

A Literature Review on the Identification of Socialist Core Values

Yangyang Fan*

School of Shenzhen Institute of Information Technology, Shenzhen 518172, Guangdong Province, China

*Corresponding author: Yangyang Fan, 1156680295@qq.com

Copyright: © 2024 Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), permitting distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.

Abstract: Socialist core values are the concentrated expression and highly condensed values of the state, society, and individuals. They are also the embodiment of the values and spiritual consensus and pursuit in the life of the state and society. This article analyzes and summarizes the research results on the identification of socialist core values in China in recent years, mainly sorting out aspects such as the significance of identification, the dialectical relationship between identification and practice, differences in identification levels among different groups, and paths to enhance identification. Finally, suggestions for further deepening future research are proposed.

Keywords: Socialist core values; Identification; Practice

Online publication: September 30, 2024

1. Introduction

The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed advocating prosperity, democracy, civility, and harmony; advocating freedom, equality, justice, and the rule of law; advocating patriotism, dedication, integrity, and friendliness, actively cultivating and practicing socialist core values. The socialist core values integrate the essence of Chinese excellent traditional cultures, embody the value pursuit of Chinese socialist culture, and become a powerful spiritual force leading the construction of Chinese-style modernization and promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. “Widely practicing socialist core values” is a timely proposition and strategic task proposed at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party. In recent years, there have been a considerable number of studies on socialist core values in China. Searching on CNKI with “socialist core values” as the keyword retrieves over 92,500 articles, and searching by title retrieves over 29,000 articles. Chinese scholars have actively conducted research from multiple disciplines, perspectives, aspects, directions, and phases around the core values and have achieved a large number of research results with significant reference values. Especially with the condensation of the “Three Advocates,” the proposal of the “Two Transformations,” and the issuance of a series of reports and policies, academic research on core values has reached a climax. Among them, a large number of literature focuses on theoretical explanations, historical origins, practice reports, and survey research on the identification, nurturing, and practice of socialist core values.

After the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party, based on its innovative theory, new research results have been achieved in the dissemination, cultivation, integration, and extensive practice of socialist core values. Searching for articles on the research of “identification of socialist core values” retrieves about 8,820 articles, and searching by article title retrieves about 1,400 articles. The identification of socialist core values is the premise and driving force for practice. This article looks back on the research of socialist values identification, grasps the status quo of identification, explores the path of identification, and accumulates strength for nurturing and practicing socialist core values in the new journey.

2. Overview of domestic academic research on the identification of socialist core values

2.1. Identification of core values is an important source of national cohesion and spiritual support

If a country lacks its unique core values, it will be difficult to gain recognition internally and unify the will of the society; in external exchanges, it is impossible to take the initiative in propaganda and occupy the moral high ground. Therefore, scholars pay high attention to the research on the identification of socialist core values. Luan and Li ^[1] believed that the core values carry the core value pursuits commonly recognized by a nation, which is the soul of a country and a nation, and it is related to what flag to hold and what road to take. Sui ^[2] from Beijing Normal University also pointed out that core values need to be universally recognized by members of society, otherwise it will lose its social psychological foundation and fail to play the role of consensus building and promoting social development. Guiding the whole society to actively identify and practice socialist core values can gather strength to promote the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which is related to the stability of the country. This has important significance for the times. These research results have laid the foundation for research on the identification of socialist core values.

2.2. Research on the dialectical relationship between the identification and practice of socialist core values

The formation process of any kind of ideology and values is a dialectical development process of knowledge, emotion, intention, faith, and action. Knowledge, emotion, intention, and faith belong to the category of identification, and actions refer to practice. Identity is the prerequisite for practicing, and practicing must be based on identification. Domestic scholars generally believe that the most important condition for nurturing and practicing socialist core values is identification. In the study by Mo ^[3], value identification is the logical starting point for cultivating and practicing socialist core values. Liu ^[4] believed that identification and practice are dialectical and unified relationships, identity is the foundation and key, and practice is the standard and purpose. Lin ^[5] also pointed out that the cultivation and practice of socialist core values are a process of identification, which should progress from “theoretical identification” to “emotional identification,” and then to “behavioral identification.” Yunshan Liu ^[6] suggested that the cultivation of core values lies in the unity of knowledge and practice, and it is only through internal recognition that one can consciously practice them.

