

Is the Research of CPC Regulations a Discipline or Not

ZHANG Lu^{[a],*}; LIU Jin^[b]

^[a]Professor, School of Law, Chongqing University, Chongqing, China.

^[b]Graduate Student, School of Politics and Public Administration, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China.

*Corresponding author.

Received 30 November 2016; accepted 15 January 2017
Published online 26 February 2017

Abstract

The research of the CPC regulations is an important component of the philosophical and social sciences with Chinese characteristics. In theory, since it satisfies the internal elements of the research object and scientific methods as the criteria on classification of disciplines, the research of the CPC Regulations may become an independent discipline. And since the institutional construction of the CPC regulations has boasted a long-term significant social and historical practices with far-reaching influence and unique features in urgent need of academically theoretical guidance, the research on the CPC regulations also satisfies the criteria of social and historical practices as the criteria on classification of disciplines, and thus it should and will certainly become an independent discipline. For establishing the discipline of the CPC regulations, there is no need to follow the strict criteria for its organizational construction or wait for its complete maturity. With certain research foundations and results, we may well undertake researches on the CPC regulations as a discipline and related construction of courses and teaching materials, hence further enriching the content of the philosophical and social sciences with Chinese characteristics.

Key words: Party regulations; The discipline of party regulations; The philosophical and social sciences with Chinese characteristics

Zhang, L., & Liu, J. (2017). Is the Research of CPC Regulations a Discipline or Not. *Canadian Social Science*, 13(2), 36-42. Available from: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/css/article/view/9291>
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/9291>

INTRODUCTION

Within the Communist Party of China (CPC) the term “CPC Regulations” (hereinafter referred to as “Party regulations”) has long been used customarily. According to the Decision of the CPC Central Committee on Several Important Issues of Comprehensively Advancing Rule of Law adopted by the fourth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, Party regulations are positioned to effectively safeguard the construction of the socialist rule of law, and the formation of “a complete Party regulations system” has been determined as important content of the construction of the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics. However, there is a relatively weak theoretic basis for the construction of the socialist party with Chinese characteristics, with obviously insufficiency in research on the construction of Party institutions, and there is shortage of theoretic supports for the objectives, tasks and systematic framework of Party rules (Wang, 2015).

In contrast with the practical development of Party regulations and innovations in theories on Party construction, the academic theories on Party regulations are obviously lagged behind, the practical development of Party regulations is in sharp shortage of supports by a sound academic theory. As an important component of the theory on socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, the theoretic research of Party regulations is of great significance in guiding the practice of Party regulations, improving the ruling capacity of the Party, and constructing the socialist rule of law system and the socialist state by rule of law. The practical development of Party regulations calls for the theoretic guidance by research of Party regulations and theoretic innovations.

Based on the four criteria on classification of a discipline, i.e., a determined research object, a unique research method, a researching group with clear research topics, corresponding educational and academic institutions and dedicated journals, and high demand

for its work (Gao, 1987), this paper systematically demonstrates that the research of Party regulations should and must become an independent discipline, named “the discipline of Party regulations”, which is dedicated to providing theoretic guidance for the research, teaching and construction practice of Party regulations.

1. THE RESEARCH OF PARTY REGULATIONS BOASTS A DETERMINED RESEARCH OBJECT

The institutional phenomenon of Party regulations is the object of the theoretic research of Party regulations, which, with interdisciplinary attributes, is one of the important criteria on judging whether the theoretic research of Party regulations is an independent discipline. Professor Song (2015, p.431) Gongde regarded the theoretic research of Party regulations as the “discipline of Party regulations”.

A determined research object is not only the basic prerequisite for disciplinary classification and research but also an important criterion on disciplinary classification. Any discipline has a determined research object, and different research objects may bring forth different natures of research content, hence classified in different disciplines (Gao, 1987, pp.45-51). For instance, the research object of law as a discipline refers to the specific social relationship governed, which is the important basis both to determine whether the research of law is an independent discipline and to classify bodies of law (Yu, 2009); the research object of political science is all the political phenomena, i.e., the activities, forms and relations of social public powers based on certain economic base and the law of its development; and the research object of economics is economic phenomena. Generally speaking, the research objects of different disciplines are independent rather than inclusive. Similarly, as the object of the theoretical research of Party regulations, the institutional phenomenon of Party regulations consists of the Party’s political regulations, organizational regulations, integrity regulations, mass regulations, working regulations and daily life regulations, which are not only clear and specific, but also striking in attributes. Party regulations are between law and morality, which both inherit and develop Chinese traditional culture of ritual regulations (Yu, 2016), typically representative of the combined requirement of morality and law for constructing the socialist state by rule of law with Chinese characteristics.

