



The Current Situation of New Liberal Arts Construction in Universities and Compared with China and the West

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Abstract

New liberal arts is the innovative development of liberal arts, is the new requirements of the development of liberal arts. The development and construction of the new liberal arts should adapt to the new mission of the development of philosophy and social sciences in the new era, accelerate the construction of philosophy and social sciences with Chinese characteristics, construct China's independent knowledge system, solve China's problems based on China's reality, constantly promote the creative transformation and innovative development of the fine traditional Chinese culture, and constantly promote knowledge innovation, theory innovation and method innovation. Make philosophy and social sciences with Chinese characteristics truly stand in the academic forest of the world. This paper expounds the current situation of the construction of new liberal arts in colleges and universities, and makes a comparison between China and the West. The study of liberal arts needs to follow the path of independent development with Chinese characteristics, accelerate the innovation of academic paradigms, further explore the construction of a discipline system of philosophy and social sciences with Chinese characteristics, and accelerate the formation of new thoughts, new theories, new methods and new disciplines with Chinese characteristics.

Keywords

Colleges and universities, New liberal arts, China and the West, Compare

1. Introduction

The demand for educational reform of humanities and social disciplines is universal all over the world. "The humanities as a whole have been in crisis for the last half century, although the crisis has manifested itself differently in each country." The reform of liberal arts education in the global field shows us the internal trend of specialty reorganization and discipline integration, but it does not point out how to counter the trend of "anti-globalization" caused by unilateralism and utilitarianism caused by "technocratic rule" with humanistic spirit. The reason why humanistic education can become the birthplace of new thoughts and ideas, rather than the accumulation of knowledge and discipline construction in general sense, is due to its inherent value of public spirit. The new liberal arts refer to the cross-field and integrated disciplinary development construction model that is relative to the traditional liberal arts concept and matches the development background of modern society. It strives to develop and form a new discipline that adapts to the needs of

industrial development and leads the overall development of society. It has strong strategic and systematic characteristics, and can flexibly construct scientific development concepts and practice systems of The Times with highly innovative thinking and open mind. The construction of new liberal arts in China not only conforms to the development direction and trend of the reform of higher education in the world, but also emphasizes a kind of "discipline virtue and cultural responsibility". It takes promoting the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind as the orientation of cultural value and demonstrates the responsibility of a great country, which is a new exploration of the sustainable development of higher education in Chinese style (Cheng, L. K., 2021).

2. Connotation and significance of the construction of "new liberal arts"

2.1 Connotation of the construction of "new liberal arts"

Compared with traditional liberal arts, the new liberal arts not only plays a role of sublimation, but also provides theoretical support for breaking the barriers of traditional liberal arts majors and the barriers between disciplines. Compared with the traditional liberal arts, the new liberal arts play a role of sublimation to the traditional liberal arts. The purpose is to break through the wall, break the barrier of integration between majors, produce a new academic perspective, and finally comprehensively improve the comprehensive quality of students. Provide students with quality training that meets the needs of modern society (Drugova, E. A., 2020). "New liberal arts" as a systematic concept, standards and implementing system, is one of the core components of the development strategy of higher education in our country, as new liberal arts is in the original liberal arts based on the development, so its various aspects and closely related to the liberal arts education, is the new product of the liberal arts itself with the development of the new era and in line with the general requirements of the new era of higher education. In view of this, the basis and connotation of the construction of "new liberal arts" are inseparable from the development of higher education. The "new" of the new liberal arts is the "new" of innovation, but also the "new" of the old and the new, aiming at the innovation and development of college martial arts education, but also the correction of the original "old" problems, using the new methods of the new liberal arts to solve the old problems (Haiqing T, 2023).