2.3. Research on the connotation of identification with socialist core values in different dimensions

Regarding the connotation of the identification of socialist core values, scholars have conducted in-depth research from different dimensions and achieved fruitful results. Sui ^[2] proposed that the identification of socialist core values is mainly social-level identification, and its essence is a kind of value identification. Based

on the institutional cultural perspective, Haiying Luo ^[7] believed that emotional identification is the main constituent element and the most authentic expression of practice and realization of socialist core values. From a psychological perspective, Cao ^[8] affirmed that fostering college students' psychological identification with socialist core values is a powerful guarantee for maintaining China's ideological security; while Jianxin Guo ^[9] suggested strengthening the moral identification of the socialist core value system; Deyong Kong ^[10] believed the key to practicing socialist core values is to solve the political identity with the Party and the government; Jian Hu ^[11] also believed that citizen's political identification is key to the construction of the socialist core value system, and so on. There are also scholars who directly put forward the path of identity. Yan and Wu ^[12] proposed that the internal logic of the transformation of socialist core values identification should progress in a wave-like and upward spiral direction of cognitive identity–emotional identity–volitional identity–behavioral identity. Overall, scholars are gradually expanding the theoretical construction of identification, interpreting it from multiple disciplines such as political science, sociology, and psychology, which greatly enriches the theoretical basis of identification of socialist core values.

2.4. Differences in the identification of socialist core values among different groups

2.4.1. Youth college student groups

In the new era, young college students shoulder the heavy responsibility of building a modernized socialist country and national rejuvenation. Their identification, acceptance, and practice of socialist core values directly affect the promotion and practice of the theories, principles, systems, and cultures of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Therefore, many scholars have studied the socialist core values of young college students, including the current status of identification, cultivation paths, etc.

In terms of the current identification status, Mo's empirical survey of 3,130 college students from 20 different types of universities in the Yangtze River Delta region found that the overall identification of core values among young students is generally good and at a high level ^[3]. Chen *et al.* also found that the new generation of college students has a high identification posture towards socialist core values, but there are still some problems such as fragmented cognitive identification, shallow cognition of some contents, passive identification, and virtualization of identification ^[13]. Research by Xin Chen ^[14] from the Center for Ideological and Political Education at Northeast Normal University also pointed out that the current dilemma of college students' identification with socialist core values includes lack of understanding in cognition, lack of resonance in emotions, lack of self-awareness in behavior, etc. Summarizing the current research, it is found that young Chinese college students have a good degree of identification with socialist core values, but influenced by their own growth environment, era characteristics, and diverse cultural trends, there are still a number of problems, which need to be educated and guided urgently.

Scholars have explored and proposed paths to enhance the identification of young college students. Mo proposed constructing an educational network channel combining society, school, family, and individuals ^[3]. Moreover, Xueqin Yang ^[15] put forward the strategy of strengthening the long-term mechanism and path for the identification of socialist core values among college students through enhancing the subject's self-consciousness, campus culture, organizational education, and family education. Xu and Zhang ^[16] proposed to establish the main channel of ideology and politics, build practical teaching bases, optimize the teacher team, and implement the system of all-member cultivating people under the background of "ideological and political education+." Plus, Leng ^[17] proposed strengthening the education of student identification with socialist core values by leveraging the advantages of new media technology and the circle effect of new media, strengthening the literacy education of new media, establishing new media activity carriers, etc. These studies have important

practical significance for enhancing the identification of socialist core values among college students.

2.4.2. Non-college student groups

In the research on the identification of socialist core values, a few scholars have focused on non-college student groups. For example, Guowei Wang^[18] conducted research on the identification of socialist core values among farmer groups; Yafeng Zhao^[19] researched the identification of grassroots party cadres; Yan Wang^[20] studied the identification of socialist core values among external migrant workers. Effectively guiding and educating farmers to become true leaders in rural development and revitalization, helping Party members and cadres uphold their principles and stay resolute when facing confusion and temptation, and ensuring that external workers feel secure and develop a sense of belonging all require enhancing the recognition and understanding of socialist core values among various social groups.

