The Development Orientation of Chinese Political Science: Based on the Analysis of Subjects of Political Science Disciplines Approved by the National Social Science Fund of China

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Abstract Subjects approved by the National Social Science Fund of China basically represent the basic requirements of disciplinary development and academic research proposed by the country, and the results also show the highest level of academic study. With subjects of political science disciplines approved by the National Social Science Fund of China from 2011 to 2015 as the analysis objects, this paper tries to summarize the general requirements of political science study proposed by the Chinese government in recent years, and also to find some major problems that Chinese political science and the political science circle have focused on in this period.

Keywords Chinese politics · Political science · The National Social Science Fund of China · Study topics

1 Introduction

In 1991, the National Planning Office of Philosophy and Social Science (hereinafter referred to as the “NPOPSS”) was founded as the administrative body of the National Planning Leading Group of Philosophy and Social Science. The main duties of the Office are to make long-term plans and annual plans for studies on national philosophy and social science, manage the National Social Science Fund of China, organize and review the approval of subjects, and take charge of the interim management, inspection of results, publicity and promotion and so on. The annual

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planned project for the National Social Science Fund of China is released once a year, and will be granted funds and approval after application and review.

Over the years, the NPOPSS has upheld the principle of “adhering to correct guidance, highlighting the national level, focusing on scientific research management, and serving experts and scientists”, playing a strong leading and exemplary role in cultivating and strengthening interdisciplinary study strength, promoting the prosperity and development of scientific research, and organizing study and solving significant practical issues faced to our country. In general, subjects approved by the National Social Science Fund of China essentially reflect the country’s basic needs for disciplinary development and academic study, and the results also show the highest level of academic study. Thus, the national academic institutions and researchers are very concerned about the planned projects of the National Social Science Fund of China. Almost all academic institutions regard undertaking the project approved by the National Social Science Fund of China as a necessary condition for promotion of professional titles, especially the title of a senior professional post. Therefore, most professionals with a title of a sub-senior professional post, have undertaken one or more projects approved by the National Social Science Fund of China.

Based on this, this paper takes subjects of political science disciplines approved by the National Social Science Fund of China from 2011 to 2015 as the analysis objects, trying to summarize the general requirements of political science study proposed by the CPC and the government in recent years, and also to find some major problems that Chinese political science and the political science circle have focused on in this period. According to the constitution of the project approved by the National Social Science Fund of China, there are generally instructional subjects of various disciplines released annually, and optional projects for scientists are also encouraged. Relatively speaking, instructional subjects reflect the demand of the CPC and the government for political science study and optional projects and instructional subjects in a way can show the interest and orientation of the academic circle.

2 Development Particularity: Chinese Political Science Synchronizes with Political Development

Contemporary Chinese political science was gradually restored and developed after the reform and opening up. It is considered that political science has been closely linked with China’s politics during the reform and opening up since its restoration. Chinese political science has experienced several twists and turns, and its rise and decline has withstood the test of time from its birth to development. The development particularity of Chinese political science lies in the fact that political science study was basically restored on the basis of the discipline system of traditional Marxist political education and scientific socialism, and that (Lin 1998) the original intention of setting up the discipline was to serve the great practice of socialist modernization (Zhang 2013). It is the change in the social and political environment in China that has led to academic exploration and concern (Wang 2005). We should regard the

political reality as the study object of political science, theoretical source of innovative ideas, and practical material. China's development is characterized by both social and political realities, the unique Chinese experience, and there is no presupposition theory to follow. And it is the change and development of Chinese politics and society that has led to the generation of academic issues about politics. New theoretical innovation is needed to respond to such changes in reality so as to show its own theoretical value.

