

# Construction of Interlocking Ethnic Communities Under the Theory of Actor Network: A Practical Approach of Honghe Town in Jiaxing City

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**Abstract:** With the phenomenon of multi-ethnic cohabitation becoming more and more common, how to effectively promote the communication and integration between different ethnic groups to achieve national unity and common prosperity has become an important topic of social governance. Taking Honghe Town of Jiaxing city as a case study, this paper discusses the goal progression, character change and practice path of constructing interlocking ethnic communities based on actor network theory(ANT). The study found that Honghe Town effectively promoted the communication and integration of different ethnic groups and enhanced the residents' sense of social identity and belonging through measures such as the guidance of community building, economic integration, cultural integration and social governance innovation. This paper proposes an interlocking ethnic community construction model based on the ANT, which provides valuable reference for other multi-ethnic communities and has important theoretical and practical significance for promoting national unity and progress and realizing common prosperity

**Keywords:** Actor Network Theory; Interlocking Ethnic Communities; Ethnic Working Mode

## 1. Introduction

Since 2014, when putting forward the proposition of "promoting the establishment of a social structure and community environment in which all ethnic groups are embedded, and promoting the exchange and integration of all ethnic groups" in Xin jiang, the concept of ethnic embedment has been comprehensively

developed. This concept emphasizes the gradual realization of all ethnic groups in the spatial, cultural, economic, social, psychological and other aspects of the all-dimensional embedding, pointing out the direction of ethnic work in the new era. Actor-Network Theory [1], developed by Bruno Latour and others in the mid-to-late 1980s, provides us with a powerful tool for understanding and promoting the development of interwoven ethnic communities. The core of ANT lies in actors, networks and translation, which provide a unique perspective for us to analyze and construct interwoven ethnic communities. In the construction of interlocking ethnic communities, the actors include not only individuals and groups of different nationalities, but also non-human actors such as cultural, economic, social and psychological actors. These actors are interconnected through networks, forming a complex social structure [2]. Through the mechanism of translation, that is, the interaction and communication between actors, understanding and integration between different peoples can be promoted, thus promoting the common development of the community environment. Applying ANT to the construction of interwoven ethnic communities means valuing the role of every actor, individual or collective, human or non-human element. By building an inclusive network that facilitates interaction and translation among different national actors, mutual understanding can be deepened, cultural identity enhanced, economic benefits shared, social harmony achieved, and a shared sense of belonging built at the psychological level. Such all-round embedding can not only promote exchanges and integration among ethnic groups, but also provide a solid social foundation for national

unity and progress. Thus, the theory of network of actors provides us with a framework to understand and promote the development of interwoven ethnic communities and to achieve the goals of ethnic work.

## **2. Analysis on the Actors of Constructing Interlocking Community Ethnic Community in Honghe Town**

In the process of constructing interlocking community ethnic communities, the ANT provides a powerful analytical framework to reveal its internal structure and interaction process [3]. This theory emphasizes that the formation and development of interwoven communities is not an isolated phenomenon, but is driven by a complex and elaborate network of multiple actors, such as government, community organizations, individual residents, market forces, media and information platforms. Through multiple mechanisms such as policy guidance, resource allocation, cultural exchange and social mobilization, this network has jointly shaped the unique appearance of an interwoven community.

As the core actor, the Honghe town government is faced with the problem of how to unite and harmoniously among the multi-ethnic groups and how to develop the local economy. By formulating and implementing a series of ethnic policies and community governance strategies, Honghe Town government has provided macroscopic guidance and institutional guarantee for the construction of interwoven community ethnic community. It is not only the policy maker, but also the resource allocation, through financial investment, infrastructure construction and other means, to inject impetus into community development, promote economic integration and cultural exchanges between different ethnic groups. These efforts of the Hong Ho Government have provided a platform for cooperation among other actors in the community and laid a solid foundation for interwoven community development.

Community organizations act as Bridges and ties, eager to create a harmonious social environment and improve the happiness and satisfaction of all residents. Therefore, they

actively responded to the Honghe government's call to translate policy intentions into concrete community actions. By organizing a variety of ethnic cultural activities, volunteer service projects, and education and training, Honghe community organizations not only promote exchanges and interactions among Honghe residents, but also deepen their sense of identity and belonging to the ethnic community. At the same time, Honghe community organization also actively coordinated and solved the contradictions and conflicts in the community, maintained the harmony and stability of the community, and created a good social environment for the development of the interwoven community.