2.5. Research on the connotation and logical structure of socialist core values is relatively weak

When searching CNKI with “connotation of socialist core values” as the title, there are only about 190 articles, and most of them do not provide specific and detailed explanations of the 24-word socialist core values. Gao^[21] from Fudan University argued for the unity and transcendence of socialist core values based on the viewpoint of Marxist historical materialism. Guiying Zhao^[22] from the Institute of Marxism at Southwest Jiaotong University summarized the characteristics of the connotation from three aspects: historical, hierarchical, and value. He and Li^[23] viewed “people-oriented,” “common prosperity,” and “fairness and justice” as the basic connotations of socialist core values. Liu^[24] talked about the basic connotations of socialist core values from the perspective of national value goals, social value orientations, and personal value criteria in a vague manner. In addition, some studies focus on individual aspects^[25-28].

Currently, although there are a considerable number of papers and works on the research of socialist core values, most of them focus on peripheral development aspects, such as significance, status, education, and construction. The research on the interpretation of the internal connotation and logical structure of socialist core values itself is relatively weak, still staying at superficial theoretical indoctrination, which leads to uneven levels of identification.

3. Brief overview of foreign academic research on socialist core values

Due to the unique creation of socialist core values by the Communist Party of China, coupled with differences in political systems, few foreign scholars conducted research on socialist core values. However, it does not mean that Western countries do not attach any importance to the study of core values at the social level. In the West, whether governments or education departments, intellectuals or ordinary citizens, they all advocate value pluralism. This concept is already deeply rooted in people’s hearts and is the product of the long-term development of Western history and culture. American scholar Thomas Lickona first proposed the concept of “core values.” Measurement of core values is also a key element in the research of Western scholars, and they believe that simple indicators cannot objectively and effectively measure a person’s values. Liu^[29] summarized four types of measurement scales used by Western scholars in his master’s thesis: measurement scale of value, personal value scale, value scale, and value survey. All of them are based on the guiding principles of listing a number of goals and behaviors so that the subjects can do the sequential ranking according to their own judgment. In terms of fostering core values, Western scholars have proposed many distinctive and practical models, which can be summarized as the “value clarification” model, the “social action” model, and the “role

model demonstration” model. One of the more famous models is “value clarification,” which emphasizes that the cultivation of core values must abandon traditional simple indoctrination methods and focus on helping young people clarify the values hidden in their spiritual world. The process of such clarification is also the process by which people enhance their identification and practice of their own values.

Foreign scholars pay great attention to the role of “identification” in their studies, and the study of it involves almost all fields of social sciences, such as psychoanalysis, psychology, philosophy, and sociology. Austrian scholar Freud first proposed the category of “identification” and used it to study group psychology. The German sociologist Jurgen Habermas^[30] mentioned identification many times in his study of the conditions under which individual interaction behaviors can be sustained, he also emphasized that achieving identification in some aspects is the goal of understanding between the two parties in communication. In summary, whether in China or abroad, the research results on the core values are very rich. Although the political systems are different between domestic and foreign countries, the research on core values has similarities. The Western research on measurement methods and the mode of identification and cultivation provides a theoretical basis and reference for this research topic.

4. Breakthroughs in the research on the identification of socialist core values

As the core of the socialist core value system, the research on the identification of socialist core values is not only related to the consolidation of socialist ideology but also directly affects social harmony and stability. Generally, the research on the connotation of identification with socialist core values can be summarized as feeling experience, structural analysis, internalization processes, etc.; the influencing factors of identification include individual aspects such as age, gender, education background, occupation, as well as social factors such as the level of economic development, political system, cultural traditions, public opinion environment, etc.; the exploration of paths to enhance identification mainly focuses on young college students groups, and highlighting the combined role of education guidance, cultural environment, institutional guarantees, social practices, schools, and families. Currently, domestic scholars have made considerable progress in the research on the identification of socialist core values, which has provided strong support for nurturing and practicing socialist core values in society. However, the research still needs to be further deepened and breakthroughs made in the theoretical construction of identification, measurement indicators of identification status, and the impact of emerging factors such as digital technology.