China's political science development synchronizes with its political development, which shows that Chinese political science also provides intellectual support and theory services to China's political development. The analysis of the development of Chinese political science study is inseparable from the actual process of Chinese political development. Political scientists have played an important role in China's ideological emancipation since the reform and opening up, and many important concepts proposed by political scientists have directly or indirectly affected the process of China's political development (Yu 2007). Thus, the exploration of the rules of Chinese political development and the summary of Chinese political experience by Chinese political scientists over the years has also made a direct contribution to knowledge of human politics and Chinese social science undoubtedly. The subjects of political science approved by the National Social Science Fund of China can explain such judgment.

3 Development Trend: From Discipline to Science

The basic social background of the development of Chinese political science is as follows. Great changes have taken place in social, political and economic structures in China, which are unprecedented. Sustained economic growth has created one miracle after another. The pattern of social interests is divided again. In politics, we have always adhered to and have been improving the path and system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Of course, unprecedented problems and difficulties have also appeared in this process. These are challenges and opportunities for China's political science study. As theories and opinions in western countries cannot provide ready-made models and answers, we will have to make theoretical innovations to find new answers based on China's national conditions so as to respond to challenges and opportunities and give explanations and make theoretical construction. The recovery and development of Chinese political science are inseparable from learning from and drawing upon the world's political science. However, many Western political science theories and paradigms actually cannot explain China's practical problems politically. The fundamental goal of the development of Chinese politics is to make the political systems actively adapt to and accommodate the development of economy and society and to turn positive results of the economic and social development into their own impetus of development as soon as possible so as to promote economic development and social progress more effectively (Fan 2014). This is also the impetus of the study and development of Chinese political science.

3.1 More Open Mind for Research

We notice that studies on Chinese political science have not only drawn upon the knowledge of world political science, but also fully kept its own qualities. From a lot of study topics we find that efforts have been made to realize the localization of political science (Yang 2001). Attention has been paid to combining political science with the reality of China. Field empirical study and quantitative study are integrated with traditional text study and qualitative study. At the same time, the introduction of interdisciplinary science enriches the connotation of political science study. From the subjects approved from 2011 to 2015, the author randomly selected a total of 243 approved projects whose last serial number is 7. Among them, there are as many as 49 interdisciplinary project topics, accounting for 20.2 %; and 29 pure theoretical study projects, accounting for 11.9 %. According to the random sampling theory, the results can also prove that the study contents of political science are gradually becoming richer. Frontier topics such as “Studies on National E-Government Network Construction and Improvement of Government’s Public Service and Management Ability” and “Mechanism Studies on China’s Environmental Governance from the Perspective of Environmental Politics” in 2011, “Studies on the Solution to Information Asymmetry of Chinese Farmers in the New Period” in 2012, “Studies on Government’s Purchasing Services and Non-Profit Organization Cultivating Mechanism in Rural Areas” in 2013, “Studies on Connection and Interaction of Village-Level Democratic Voting System and Negotiation System” and “Studies on China’s Ideology Capacity Construction under the New Media Environment” in 2014 all reflect such characteristics.

3.2 Richer Study Topics

In the earliest political studies, much attention was paid to the traditional Marxist political and educational discipline system and scientific socialism discipline system, but now this is only a part of the major study category of political science. According to the subject guide and actual approved projects, the author divides projects approved from 2011 to 2015 into several categories according to study topics. They are theoretical studies on political science, political party system and party building, nation building and democratic politics, Chinese social governance and public management, comparative politics and others.

Marxist political theory studies mainly include Marxism political science and theoretical studies on socialism with Chinese characteristics. They explore and study Marxist political thought and theory comprehensively and deeply, and present the Marxist political science system and its basic principles more systematically, perfectly and profoundly, elucidate the ideological line, path, stage, fundamental task, impetus and strategy of Chinese development and expound the development of China well and thoroughly so as to seek agreement. China’s development needs the leadership of the CPC. Scientific and development perspectives should be applied to look at the status and the construction of the party in the history and building of the party. Both the times and China’s socialist cause will experience long-term development, so this will also be a long-term and continuously developing problem

