

"Shì"(勢) as a sociological concept.

Abstract

In recent years, scholars both at home and abroad have paid considerable attention to the concept of "Shì"("勢"). If the term "Shì" is regarded as a sociological concept, what kind of expansion of sociological imagination can it bring to us? The concept of "Shì" undoubtedly originated from ancient Chinese military strategists. Later, as a concept that takes into account both objective possibilities and action strategies while emphasising effectiveness, it has permeated various fields and even daily life. The concept of "Shì" not only transcends the opposition between structure and agency, but also can address the issues of ought and is. Especially, it is helpful for responding to constantly changing situations from the perspective of the parties involved. The thinking centred around the concept of "Shì" can also lead to a whole series of reflections on ontology and epistemology. This might be able to facilitate the much-needed paradigm Shift in contemporary sociology.