## **3. The Process of Constructing the Network of Actors in Constructing the Interlocking Community Ethnic Community in Honghe Town**

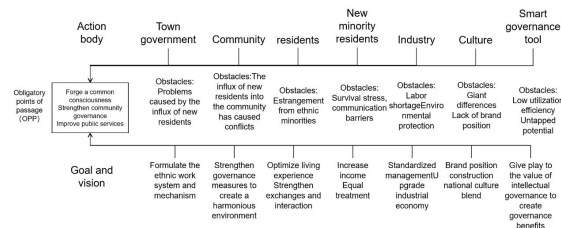
"Translation" is to take the position of role definition, explain the network connection, reveal and manifest the mechanism of action of the actor's functional role. In order to realize the construction of interwoven community in Honghe Town and satisfy the goals and interests of various actors, it is necessary to realize translation in the network to remove obstacles. The continuous translation of the interests of various actors ensures the stability of the network, including four links: problem presentation, interest conferring, recruitment and mobilization.

Problem presentation is the first step of "translation". The identification of key actors and their problemization are the basis for the synthesis and unity of the interests of the activist. this process is the establishment of obligatory passage points (OPP). Each actor forms a network alliance of actors around the forced crossing point and their own interests, and in the process of realizing their own goals, they will face differentiation problems or obstacles.

### **3.1 Problem Presentation and OPP Settings**

In the process of building an interlocking community ethnic community, the influx of new residents has caused various problems for the Honghe Town government, including but not limited to the difficulty of integration of new residents themselves and the loss of local

residents. It is necessary to overcome the difficulties to achieve national unity and social stability. The influx of a large number of residents has caused new conflicts in the community. How to establish a harmonious community environment and improve residents' happiness has become a major problem [4]. The gap between local residents and minority residents is inevitable, and the need to improve the quality of life and safeguard their own rights and interests is very urgent. Facing the unfamiliar living environment, the new local residents themselves are faced with great difficulties in integration, the survival pressure increases, and the living standard needs to be improved. As a characteristic industry, the sustainable development of Honghe sweater industry is an important and difficult point. The fusion of new and old residents will inevitably bring about the collision between cultures, and how to realize cultural integration becomes a difficult problem; How to make more efficient use of intellectual governance tools has also become an issue that all parties need to consider. In order to solve the relevant problems of the various actors and realize their own interests, the Honghe Town government, as the core actor, put forward the common goal of "building common consciousness, strengthening community governance, and improving public services" as a mandatory passing point to ensure that the various actors achieve benefit conferment under their guidance and lay the foundation for recruitment and mobilization. Only by solving the above problems and setting reasonable governance goals according to the core problems faced by different actors, that is, completing the establishment of mandatory passage points, can the network construction truly enter the action stage. The setting of obligatory points of passage is show in Figure 1.



**Figure 1. Setting of Obligatory Points of Passage**

### 3.2 Benefit Conferring

Interest conferring is not only a mechanism of interest coordination among various actors in the construction of interlocking community national community in Honghe Town, but also a means for the core actors to stabilize other actors. In the benefit conferring stage, it is not only necessary to emphasize the appeal identification and consensus definition of all actors involved in the construction of the interlocking community national community in Honghe Town, but also to clarify the due responsibilities of all actors. The coordination and balance of power, responsibility and interest demarcates the boundaries and norms of action ideologically. Governments and communities, as core actors, play a significant role in this process. Government actors concerned about the realization of social welfare, social stability, economic development, must perfect the establishment of ethnic work system and mechanism. In the field of education, the government has launched a new resident point system, which will be dynamically adjusted according to economic and social development and population service management needs, so as to improve the level of public service guarantee for new residents and meet the needs of absorbing new residents. In terms of housing rental, the government implements housing rental subsidies for new residents and also carries out the construction of resettlement houses, which solves many problems for residents' housing [5]. The government has also built and developed the "neighborhood center" one-stop service work, the neighborhood center aims to provide residents with "one-stop" life service facilities, covering business, culture, sports, health, education, elderly care and other functions. Specifically, these centers not only include basic living service facilities, but also may include special services such as family banquet centers and wedding services.