4.1. Focusing on the interpretation of the connotation and logical structure with socialist core values

Socialist core values are the value expression of the path, theory, and system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, reflecting the “greatest common divisor” of values recognized by all ethnic groups in the country, and possessing strong theoretical charm. However, as there are differences in the characteristics of various social groups, some people still lack a deep understanding of the connotation of socialist core values. A deep understanding of the connotations of the elements of socialist core values is the basic condition for enhancing the identification of socialist core values among people from all walks of life. At present, whether at the national policy level or the academic research level, the theoretical interpretation of the elements’ connotations of socialist core values is not clear enough. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a theoretical interpretation mechanism that conforms to the cognitive characteristics and thinking patterns of the public. Academic research should comprehensively utilize the knowledge of philosophy, ideological and political education, psychology, and sociology to systematically expound on the connotations of the elements of socialist

core values. In this way, abstract socialist core values can transform into educational content that facilitates easy understanding, wide acceptance, and intellectual identification by the public.

4.2. Deepening research on the measurement index system of identification

Currently, there are differences in the identification of socialist core values among different social groups.

Precisely grasping people's cognitive levels, emotional tendencies, and behavioral practices of socialist core values can help to promptly discover and resolve identification crises, enhance the effectiveness and pertinence of education guidance, and promote socialist core values to be more deeply rooted in people's hearts, which can become a powerful force for consolidating social consensus and leading social trends. However, the current research methods on the identification status of socialist core values are relatively single, mainly focusing on questionnaire surveys. In the future, research should explore more scientific and systematic measurement index systems, including selecting more representative samples, using diversified measurement methods (such as interviews, observations, etc.), and constructing scientific statistical models. By constructing an identification degree measurement evaluation system, we can realize quantitative assessment and dynamic monitoring of the identification status of socialist core values, which can provide the scientific basis for policy formulation and practical guidance.

4.3. Emphasis on the impact of digital technology on identification research

The digital and intelligent era has brought new opportunities and challenges to the research on the identification of socialist core values. Academic scholars should keep pace with the times, attach great importance to the influence of digital technology factors in identification research, and try innovative research methods to help establish effective mechanisms for practical transformation. Identification research on socialist core values should emphasize innovation in identification mechanisms driven by technology, which includes the use of advanced technologies such as big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, etc. Through using these advanced technologies, it can realize accurate analysis and optimization of the identification status, identification process, and effects of nurturing and practicing socialist core values. Through analyzing user behavior with big data, we can understand the identification levels and confusion of different groups towards socialist core values, and formulate more precise nurturing strategies. In the research on the identification path of socialist core values, emphasis is put on the changes in communication and education methods brought about by technological innovation. For example, we can try to use social media platforms such as Weibo, WeChat, and short videos, as well as various online education platforms and digital museums to display the connotation and value of socialist core values vividly. We can also introduce advanced technologies such as intelligent teaching systems, virtual reality, and augmented reality to provide more personalized and immersive learning experiences, which can stimulate people's interest and motivation to learn socialist core values.

Funding

Shenzhen Institute of Information Technology, 2022 University-Level Doctoral and Master Research Support Project (The First Batch) "Research on the Status and Countermeasures of Youth Identification on Socialist Core Values from the Perspective of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" (SZIIT2022SK037)