2.2 The significance of the construction of "new liberal arts"

China's liberal arts education naturally has the historical heritage of the traditional culture of the Chinese nation, so we cannot simply equate the construction of China's new liberal arts with the reform of the western new liberal arts. It is widely believed in the academic circle that in 2017, Silam College in the United States took the lead in putting forward the concept of "new liberal arts" (Gao, H., 2020). "Their interpretation of new liberal arts is mainly professional reorganization, in which students of different majors break the boundaries of professional courses and conduct comprehensive interdisciplinary learning". However, the reform and innovation of the construction of new liberal arts in top-level design, strategic position, value-oriented, disciplinary integration mechanism and talent training mode have far exceeded the single level of interdisciplinary and cross-professional learning. Domestic scholars have made a great deal of theoretical exploration around the "new" of the new liberal arts, and refined the "Chinese characteristics" of the new liberal arts (Shim, B. K., 2020).

3. Analysis of the current situation of the construction of new liberal arts in colleges and universities

As an educational policy, the new liberal arts construction has many similarities with the previous major policies of higher education, but the higher education environment and pattern are different. The emergence of the concept of the new liberal arts, the mobilization of policies and practical actions are all influenced, supported or participated by the educational administrative departments to varying degrees, constituting a relatively complete line of action. Under the advocacy of government policies, some colleges and universities actively held or participated in different forms and names of the new liberal arts construction conference under the call of the competent education department, the reference committee of culture, Science and education, the new liberal arts construction working group of the Ministry of Education, to explore and exchange new liberal arts construction strategies, and made a series of results in theoretical research and practical exploration (Zhai, L., 2021).

Many colleges and universities have actively explored strategies for the construction of new liberal arts in combination with their own disciplinary characteristics and social development needs, and formulated documents for the construction of new liberal arts in their colleges and universities, focusing on the practice and exploration of the construction of new liberal arts in the aspects of specialty optimization, curriculum reform and education mode, and put forward

corresponding reform measures and construction strategies (Gao, J., 2021). For example, the Communication University of China explores the construction of a new liberal arts construction paradigm, which combines "arts, science and technology" with "humanities as the body, science and technology as the application and art as the law". East China Normal University explores the philosophy education path of "integrity innovation, value guidance, interdisciplinary, innovative thinking" in philosophy majors. Huazhong University of Science and Technology has opened up a new direction of network news communication by crossing journalism and information disciplines in a large span. Shandong University, through the construction of the General Education System 2.0 project, the new Liberal arts Education and Teaching Research Center, and the three-core driving mechanism of the liberal arts top-notch student training base, strengthens the five-in-one construction of "golden specialty", "golden course", teaching materials, practice and certification, actively promotes the certification of liberal arts majors, and establishes cross-college and interdisciplinary emerging liberal arts talent training projects. It aims to strengthen the cultivation of interdisciplinary talents in liberal arts. Proposing these quasi-modes provides valuable reference for our country's new liberal arts construction in colleges and universities (Pifer, M. J., 2019).

From the perspective of specific practice and exploration, universities mainly focus on the active exploration of the construction of new liberal arts from the perspective of talent training, emphasizing the cross-integration of disciplines or majors, opening new majors or new directions, exploring the construction of new fields, exploring the new paradigm of education, and actively integrating new technologies into the construction of disciplines and specialties (Gilyazova, O. S., 2020). The important significance of the construction of new liberal arts lies in "leading the discipline direction, responding to social concerns, adhering to the problem-oriented, breaking discipline barriers, and focusing on the exploration and practice of new majors or new directions, new models, new courses and new theories". In short, the exploration of new liberal arts construction in colleges and universities is mainly reflected in the "five new", that is, new mission, new talent, new discipline, new major and new paradigm (Mou, L., 2020).

4. Comparison between China and the West in the construction of New Liberal Arts in colleges and universities

The research status of new liberal arts construction abroad varies with different countries and regions. However, in many countries and regions, the construction of new liberal arts has become an important issue in higher education. This is because emerging social, economic and technological trends are transforming our culture and society and require new disciplines, methods and knowledge to cope with these changes. In the United States, the construction of new liberal arts has become an important issue in higher education. Many universities are adding new liberal arts courses, such as digital humanities, data science, sustainable development, and so on (Nishimura, M, 2023). These courses are designed to develop students' interdisciplinary abilities so that they can better cope with the challenges of modern society. In Europe, the construction of the new liberal arts is also widely concerned. Some countries and regions have begun to implement comprehensive cultural policies to support cultural innovation and creative industries (Jung, S, 2020). In addition, some European universities have begun to offer new liberal arts majors, such as cultural management and digital culture. The comparison of the construction of new liberal arts in colleges and universities between China and the West is shown in Table 1.