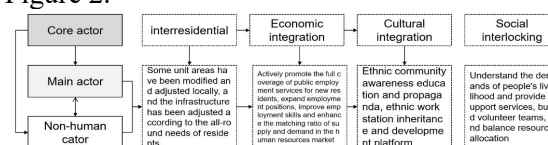
### 3.3 Recruitment and Mobilization

The recruitment and mobilization process emphasizes the construction of strategies and the establishment of security mechanisms, and fully mobilizes the enthusiasm of the actors through the recruitment, so that they can fully participate in the construction of the interwoven community ethnic community in

Honghe Town. Government departments, as the key initiating, guiding, supervising and managing body of the construction of the interwoven community ethnic community in Honghe Town, formulate a comprehensive governance system, including but not limited to employment, education, culture, medical care, and living security. The community follows the call of the town government and adopts governance measures to provide convenience for local residents and a few new residents. Exchanges between the local population and the minority new residents also contribute to community building. The government of Honghe Town constructed the national position to strengthen the mutual blending among the various ethnic groups. First of all, the government has established multi-form and multi-channel activity positions such as "garnet red" homes, "Garnet red" post stations, "Garnet red" studios and ethnic co-rich workshops, aiming to carry out the work of national unity and progress in an all-round way. In addition, the Honghe Town government has also innovatively launched the "1352+" garnet national unity and progress creation project to further strengthen national unity by creating a demonstration belt for the inheritance of Chinese excellent traditional culture and casting a strong sense of Chinese national community. At the same time, Xiuzhou District makes use of ethnic homes in various towns (streets) and ethnic service stations in various villages (communities) to strengthen the publicity of ethnic policies, laws and regulations, such as the "Ethnic Home" launched in Honghe Town, which covers an area of 1,100 square meters and has functional blocks such as ethnic life exhibition hall, ethnic culture publicity gallery and ethnic activity room. These measures not only enhance the sense of gain of compatriots of all ethnic groups, but also promote all ethnic groups to hold together like pomegranate seeds and jointly build a harmonious society. Xiuzhou District pays attention to arresting teams, activities and positions, and carries out publicity work on the rule of law of ethnic minorities, among which Wu Meiju and Che Jianguo are excellent volunteers for law popularization. Their participation has popularized and promoted the concept of rule of law in minority areas, which helps to build the foundation of a society governed by law.

The construction of Wu Meiju and Che Jianguo's studio is not only a recognition of individual ability, but also an affirmation of multicultural integration and social governance innovation. The successful operation of these studios has a profound impact on promoting local economic development, enhancing national unity and improving the quality of life of residents.

In the construction of the interlocking community ethnic community in Honghe Town, various actors took the common goal of "building common consciousness, strengthening community governance, and improving public services" as a compulsory crossing point, and formed an ethnic community of "residential interlocking", "social interlocking", "economic interlocking" and "cultural interlocking" while meeting their own demands. The path of Honghe town's interlocking the ethnic community is show in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. Honghe Town Interlocking Community Ethnic Community Path**

#### 4. The Interlocking Community Ethnic Community Path of Honghe

##### 4.1 By Creating a Livable Environment, Strengthen Residential Interoperability

Through strengthening the urban planning, strengthen the community living interlocking. Jiaying Honghe Town implements the "1+x" layout mode, which is mainly aimed at the overall land use planning and community layout planning. During the planning period, Honghe Town conducts the village layout planning according to the "1+x" layout mode, dividing the new community into new town community (including urban community) and urban and rural integrated new community, and forming the overall "1+8" two new community layout. In addition, Honghe Town has planned an urban and rural living circle system, including one urban "15-minute life circle" and six rural "15-minute life circle", to improve the quality of life of residents. In order to further optimize urban planning and scientifically guide urban construction, Honghe Town has also made local

modifications and adjustments to some unit areas. These plans aim to rationalize land resources, improve community functions, and provide better living conditions for different ethnic groups. By strengthening the construction of infrastructure, we will strengthen the integration of community housing. According to the needs of residents, we will strengthen the construction of leisure and service facilities, promote the construction of sports parks and outdoor sports facilities, and improve the quality of people's lives. Reduce the blind spot areas of leisure places or facilities, for example, set up outdoor theaters, children's playgrounds and other facilities in parks to meet the needs of different age groups. At the same time, we will develop monopoly leasing of leisure products to meet the growing demand of the people for sports and fitness.

