization. Therefore, this paper proposes to replace the dual-track governance with embedded governance, and reshape it in three aspects : organizational structure setting, governance transaction transformation and governance rules, so as to realize the reconstruction of power subject, the division of governance functions and the integration of power structure, so as to form a mutually beneficial cooperation mode between the dual organizational system of village committee and neighborhood committee. Tian Peng^[3] believes that the full implementation of the rural revitalization strategy and the continuous advancement of the new rural construction make the practice process of “ village-to-residence ” complex and holistic. At the same time, the inertia of the urban-rural dual system and the lag of its change lead to the dynamic and gradual nature of the “ village-residence ” relationship and its action logic. How to realize the reconstruction of governance subjects, the integration of governance objectives and the embedding of governance rules in the new rural community that has completed the “ rebranding ” of the organization has become the key to the reconstruction of the community governance system of “ village-to-residence. ” Based on this, after combing the research topics of embedded theory and the proposition of embedded governance theory, the author takes the northern Jiangsu as the research point, and examines the practice process of “ village-resident ” dynamic mutual construction and the action logic of governance reconstruction in the process of “ village-to-resident ” in the new rural community from the dimensions of governance subject, governance goal, governance rules and governance resources, so as to reflect on the institutional design and policy system of the new rural community governance system in the process of rural revitalization strategy. Wu Bincai^[4] analyzed the operation process of public service projects, and believed that the government can lead and control the whole process of packaging, contracting, executing and supervising public service projects through the project system, and infiltrate its own value objectives and control will into the daily operation of social organizations, so as to realize the political embedding, functional embedding and structural embedding of social organizations.

2.3.2. Direction Two : The Village Task Force and Rural Poverty Alleviation

Wang and Liu^[5] believe that poverty governance needs to be achieved through embedded development and participatory cooperation. As a medium for individuals to participate in poverty governance, organizations can be organized by means of individual embeddedness. Decentralized and fragile individual participation can be transformed into collective action. The specific methods include embedding political organizations for interest game, embedding economic organizations to achieve asset accumulation, embedding social organizations to obtain social capital, and embedding

cultural organizations to promote quality improvement. At the same time, in the context of poverty governance, participatory cooperation includes not only the cooperation between organizations and participants embedded in them, but also the competition and cooperation between organizations. It is also conducive to stimulating the endogenous development momentum of social systems in poverty-stricken areas and jointly solving poverty problems. Zhao Yu^[6] believes that the reason why the first secretary in the village can play an important role in rural revitalization is mainly due to its embedded governance characteristics. In the study, it is found that the embedding of the first secretary of the village in rural governance is not one-way, but a process of mutual influence and mutual remodeling of rural society. In the process of embedding, it will also face difficulties such as the competition for the dominant position of authority, the conflict of dual agency roles, and the difficulty of transforming rural logical rules. Therefore, it is proposed to promote the transformation of authoritative competition into authoritative cooperation to ensure the value of the first secretary of the village ; the role balance is transmitted to the interest balance, and a dual information transmission mechanism is constructed ; the formal rules and informal rules are combined to reshape the value of rural society. Zhang Dengguo^[7] believes that when the current rural governance is faced with the dilemma of “ siphon ” effect of urbanization on rural areas, the loss of rural elites, the hollowing out of rural areas, and the loosening of rural links, the “embedded ” governance of the first secretary has become the key to solving the problem. Therefore, the three dimensions of political embeddedness, relational embeddedness and cognitive embeddedness are selected to analyze the embedded rural governance of the first secretary. However, in the process of embeddedness, the first secretary interacts with the structural elements representing the resilience of grassroots society, such as rural authority, interest structure and cultural rules, which weakens the effectiveness of the first secretary 's embedded governance to a certain extent. Therefore, we should regulate the “ embedded ” authority and endogenous authority, construct the interest balance mechanism of multiple subjects, and reshape the rule core of rural culture, so as to promote the first secretary to better “ embed ” the rural society, and finally achieve “good governance ” and “ good governance ” in the countryside. Kong Debin^[8]believes that with the “ first secretary ” and other resident cadres embedded in poor villages, the poverty alleviation model has shifted from relying mainly on village cadres to relying mainly on resident cadres to carry out poverty alleviation work, thus forming a new model of embedded poverty alleviation. Yang^[9] believes that after the village cadres are embedded in poor villages, they can play a more significant role in promoting villagers ' autonomy, targeted poverty alleviation and grass-roots party building by participating in the management of rural public affairs and other affairs. Xie Zhiju, Lu Heying^[10] believe that village cadres play an important role in the fight against poverty because they can harmonize the relationship between cadres and the masses, accumulate work experience, optimize rural resources, and lead rural development. In the stage of poverty alleviation, village cadres have shown two major work arts : mobilization governance and embedded communication. However, in the process of work, sometimes they will cause difficulties such as responsibility alienation and decision-making deviation due to “ too much ” assistance and “ excessive ” embedding. Based on this, measures such as strengthening the understanding of the work in the village, improving the support mechanism in the village, and innovating the support system in the town are proposed.