as it is shown in “Studies on Deepening the CPC’s Constructional System Reform” in 2014, “Studies on Historical Experience of the CPC’s Making and Implementing the 5-Year Plan after the Founding of the PRC” in 2013 and so on. In state building and democratic politics, attention is paid to the modernization of China, the exploration and practice of how to build a powerful country through the centralization of authority and resources, and relevant political factors such as the development of democratic politics in state building, political system, operation of political parties and government management. China’s social governance and public policies are the governance requirements that the social stratum faces under diverse interest demands. How to provide a legal framework for society through the rule of law to ensure the implementation of law and order? How to safeguard the country’s basic order and stability? How to provide public goods and services so as to improve the welfare of society? The CPC and the government should work on these issues for a long time. Political science circles also need to provide theoretical response actively, such as “Studies on Cohesion Mechanism of the Government’s Purchasing Public Services from Social Forces and Reform of Public Institutions” in 2014 and “Studies on the Mechanism of Solving Social Contradictions through the Rule of Law in the Process of Comprehensively Deepening of Reform” in 2015. Attention is also paid to the difficult and hot issues concerning China’s development, such as the issue of migrant workers, the Taiwan issue, regional ethnic problems and other nationally important issues to be solved, and “Studies on the Acknowledgement of Socialist Core Values in Ethnic Minority Area on the Borderland and the Countermeasures Study” in 2015, “Studies on the Long-Term Mechanism to

Table 1 Category and statistics of approved subjects in projects of the National Social Science Fund of China from 2011 to 2015

Categories	Political science							
	Key projects	General projects	Projects for young scientists fund	Total	Proportion of approved subjects in projects of the National Social Science Fund of China (%)			
2011	8	63	44	115	3.84			
2012	8	61	62	131	3.83			
2013	16	70	62	148	3.72			
2014	16	90	43	149	3.76			
2015	15	92	43	150	3.82			
Total	63	376	254	693	3.79			
				2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Theoretical study				8	18	12	21	8
Political party system and party building				13	9	11	9	8
Nation building and democratic politics				29	24	33	37	44
Chinese social governance and public policies				46	51	57	51	52
Comparative politics				13	18	16	17	18
Others				6	11	19	14	20
Total				115	131	148	149	150

Maintain Political and Social Stability in Tibet” in 2014, “Studies on Building a Peaceful Development Framework of Relations across the Taiwan Strait” in 2011, “Studies on Social Behaviors of the New Generation of Migrant Workers” in 2012 and so on. In comparative politics, Chinese political science covers more where foreign theories and systems are studied. For example, “Studies on Financial Issues in the System Construction in Modern Western Countries” in 2013, and “Studies on Religious Belief Issue in Ethnic Minority Area from the Perspective of National Governance” in 2015. Others are about ideological and political education, ancient Chinese political thought and the latest new political contents such as network politics, environmental politics and disaster politics apart from the above content.

The authors classify and sum up the subjects of political science discipline approved by the National Social Science Fund of China from 2011 to 2015 in the list one by one (Table 1).

4 Development Characteristics: A Microcosm of China’s Social Reality

The National Social Science Fund of China is the highest scientific study fund whose subject guide and approved projects feature important guiding significance to studies on Chinese political science. They may reflect important or urgent problems in the development of Chinese political science and society or guide the future direction of Chinese political science study. From these topics we may infer the whole situation. The approved funding projects represent the latest major practical issues and disciplinary development and objectively reflect the key topics, hot topics, current situation and development direction in each discipline (Zhang 2013). Based on the classification of the approved subjects in the last stage, the evolution of the approved projects reflects the following characteristics of the development of China’s political science.