#### **4.2 Strengthen Economic Integration by Strengthening Employment Security**

Promoting the full employment of ethnic minorities is the top priority of ethnic work [6]. Honghe Town takes the same wealth as the goal, strengthens the employment service of new residents. Strengthen economic interpenetration by creating a cross-regional enclave sweater economic model. With 70,000 new residents as the fulcrum, Honghe Town connects all parts of the country with the sweater industry in series, and realizes the cross-regional enclave sweater economic model. First, it provides a platform for young people to start businesses through the network, and transmits the sweater production and supply information to the global network in real time, constructing a huge digital supply and demand network; Second, it provides a platform for people in remote and backward areas to get rich through modern logistics. About one-third of the physical shops in Honghe Town are operated by new residents, most of whom come from western minority areas and remote and backward areas. They are connected by family affection and nostalgia, and take advantage of the characteristics of distributed sweater production and the fast advantage of modern logistics. Taking the way to extend the tentacles of sweater production to poor areas and minority areas provides a fresh case for promoting the common prosperity of people of all ethnic groups in the country. Strengthen economic integration through job

creation [7]. We will actively develop industries and enterprises with strong ability to create jobs, and build a whole industrial chain of upstream and downstream linkages. Improve the matching ratio of supply and demand in the human resource market, establish a human resource platform, strengthen employment detection and investigation, and dynamically collect vacancy information [8]. Strengthen economic integration by upgrading the employability skills of ethnic minorities. Honghe Town actively carries out the "garnet red" technology special training project, taking the needs of ethnic groups as the starting point, to provide targeted training, to help them master a skill, such as Honghe town through ethnic singing and dancing skills, standard Mandarin and other training, gradually improve the comprehensive quality of various ethnic groups. According to the results of the group's preliminary research and interview on "The comparison of family income before and after Honghe Town", most of the relocated ethnic minority compatriots came to Honghe Town, through the local characteristic industry of Honghe Town - sweater processing and sales, promoted the cross-class promotion of family income, and personal and family annual income has been greatly improved. The exchange and integration of various nationalities and different cultures is an important basis for promoting the development of interwoven community ethnic work. We should strengthen cultural interpenetration by carrying out education and publicity activities on the consciousness of community of the Chinese nation. Through the formation of propaganda teams, networking, discussion and exchange activities, Honghe Town continues to carry out education and publicity activities in the construction of public culture to forge a strong sense of community of the Chinese nation, accelerate the establishment of a common spiritual bond of interwoven communities, enhance the sense of belonging and identity of the masses, and establish a "home" for exchanges and cooperation among various ethnic groups. We will strengthen cultural integration by inheriting and blending the cultural customs of different ethnic groups. Honghe Town pays attention to the intermingling of various ethnic cultures and customs, such as the innovative establishment

of "Wuyue Embroidery Workshop", "Confucius School" and "Hehe Hengjing" and other ethnic culture inheritance and development platforms, and has carried out more than 100 folk cultural activities to guide compatriots of all ethnic groups to interact and blend in cultural exchanges. Honghe Town actively builds a public space for cultural exchange among various ethnic groups, propagates the ethnic culture of the community through the construction of community complex and the organization of ethnic unity literary and artistic activities, and promotes the communication among various ethnic groups in the community from the cultural level.

#### **4.3 Strengthen Cultural Interpenetration by Increasing Emotional Identification**

The Exchange and Integration of Various Nationalities and Different Cultures Is an Important Basis for Promoting the Development of Interwoven Community Ethnic Work.

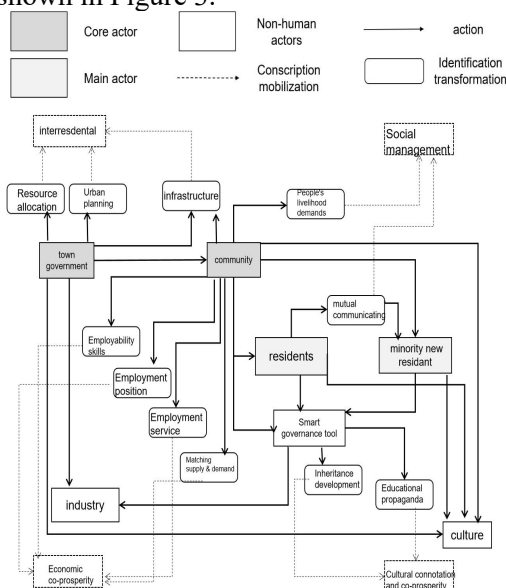
We should strengthen cultural interpenetration by carrying out education and publicity activities on the consciousness of community of the Chinese nation.[9] Through the formation of propaganda teams, networking, discussion and exchange activities, Honghe Town continues to carry out education and publicity activities in the construction of public culture to forge a strong sense of community of the Chinese nation, accelerate the establishment of a common spiritual bond of interwoven communities, enhance the sense of belonging and identity of the masses, and establish a "home" for exchanges and cooperation among various ethnic groups. We will strengthen cultural integration by inheriting and blending the cultural customs of different ethnic groups. Honghe Town pays attention to the intermingling of various ethnic cultures and customs, such as the innovative establishment of "Wuyue Embroidery Workshop", "Confucius School" and "Hehe Hengjing" and other ethnic culture inheritance and development platforms, and has carried out more than 100 folk cultural activities to guide compatriots of all ethnic groups to interact and blend in cultural exchanges. Honghe Town actively builds a public space for cultural exchange among various ethnic groups, propagates the ethnic culture of the community through the construction of