5. Major measures to promote the innovative development of the new liberal arts with Chinese characteristics

The construction of new liberal arts is an important trend in global higher education. All countries and regions are actively exploring new disciplines, methods and knowledge to meet the needs of modern society. The construction of new liberal arts in colleges and universities can turn its adaptation to the process of national and social development to lead, greatly break through the current development orientation of disciplines, and then establish a diversified and coordinated integrated talent training system (Rungruangthum, M., 2021). Therefore, the construction of the new liberal arts needs to rely on the understanding of the international situation of the relevant departments and experts, and effectively integrate the development framework of The Times and the theory and logic of the discipline, in order to form a more leading force of high-quality discipline pattern.

First, colleges and universities should deeply focus on the essence of the construction of new liberal arts, and build a systematic discipline construction and integration mechanism. Colleges and universities should take the guidance document of the Ministry of Education, PRC as a reference to build an on-campus and inter-campus exchange platform and carry scientific and powerful theoretical guidance for the construction of new liberal arts. In this process, the government should also actively play the role of macro coordination and strong clear guidance value, build a new program of

discipline construction, and introduce a new type of adaptive support system, to provide help for the firm cohesion of the will of the construction of the new liberal arts and long-term optimization. At the same time, the government and universities should also constantly examine the social development of the cultivation of liberal arts professionals; constantly adjust the state of new liberal arts research and educational practice, to lay a good foundation for the close connection between disciplines and practices (Saeed, B., 2021).

Table 1. Comparison of the construction of new liberal arts in universities between China and the West

No.	Item	West	China
1	Teaching model reform	Some foreign colleges and universities began to explore the reform of the new liberal arts teaching, trying to adopt diversified teaching methods, such as group discussion, project-based teaching, etc., in order to improve the teaching effect of the new liberal arts.	The teaching mode has changed from a single center of "teacher" to a dual center of "teacher + student", and the curriculum design has changed from a core of knowledge advancement to a focus on the connection between courses.
2	Curriculum and content update	In order to meet the needs of social change and development, many foreign universities have begun to update and adjust the new liberal arts curriculum to cover more abundant knowledge and skills, and explore new fields and new directions.	In the context of the new liberal arts, interdisciplinary integration is advocated, and methods and tools such as information technology are used in the context of integrated media to create elements in the teaching context, which is conducive to fully mobilizing information data, integrating educational resources, breaking knowledge barriers, and meeting the requirements of the new liberal arts education reform.
3	Innovation in personnel training mode	In order to meet the needs of social change and development, many foreign universities have begun to update and adjust the new liberal arts curriculum to cover more abundant knowledge and skills, and explore new fields and new directions.	Knowledge innovation is to better train talents, build a discourse system and discipline system of liberal arts with Chinese characteristics, and moral cultivation is the due meaning of the construction of new liberal arts in colleges and universities, but also an important mission of the existence of liberal arts in colleges and universities.
4	Interdisciplinary fusion research	The development trend of the new liberal arts is to develop towards interdisciplinary integration. For this reason, some foreign universities begin to cooperate in professional fields and carry out interdisciplinary research, such as humanities and social sciences and technology, business and sociology, etc.	Many universities across the country have realized the limitations of the liberal arts discipline model and actively explored research mechanisms conducive to interdisciplinary integration. All universities should give full play to their own advantages, learn from the successful experience of other interdisciplinary research institutions in domestic and foreign universities, actively explore various forms of interdisciplinary integration modes, and establish distinctive interdisciplinary research institutions of liberal arts.
5	International education	With the strengthening of the development trend of globalization, some foreign universities have begun to promote international education, providing new liberal arts students with a more open learning environment and broad vision, and helping them to develop a global mindset.	To realize liberal arts education in advance of change, positive response, initiative to change, constantly innovate the development of international economic and political theories, training more international vision, understand the international rules, on behalf of China's position, rich feelings of the country in need of talents.