4.1 The Studies on Chinese Political Science are Influenced by Ideological Discourse

Study topics and purposes directly affect study themes and methods of political science, making a lot of political studies the elucidation and analysis of the mainstream political ideology and official policy (Yu 2007), and also some experience and wisdom concerning the governance of the country, such as, “Studies on Benign Interaction between the Building of China’s Ruling Party and Participating Parties” in 2011, the general project “Studies on Operational Mechanism of the Socialist System with Chinese Characteristics” in 2012, “Studies on Socialist Core Values System Construction Normalization” in 2013, “Studies on Institutionalized Consultative Democracy in the Modernization Process of National Governance Systems” in 2014, and “Studies on Political Identity and Approach of Socialist Core Values from the Perspective of Subculture” in 2015. And the number of related study topics remains stable or increases every year.

Of course, this is understandable since theoretical studies on political science are more or less affected by value judgments. In political science, if one describes what

political phenomenon is but makes no comments on the disputes between interests and values, the theory they develop is not objective. Instead, they give up the scientific position of judging political phenomena independently (Lü 1996). Such political science is just a political knowledge system, and it doesn't contain any profound understanding of politics. The key point lies in how to construct the concept and theory so as to adapt to the development of national politics, and get bottom-up theoretical acknowledgement and meet the demands of political output. In the current approved projects, Marxism-Leninism, scientific socialism and socialism theory with Chinese characteristics are either detailed or combined with China's actual situation when analyzed. They reflect the application of Marxist theory to China and its development trend.

4.2 The Approved Themes Are Rather Reality-Oriented

Political science is a political and sensitive discipline. Simple paradigm studies on social science alone can't promote its development. The specific social demand, which is more important, can promote its development. The National Social Science Fund of China sets subject guides and selects projects with strong practical orientations. In other words, they should be combined with China's reality to serve society immediately and it is expected that localization of political science (Lou 2010) will play a positive role in promoting social development. The key topics and hot topics of national political life in the current year can be found in the projects of the past years. When theories such as 12th 5-Year Plan, the 18th National Congress of the CPC, Socialist Core Values, Learning-based Party Organization, three kinds of confidence in socialism with Chinese characteristics and many other theories were proposed, there were always 5–6 concerning projects approved among the 300 or so approved projects over the years. In these studies, the CPC and the national important theoretical guidelines and policies were analyzed and understood deeply from different angles. State building under the rule of law, village self-governance, participatory democracy, issues on minority areas and anti-corruption problems appear in the state operation and they are the themes studied to solve social problems or accomplish some tasks, so they are rather reality-oriented.

Since the reform and opening up, great changes have taken place in China's social, political and economic structures, and such social changes are unprecedented. Sustained economic growth has created one miracle after another. The pattern of social interests is divided again. In politics, we have always adhered to and have been improving the path and system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Of course, unprecedented problems and difficulties have also appeared in this process. These are challenges and opportunities for China's political science study. Projects approved by the National Social Science Fund of China are just like mirrors that reflect how we want to respond to, explain and construct them theoretically. What comes from the reality goes back to the reality. This complies accordant orientation in the approval of the themes of study projects by the National Social Science Fund of China. The value orientation is that the main subjects should be the major theoretical and practical issues in the reform and opening up and modernization drive of China, and they should comply with the

principle that the studies should be based on national conditions in the contemporary era. The approval of the themes reflects the expectation of the theoretical study in the practical development to a certain extent.

4.3 Much Attention is Paid to China's Political Reality, Especially to the Topics of the Governance of the Nation

Naturally, the National Social Science Fund of China mainly focuses on studies on Chinese political science. It learned from Western political science in the past and now focuses on studies on Chinese political reality, during which period it has built its own theoretical framework. This is not just a simple and superficial transformation. Instead, it means that the confidence of China's political system is increasing and the desire to consciously cognize China's experience and practice, explore and explain theories is continuing to rise (Fan 2014).