2.3.3. Direction Three: The Relationship between Government, Political Parties and Society in a Strong Country

Xu Qin and Ye Juanli^[11] believe that the purpose of rural governance is not only to achieve the state 's “ control ” of rural society, but more importantly, to achieve the state 's “ governance ” of rural society. Governance is a process of interaction and communication between the two sides and achieving a win-win situation. The core of embedded governance is to emphasize the anti-embedding of rural society to the state. This anti-embedding is not only the response of rural society to the intervention of state power, but also an important way for rural society to try to realize its own demands by influencing state power. Under the local implementation of rural society and the active response of village social self-organization, the national institutional rules provide a practical model that can be used for reference to build a benign interaction between state power and rural society and

realize good governance in rural areas. Cheng Xi, Yang Mingyu^[12] Only by continuously strengthening the embedded governance of political parties at the grass-roots level can we avoid the short-term confrontation between local governments and social groups in the distribution of interests, so as to timely understand and integrate the interests of the people. There are many ways of embedded governance, which can be the direct infiltration of political party organizations or the form of service outsourcing. However, in any way, political parties must constantly dredge the channels of organizational embedding, strengthen the connection with grassroots embedded organizations, and provide them with party resources to better respond to social requirements and resolve grassroots disputes. He Yanling ^[13] emphasizes the embedding and anti-embedding between the state and the place, and believes that the power of either side of the state and the place cannot be too strong, and each country has its own unique embedded autonomy. There is no " optimal model " for local governance, only " appropriate model ". Centralization of embedded autonomy and local autonomy is not an either-or zero-sum game. On the one hand, the difference of national embedding models is due to the influence of institutional arrangements and international factors, on the other hand, it is based on a country 's culture. Different governance models always have profound cultural value marks behind them. Their influence is subtle and cannot be explained by the system. Chen Feng ^[14] believed that with the change of the nature of the state and rural society, it is difficult to ensure the realization of " good governance " in grass-roots society only by relying on negative " simple governance " and one-dimensional " system construction. " Therefore, based on the investigation of Ludong Plain Village, the logic of " embedded governance " is put forward. On the one hand, it strengthens the power of the state in the countryside. On the other hand, it maintains and strengthens the local structure and norms, realizes the effective connection between the state and the rural society, the state and the farmers, and finally realizes the effective implementation of the national policy and the stability of the local order. Cheng Xi ^[15] believes that political parties can influence other members of society through their own resources and elite members by means of infiltration and mobilization, so as to promote more standardized political participation of members of society. Based on the inherent complexity of society itself and its organizations, political parties cannot be as simple and direct as external " embedding " in the process of "embedding. " More importantly, they need a connection with the society and form a specific relationship network, so as to effectively participate in social governance.

3. CONCLUSION

On the whole, in China, scholars ' exploration of embedded governance is not yet mature. Most of the research focuses on the logical analysis and theoretical explanation of the implementation of embedded governance, and lacks empirical research and experience summary on the specific practice of one or more places. On the one hand, most scholars focus on the analysis of embedded governance at the macro level, and there is little research on grassroots governance ; on the other hand, there are many empirical analyses of regional practice models, but there is a lack of more in-depth general rules.

REFERENCES

- [1] Shen Qian. The operation mechanism and governance efficiency of ' red property ' embedded in the community governance of village-to-residence community-based on the investigation of the property governance practice of J Street in Wuhan [J].Huxiang Forum, 2023,36 (01) : 82-94.
- [2] Zhang Dandan. Double-track system to embedded system: Research on the transformation of grassroots organizations in ' village-to-residence ' communities - Based on the governance practice of S community in Shaoxing [J].Rural economy, 2022, (05) : 79-87.
- [3] Tian Peng. The action logic and reflection of " village to residence " from the perspective of embedded governance-based on the field survey of new rural communities in northern Jiangsu [J].Journal of Nanjing Agricultural University (Social Science Edition), 2021, 21 (02) : 85-95.

- [4] Wu Bincai. From classified control to embedded governance : the transformation of social organization governance behind the operation of project system [J]. Journal of Gansu Administrative College, 2016, (03) : 80-87 + 128.
- [5] Wang Pei, Liu Xiao. Research on Embedded Development, Participatory Cooperation and Poverty Governance [J]. Journal of Northwest University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition), 2017,47 (06) : 87-93.
- [6] Zhao Yu. Analysis of the Dilemma and Optimization Path of Embedded Governance of the First Secretary in the Village [J].Leadership Science, 2021, (20) : 99-102.
- [7] Zhang Dengguo. The action paradigm and optimization strategy of ' embedded ' rural governance [J].Shandong Social Sciences, 2020, (11) : 74-79.
- [8] Kong Debin. Paradox and Reflection on Embedded Poverty Alleviation [J].Theory and Reform, 2018, (02) : 67-76.
- [9] Yang Fang. " The First Secretary " in the village and the change of village governance [J]. Learning Forum, 2016,32 (02) : 52-55.
- [10] Xie Zhiju, Lu Heying. Mobilized governance and embedded communication : the work art of village cadres and rural revitalization [J]. Journal of Hubei University for Nationalities (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition), 2022,40 (02) : 47-57.
- [11] Xu Qin, Ye Juanli. Embedded governance : re-examination of the relationship between state power construction and village autonomy [J].Journal of Hubei University for Nationalities (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition), 2020,38 (06) : 19-26.
- [12] Cheng Xi, Yang Mingyu. Embedded Governance : The Mechanism Source of Chinese Model ' Resilience ' [J].Leading Science, 2014, (23) : 8-11.
- [13] He Yanling. ' Embedded Autonomy ' : Local Governance under the State-Local Embedded Relationship [J]. Journal of Wuhan University (Philosophy and Social Sciences), 2009,62 (04) : 495-501.
- [14] Chen Feng. On the ' Embedded Governance ' of Grassroots Regime - - Based on the Field Research of Luzhongdong Village [J].Youth Research, 2011, (01) : 23-32 + 94-95.
- [15] Cheng Xi. Embedded Governance : The Leadership of the Ruling Party in Social Network and Its Realization [J]. Journal of Zhejiang Provincial Party School, 2014.30 (01) : 50-60.