community complex and the organization of ethnic unity literary and artistic activities, and promotes the communication among various ethnic groups in the community from the cultural level.[10] Through building cultural brands with local characteristics, we should strengthen cultural interpenetration. Honghe Town has set up the "Meihonghe" cultural and art troupe, side by side with the backbone of literature and art and folk artists from various villages, enterprises and institutions, and participated in more than 800 various activities. At the same time, adhere to the characteristics of the construction of cultural auditoriums, such as Jianbei Village to build a "North Yuejiajun" cultural brand. In-depth implementation of the cultural and tourism integration project, invest a large amount of funds for the construction of scenic villages and the development of cultural and tourism projects, at the same time by holding activities such as the Ewha Festival, the photography, intangible cultural heritage, script killing and other formats embedded in the rural tourism economy, to promote the integration of agriculture, culture and tourism.

#### **4.4 Strengthen Social Integration by Reforming the Governance System**

By creating a good atmosphere for people of all ethnic groups to be one family, we will strengthen social integration. Honghe Town cultivates voluntary service organizations to promote ethnic unity, encourages and supports compatriots of all ethnic groups to take the initiative to participate in volunteer services, sets up the Xiushui "Garnet red" volunteer service team, and extensively carries out public welfare activities such as publicity and education of ethnic unity and progress, safety patrol, epidemic prevention and control, liaison and friendship, and art performances, and vigorously creates a good atmosphere for people of all ethnic groups to help each other and fraternization. Through the balanced distribution of education and medical resources, we will strengthen social integration. The town committee and government carefully planned and implemented the balanced optimization project of new resident resources. In the field of education, it ensures that school-age children of new resident families can enjoy nearby, convenient and affordable kindergarten services, implements the New Deal of "nearby

enrollment" for compulsory education in Honghe Town, launches the expansion project of Intong Primary School, and is committed to promoting the full popularization of high school education. In terms of health, we will strengthen the rural and community health service system, improve the quality of primary medical services, and provide new residents with the same health protection as the registered population in key areas such as infectious disease prevention and control, child vaccination, and maternal and child health care. A health care center project covering an area of 3,000 square meters is planned, aiming to closely integrate elderly care services with medical resources, and provide new residents with more convenient, efficient and comprehensive health care services. The Construction framework of interlocking community and ethnic community network is shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3. Construction Framework of Interlocking Community Ethnic Community Network in Honghe Town**

**5. Conclusions**

Taking Honghe Town of Jiaying City as a case study, this paper uses the ANT to deeply analyze the goal progression, character change and practice path of constructing interlocking ethnic communities. The results show that Honghe Town has effectively promoted the communication and integration of different ethnic groups and enhanced the residents' sense of social identity and belonging through measures such as the guidance of Meconomic

intermingling, cultural intermingling and social governance innovation [11]. This practice provides valuable reference for other multi-ethnic communities and has important theoretical and practical significance for promoting national unity and progress and realizing common prosperity. The case of Honghe Town shows the application potential of the ANT in the construction of ethnic communities. By building inclusive networks that facilitate interaction and translation among different national actors, mutual understanding can be deepened, cultural identity enhanced, economic benefits shared, social harmony achieved, and a shared sense of belonging built at the psychological level. This kind of all-round embedding not only promotes the exchanges and integration among ethnic groups, but also provides a solid social foundation for national unity and progress. In the future, Honghe Town and similar multi-ethnic communities need to continue to pay attention to the dynamic changes of the network of actors, and timely adjust and optimize policies and measures to adapt to the changing social environment and residents' needs in the process of continuing to deepen the construction of interwoven communities. At the same time, we should further strengthen the research of ANT and explore more applications in ethnic community governance to achieve more efficient and harmonious community development. In short, the practice of Honghe Town provides useful experience and inspiration for the construction of interwoven ethnic communities, and has important reference value for promoting ethnic work in the new era.

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