During decades of political science study, we have changed from making up missed lessons to active construction, because we are aware that political science research should not only be confined to the Western mainstream political science framework, and moreover, western theoretical discourse is unable to provide ready-made patterns and answers concerning the situations in China. After nearly four decades of accumulation, we have got rid of “the Western cult” and become more confident in theory. We focus on the Chinese experience and practice analysis, and the interpretation of discourse system which forms democracy in China. Among projects approved in the past 5 years, several types of topics for discussion regarding characteristics of China's social development appeared almost every year. For example, rural governance issues of rural China appeared in “Empirical Studies on the Formation Mechanism of Cohesiveness of the Rural Grass-Roots Party Organizations” in 2011, “Studies on Design, Arrangement and Performance of Supervision System in Village Autonomy” in 2012, “Studies on Enhancing Farmers' Political Level and Optimizing Governance Mechanism for Rural Democratic Consultation” in 2013, “Studies on Multiple Interactive Mechanisms of Rural Civil Organizations' Involvement in Rural Governance” in 2014, “Studies on Modernization of Rural Governance System and Government Transformation of Grass-Roots Party Organizations” and “Studies on Governance Legalization of Village Officials' Corruption” in 2015, and other topics. “Participatory democracy” and “consultative democracy” and other such political practices unique to China were popular, such as “Studies on the System and Mechanism of Social Participation in Corruption Governance” in 2011, “Studies on the Effectiveness of Citizen Participation in the Development Process of Public Policy” in 2012, “Studies on Case Analysis, Practical Difficulties and Development Path of Consultative Democracy at the Grass-Roots Level in China” in 2013, “Studies on Consultative Democracy Institutionalization in the Modernization Process of the System of the Governance of Nation” in 2014 and “Studies on Orderly Citizen Participation in the Process of Consultative Democracy with Chinese Characteristics” in 2015. There are a lot of similar “China problems”, such as the issue of regional ethnic autonomy, the power division between local governments and the central government, the gap between the east and the west, the north and the south,

balanced development, and other issues. Subjects approved by the National Social Science Fund of China provide better platforms and funding to encourage people to deal with China problems with Chinese-style thinking and discourse.

4.4 Study Focus is Gradually Formed and the Topics Become More Concentrated

In the past, studies on Chinese political science mainly explored and explained the relationship between the CPC and the country, the political system of the People's Republic of China's and other issues by starting with the problems concerning macro regime construction, governance arrangements and so on, focusing on general studies on the static system and structural analysis, which lacked dynamic and process-oriented analysis and exploration of system operation mechanism. Today, such topics for discussion with grandiose narration are seldom seen among the projects approved by the National Social Science Fund of China. Instead, the focus is shifted to construction of the medium governance system, perfection of fundamental system, planning of governance process and other issues so as to study the dynamic and process-oriented analysis and exploration of the grass-roots election design ("Follow-up Studies on the Voter Participation in People's Congress at County-Level" in 2012) in the governmental process ("Studies on Inter-Governmental Power Longitudinal Configuration Mechanism in China Based on Modernization of National Governance System" in 2014), anti-corruption issues ("Studies on Anti-Corruption Information and Credit Mechanism" in 2011), public goods supply ("Studies on Our County-Level Government Public Goods Supply System and Mechanism" in 2015) and other operation mechanisms of the reality system. It is the dynamic and mechanism-oriented analysis of the actual operation system of Chinese political system, which adopts the attitude of political science and microscopic analysis of specific systems and mechanisms, instead of grand macro dissertation.

That the Chinese political science study synchronizes with political development determines the operability and practicality of Chinese political science study. This characteristic can also be understood in this way that practice goes prior to theory support. Chinese experience and practice tries to enrich or amend the existing concepts and theories to varying degrees by new experiences of China or to establish new concepts and theories based on Chinese experience by virtue of the cause and effect relevance in social science so as to find out a proper "breakthrough point" to optimize the reform of the political system.

