

城市基督教会及其文化差异性

Urban Protestant Church and Her Cultural Diversity

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[**Abstract**] A modern city usually is a region of multi-cultural convergence. Its tolerance of cultural diversity and the way of its cultural tolerance can manifest the cultural character of the city. An urban anthropological interest will include those questions — Does the cultural tolerance of the Protestant church, as an organization of a special ethnic group in a city, synchronize with the cultural tolerance of the integral city? What is the great impact due to cultural change on the church in a city? How are cultural conflict, adaptation and integration shown in the urban church?

In the methods of participating observation and individual interview the author undertook his long-term fieldwork in the Protestant group in a South China city and, by recording the narrations of different informants and investigating many of typical cases, put the emphasis on how the diversity of different regions, social classes, age, sex and educational background, and the difference between traditional and modern culture are shown inside the church in the special ways of religion, how the church is confronted with such diversity in her doctrine, creed, institutions, rituals

and theology, and how the Christians face and interact with such diversity in their moral principal, behavior and style of living.

This essay is a fieldwork report in a form of micro-ethnographic description.

都市人类学作为一门在上个世纪中叶形成的新分支学科,把人类学的学术视野从“原始”社会和乡村“传统小社会”转到现代都市,但在方法论上则基本沿袭了文化人类学原来的研究方法,而且把这些模式运用到对都市社会和人群的研究后,确实也取得了一定的成效,其中一些重要的成果就是在田野调查基础上写成的微观民族志(micro-ethnography)^①。

都市微观民族志撇开对整体城市、大型社区或族群整体的完整描述,主要通过参与观察和个人访谈的方法从小样本的研究对象中获取资料,而通常被人忽视的一些琐细小事,正是人类学调查者特别注意的,并且以报导人(informant)口述或观察者记录的方式将其转换成为文本。虽然这种研究方式的局限性是显而易见的,但更容易达到人类学传统所要求的深入、细微、以小见大的目的,可以为其他学科的进一步研究积累基础性材料。

本课题是考察当代城市基督教会内部的文化差异性。宗教话语中的教义、教理、教制、教仪、神学观等,以及信徒的道德伦理、行为规范、生活方式等,在人类学语境里都是制度文化或精神文化,因此基督教内部的各种差异以及相互之间的矛盾、冲突、调适、整合等,均是文化差异的体现或结果。微观民族志就是要尽可能详细地描述和展示研究对象的文化,至于追索根源、探究因果、分析

^① 参见周大鸣,《现代都市人类学》,广州:中山大学出版社,1997,第266页。