Second, colleges and universities need to build a hierarchical pattern of new liberal arts construction, focusing on improving the quality of discipline development. The rapid changes of the social industrial pattern and the optimization of the national innovation system have put forward higher demands for the construction of new liberal arts majors and personnel training, and the differentiated and typed discipline research and education mode should also become the focus of the current construction of new liberal arts. Guided by their own discipline construction direction and educational

characteristics, colleges and universities should pay comprehensive attention to many practical problems in the social field, further optimize and improve the development effectiveness of the Chinese system and Chinese model, and constantly promote the scientific and pioneering development of disciplines (Liu X., 2021). At the same time, colleges and universities should always grasp the key point of teaching quality, integrate and reduce some disciplines that do not adapt to the development of The Times on the basis of comprehensively enhancing the quality of teachers and modernization of teaching practice, vigorously promote and carry forward the cross-field comprehensive new discipline research and continuous construction of teaching work, so as to provide the environment foundation for the excellent operation of the characteristic education discipline system (Shi-Nian, M. A., 2019).

Third, colleges and universities should constantly strengthen the humanistic characteristics of the new liberal arts, and on this basis to build a multiple comprehensive evaluation criteria. Several technological revolutions have brought abundant material foundation and endless development power to social production and life, but also increased the spiritual burden of the masses. The relationship between people and society is becoming more complex and fragile. The construction of new liberal arts provides an opportunity for The Times to correct the chaos. Therefore, colleges and universities should firmly adhere to the humanistic attributes of the new liberal arts, break the general tendency of seeking profits, integrate the inherent spirit of concern, criticism and reflection into a new round of discipline construction, rebuild the good situation of harmonious natural coexistence between human and society, and inject a fresh fresher into the modern social and cultural atmosphere (Yong M, 2021). In this process, colleges and universities need to systematically change the traditional teaching and learning evaluation methods of liberal arts, introduce non-quantitative multiple evaluation standards and practice system, and promote the long-term and steady development of the new liberal arts with flexible evaluation mode.

Fourth, gradually change the thinking mode of new liberal arts reform and construction. In the practice exploration of new liberal arts, Chinese colleges and universities tend to prefer to pursue a kind of reform and construction thinking, which presupposes that there will be development in every "reform", follows the inertia thinking of "reform must be good" and "reform is necessary", tracks and imitates the practice of similar colleges and universities intentionally or unintentionally, and advocates the development orientation of "no reform, will fall behind" (Vanderzwaag, J., 2021). Therefore, after the government departments put forward the strategy for the construction of new liberal arts, universities actively discuss, implement and follow up the relevant policies, and even treat it as a political task, which can be seen from the language expression of many universities on the construction of new liberal arts policy documents and research materials. In fact, the reform is neutral. It may be a successful reform or a failed reform (Gomez, J. T., 2021).

6. Conclusion

Although there is a "new" word in the construction of new liberal arts, it does not mean that we can completely separate the existing achievements of the construction of liberal arts in our country and in the universities all over the world in the process of the construction of new liberal arts, but in the face of the severe situation of economic and social development, especially the development of science and technology, through our innovation (innovation in thinking, innovation in content and innovation in methods), Let liberal arts inspire more powerful academic charm in the process of college talent training (Hu, T, 2022). The liberal arts have a strong ideological nature, which we need to be more clear about it. That is to say, when carrying out the construction of new liberal arts, colleges and universities should absorb the experience and lessons of other countries in the world, but also based on the actual needs of China's social development, train talents for the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics, innovate our national culture, obtain a powerful voice, and point out the direction for the progress of world civilization and provide the basis for progress.

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