4.5 Regional Patterns and the Advantages and Disadvantages of Political Science Study

The above four points analyze the development characteristics of Chinese political science from the macroscopic and comprehensive angles while the database of subjects approved by the National Social Science Fund of China enumerates information about leaders of the subjects, provinces and cities, and employers, expecting results and others in detail. With these data, the author tries to dissect the

pattern and structure of Chinese political science study, explore whether there are regional factions, what the core study units are and other questions, and to dig out the reasons behind, so as to promote the political science study to a higher level by virtue of learning from the strong points to offset its weakness.

According to the regional distribution of the approved subjects, the data statistics are as shown in Table 2 and Fig. 1.

Table 2 Distribution by regions of approved subjects in projects of the National Social Science Fund of China from 2011 to 2015

Rankings	Provinces and cities	Total application
1	East China	162
2	Central China	120
3	Beijing	94
4	Shanghai	77
5	Southwest China	63
6	Northeast China	54
7	South China	47
8	North China	41
9	Northwest China	35

Fig. 1 Regional distribution map of the total subjects approved by the National Social Science Fund of China from 2011 to 2015

Beijing and Shanghai can be regarded as the most important cities of Chinese political science study. They have geographical advantages in scientific study and numerous colleges and universities as well as academies of science. Moreover, as the political center and the economic center of China, respectively, they can obtain more study information, data, viewpoints and so on to serve researchers and research institutions. In this case, they have an exceptional advantage when applying for funded projects. This is the reason why the quantity in East China is far more than that in other areas. As shown in Fig. 1, the quantitative distribution color in the coastal areas is darker than that in other areas. Central China and Northeast China also own quite a few approved subjects because of Central China Normal University and Jilin University, two units which actively apply for the National Social Science Fund of China. As a result, the weight of the two areas is rather heavy.

Seen from the regional distribution map of the total subjects approved by the National Social Science Fund of China from 2011 to 2015, the subjects in the eastern coastal areas, the Pearl River Delta, North China and Northeast China are deeper than those in Central China and Western China. Perhaps we can draw a preliminary conclusion that disciplinary study is popularized further and deeper and there are more approved subjects in the areas with more developed economy, science and technology and cultural education. This conclusion remains to be analyzed accordingly after the GDP of each province and city is enumerated.

The distribution characteristic of the approved units is that colleges and universities constitute the main force of Chinese political science study, as shown in Table 3. The quantity proportions of the approved projects in colleges and universities in the most recent 5 years are shown, respectively. Table 4 shows that the proportion of “985” and “211” (“985” excluded) key universities in the colleges and universities of scientific study always maintain at around 30 %. This proportion is far higher than that of 100 “211” universities (including “985” universities) among 2845 colleges and universities approved by the Ministry of Education. It shows that the quality of the main force of Chinese political science study maintains at a relatively high level. From another perspective, it also reflects that Chinese political science study develops at a relatively balanced level and does not only concentrate on key colleges and universities. Other regular colleges and universities can take a place in the field as well.

Table 3 Proportion of approved subjects in projects of the National Social Science Fund of China in Colleges and Universities from 2011 to 2015

Years	Number of colleges and universities	Proportion (%)
2011	82	71.3
2012	97	74.05
2013	108	72.97
2014	125	83.89
2015	132	88.00
Total	544	78.50

Table 4 Proportion of approved projects in “211” (including “985”) universities over the years

Year	“211” (including “985”) universities	Number of colleges and universities	Proportion (%)
2011	48	82	58.54
2012	50	97	51.55
2013	45	108	41.67
2014	60	125	48.00
2015	69	132	52.27
Total	272	544	50.00

The quantities of approved projects in units of different types vary greatly and are imbalanced among the areas, units and disciplines. This results from both objective reasons like the development history and subjective reasons such as the funding system design and implementation of Chinese social science study. Such imbalance remains to be corrected in the future development plan of Chinese political science.