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

References

- [1] Luan Y, Li Q, 2023, The Basic Essence, Theoretical Realm and Practical Picture of Xi Jinping's Important Exposition on Cultivating Core Values. *Journal of Shaanxi Administrative College*, 37(04): 25–34.
- [2] Sui L, Li X, 2021, The Recognition Mechanism of Socialist Core Values among College Students. *Beijing Education (Moral Education)*, (02): 16–21.
- [3] Mo S, 2021, An Empirical Study on the Status Quo of College Students' Identification with Socialist Core Values. *Journal of Zhejiang Normal University (Social Science Edition)*, 46(06): 103–112.
- [4] Liu Z, 2012, Research on College Students' Identity and Practice of Socialist Core Values, dissertation, Central South University.
- [5] Lin X, 2022, Exploration of Young Students' Emotional Identity of Socialist Core Values. *Journal of Henan Polytechnic University (Social Science Edition)*, 23(01): 11–16.
- [6] Liu Y, 2014, Focus on Cultivating and Practicing the Socialist Core Values. *Journal of QIUSHI*, (02): 3–6.
- [7] Luo H, 2024, On the Construction of Institutional Culture to Promote the Emotional Identity of Socialist Core Values. *Journal of Tonghua Normal University*, 45(05): 7–13.
- [8] Cao M, 2023, The Cultivation of Psychological Identity of Socialist Core Values among College Students in the New Era. *Journal of Lanzhou Institute of Technology*, 31(01): 139–143.
- [9] Guo J, 2014, Research on the Path and Mechanism of Public Identity of Socialist Core Values. *Journal of Jiangsu Social Science*, (01): 11–16.
- [10] Kong D, 2009, The Practical Path of People's Political Identity and Socialist Core Values. *Journal of QIUSHI*, (09): 57–60.
- [11] Hu J, 2010, Citizen Political Identity: The Key to The Construction of the Socialist Core Values System. *Journal of Mao Zedong Thought Study*, 27(06): 139–142.
- [12] Yan P, Wu J, 2020, An Analysis of Socialist Core Value Identity Transformation. *Jianghuai Forum*, (06): 92–98.
- [13] Chen M, Yu Y, Hou Y, 2022, Exploration of Identity Education on College Students' Socialist Core Value under the Perspective of Big Data. *Research on Ideological Education*, (03): 153–158.
- [14] Chen X, 2019, Dilemma and Optimization Strategy of College Students' Identification of Socialist Core Values. *Journal of Tonghua Normal University*, 40(05): 84–88.
- [15] Yang X, 2022, Research on the Identification Mechanism of College Students' Socialist Core Values. *The Party Building and Ideological Education in Schools*, (10): 42–44.
- [16] Xu Z, Zhang L, 2021, Youth Identity Education of Socialist Core Values in Private Colleges and Universities under the Background of “ideological and political education+.” *Journal of Kaifeng Culture and Art Vocational College*, 41(08): 79–81.
- [17] Leng B, 2021, Exploration of Socialist Core Value Identity Education for Higher Vocational Students in New Media Environment. *Journal of Wuhan Engineering Vocational and Technical College*, (33): 89–92.
- [18] Wang G, 2017, Analysis of Farmer Group's Recognition of Socialist Core Values under the New Situation—Based on 2142 Questionnaires Nationwide. *Ideological and Political Education Research*, 33(02): 133–137.
- [19] Zhao Y, 2016, The Basic Unit Party Member Cadre Identity Research of Socialist Core Values—In Jingning County, Gansu Province, For Example, dissertation, Xinjiang University.
- [20] Wang Y, 2017, The Research of Migrant Workers Approval Socialist Core Values—Take Zhongshan City, Guangdong Province as an Example, dissertation, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China.
- [21] Gao G, 2021, Reflections on the Logical Structure of Socialist Core Values. *Fudan Journal (Social Science Edition)*, 63(06): 1–9.
- [22] Zhao G, 2020, On Intrinsic Characteristics of Core Socialist Values in the New Era. *Journal of Xichang University*

(Social Science Edition), 32(03): 14–18 + 66.

- [23] He B, Li L, 2013, The Basic Connotation of Socialist Core Values. *Journal of Heihe College*, 4(01): 39–41.
- [24] Liu B, 2019, The Basic Connotation and Cultivation and Practice of Socialist Core Values. *Century Bridge*, (01): 43–44.
- [25] Cao R, 2023, A Study on Scientific Connotation of the Freedom Advocated by the Core Socialist Values and Its Practice Path. *Journal of Jiangxi Science & Technology Normal University*, (02): 46–52.
- [26] Xia J, 2019, The Core Socialist Values of Justice Analysis of Connotation, dissertation, Northeast Normal University.
- [27] Han F, Bi J, Wu J, 2019, The Connotation and Essence of Prosperity in the Socialist Core Values. *Journal of Fujian Institute of Socialism*, (02): 21–29.
- [28] Zheng W, 2018, The Era Connotation and Endogenous Cultivation of “Dedication” of Socialist Core Values. *Chinese Journal of Contemporary Values*, 3(01): 29–37.
- [29] Liu Y, 2019, An Empirical Study on College Students’ Identification with and Practice of Socialist Core Values, dissertation, Henan Agricultural University.
- [30] Habermas J, 1989, *Interaction and Evolution* [Zhang B, Trans.], Chongqing Publishing House, Chongqing, 3.

Publisher’s note

Bio-Byword Scientific Publishing remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.