5 Problems and Trend of Development of Chinese Political Science

A vision beyond “self-justification” will naturally occur when the development of Chinese political science synchronizes with Chinese politics development. How can political science study be accepted widely and become the origin which really represents Chinese discourse? Certainly, based on China’s national conditions, the development of Chinese political science has to form systematic values on its own. It should closely combine with China’s reality and respond to realistic problems positively so as to gain great vitality. At present, the political science study mainly focuses on the analysis and handling of macroscopic problems to discuss and establish the theoretical logic system so as to explain the Chinese political system and China problems. Undeniably, exploration into the law of Chinese politics development and the summary of Chinese political experience by Chinese political scientists and the democratic process which influences Chinese politics reform are making a direct contribution to knowledge of human politics and Chinese social science. However, when medium and microcosm study is not enough, the influence and cogency of macroscopic analysis theory will certainly be affected to some extent. When politics develops the political science study into an important knowledge tool to promote the institutionalization, democratization and scientization of the government policy and becomes an important way to reflect and collect public will and express public needs instead of being on the shelf or being piled up and the deconstruction or reconstruction of concepts only, it can become the practical “humanistic pragmatism” politics, avoid the embarrassing condition of “self-justification” only and obtain the deserved position in the whole academic world. Seen from the approved subjects in the most recent 5 years, Chinese political science study has indeed turned to medium and microcosm politics study and begun

Fig. 2 Results classification of approved subjects in the projects of the National Social Science Fund of China from 2011 to 2015

to value empirical study, individual cases tracking and mechanism process survey of the system operation. It considers and discusses social culture and political ecology, making the studies on Chinese politics vivid.

In addition, different from Western political science study with a set of perfect social science study method, the methodology issues of Chinese political science study are seldom valued, mentioned or specified, so the methods and skills of Chinese politics study are relatively weak. Seen from the subjects of the approved projects, few relatively large-scale survey projects are approved. They mainly focus on a few fields such as rural governance and election tracking. Without first-hand survey data and cases, the further development of political science study can't be supported firmly. The resultant transformation of the approved subjects is also evident, as shown in Fig. 2.

The basic forms of the results in the most recent 5 years are mainly monographs, study reports and symposiums. There are too few other forms. Though project results in the form of computer software and reference books occur, there is no study result in the forms of database and others. This shows that little attention is paid to data accumulation of politics study. The studies which adopt modern study methods, such as quantitative analysis and participatory observation, and provide new, realistic and theoretical meaning, are also rare. In a certain sense, Chinese political science study should have its own concept, theory and methods to tamp its' "discourse right" in political science study. In the future layout plan of political science development, it won't be the simple input of borrowed concepts and theories and the application interpretation of China. Instead, China will become one of the most important experiential bases of political theory in the world and needs to offer its unique theoretical power positively and initiatively.

Seen from the study topics in the most recent 5 years, we can find the following three basic trends and study orientations of the development of Chinese political science:

First, at present, well-known political scientists active in each academic institution gradually begin to stop undertaking projects of the National Social Science Fund of China due to various reasons. First of all, most of these scientists have been or are undertaking the corresponding study subjects and have no time to accept new tasks. Secondly, they don't have direct needs any more, like promotion pressure. In addition, the strict management of scientific study funds in recent years makes many scientists unwilling to undertake the tasks of subject study due to the trouble of the use of the fund.

Secondly, lots of returnee scientists join it, allowing political science study method innovation to be valued increasingly. In recent years, some academic units, especially "985" and "211" universities, have hired a great number of young returnee scientists. Most of them have received systemic academic training and have good academic attainments. When they become the main force of the National Social Science Fund of China, the new orientation of the whole political science study will certainly be affected.

Thirdly, studies of some fundamental and intellectual topics will be put on the agenda. As mentioned above, the projects of the National Social Science Fund of China reflect the practical needs of the CPC and China to some extent. Such orientation can be completely seen from the study subject approved in the most recent 5 years. However, academic studies always include fundamental study and application study. In reality, many fundamental and intellectual topics of political science are seldom valued due to the overemphasis on the application study for years. We have noticed that the related academic institutions have begun to enhance this kind of planning.

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