In general, the institutional phenomenon of Party regulations is closely related with three disciplines well recognized by the academia. Firstly, it is closely related with the discipline of Party construction. The institutions of Party regulations are a high-level form of Party institutions and Party’s mature norms, and as one of the five components in Party construction, the construction

of Party’s institutions are coupled with the construction of Party’s thoughts, organizations, working styles, and integrity and fight against corruption (Song, 2015, p.431). Secondly, it is closely related with the discipline of law. Party regulations and state laws share the logic of “law”, and as two basic behavioral norms of different levels with different applicable objects, they are the two core pillars of the socialist system of rule of law with Chinese characteristics. Party regulations govern the behaviors of both party members and organizations, and the core of their institutional structure is the allocation and governance of powers among party members and organizations, including the internal and external supervision of party power. Party regulations are closely related with the public law relationship in state law. Considering the close relationship between Party regulations and state laws and their shared logic of “law”, scholars including Professor Wang (2016) have tried to adopt the basic theories of law and rule of law in analyzing Party regulations. Thirdly, it is closely related with the discipline of politics. Party regulations embody the unified will of the CPC, which are the important basis for state governance by the Party, and the institutional arrangement of Party regulations is related to the establishment of the party-government relationship. It may be said that the institutional phenomenon of Party regulations is an important political phenomenon by itself. Thus, it may be seen that the theoretical research of Party regulations cross three disciplines of Party construction, law and politics, which is hard to be listed in any of such disciplines (Song, 2015, pp.431-32). In the disciplinary view, the institutional phenomenon of Party regulations is relatively independent, and the related research is interdisciplinary. Hence, the theoretical research of Party regulations may well become an independent learning and discipline.

2. THE RESEARCH OF PARTY REGULATIONS BOASTS A UNIQUE RESEARCH METHOD

A unique research method is also a factor in determining whether the research of Party regulations may become an independent discipline. A scientific method is the soul of science, and the essential feature of science lies in its method. Any science is the dialectic unity of its scientific knowledge and method. Besides being the driving force and the basic condition for the formation of a discipline, a scientific method is a must criterion for the classification of the discipline. All the disciplines contain certain common scientific methods, and different disciplines have their unique methods (Gao, 1987, pp.45-51). Because of the importance of research methods, there appear the disciplines that take scientific methods as the objects and attributes of their researches, such as system theory, control theory, and information theory which are the product of the trend of scientific methodology. Those

disciplines may be called the methodological disciplines in some sense, which cross all the fields of natural sciences and social sciences.

As a category of cognitive tools, a research method is not necessarily corresponding to only one discipline. On one hand, various disciplines may learn from each other in methodology, hence enriching their research methods; on the other hand, learning from each other in methodology may bring forth many inter-disciplines. For instance, the discipline of law and economics has adopted the economic cost-efficiency method in construing legal phenomena. Nonetheless, in the cognitive view, research methods still remain an important criterion for disciplinary classification. The basic research method of law is still the analysis on the right-obligation relationship, which is one of the important bases to differentiate the discipline of law from the discipline of Party regulations adopting analysis on power governance relationship as its basic research method.

In addition, the research on the interdisciplinary institutional phenomenon of Party regulations needs to adopt a set of comprehensive research methods. Firstly, it needs to adopt the methods including analysis on power governance relationship in histology, hence revealing the organizational attributes of the Party in Party regulations and exploring on how to adjust the internal relationship of Party organizations and the internal and external relationships of Party organizations as power governance institution by Party regulations. Secondly, it needs to adopt the methods including analysis on leadership-follower relationship in political science, hence solving the issues on how to realize the leadership by the Party and institutionalize the ruling relationships by Party regulations (Song, 2015, pp.432-33). Thirdly, it needs to adopt the methods including analysis on behavioral norms in legal science, hence researching on the formulation, implementation and supervision procedures of the institutions of Party regulations, and ensuring the rational allocation of power between Party organizations and members and the supervision of Party power. Besides those, including Professor Wang Zhenmin, who have tried to adopt the basic legal theories in analyzing Party regulations, Professor Fu (2015) has also proposed to adopt the research method of jurisprudence in analyzing Party regulations. Professor Zhou (2016) has analogically taken the formulation of Party regulations as quasi-legislation, and taken as example the new “Regulations of Disciplinary Punishment for the Party to demonstrate legal techniques and attributes of Party regulations.” Professor Qin (2016) has adopted the way and method by rule of law that combines state laws and Party regulations in exploring the benchmarks on and paths to connect and coordinate Party regulations and state laws. In an interdisciplinary nature, the theoretical research of Party regulations is required to integrate three or four of the above-mentioned methods supported by other methods including

normative analysis and empirical researches, hence forming a set of research methods with unique features.

3. THE RESEARCH OF PARTY REGULATIONS BOASTS HIGH DEMAND FOR SOCIAL PRACTICES

The high demand for social practice of institutional construction of Party regulations is the dominant driving force calling for the theoretical research of Party regulations to develop as an independent discipline. Put in a larger system of the knowledge and practice activities of human being, a discipline as the result of human knowledge is the final product of social practices. The demand of social practices is an important source and final driving force to form a discipline, social practices provide the conditions to form a new discipline, and social practices are the final criterion for judging and establishing whether the recognition of a discipline is correct or not. In view of the role of social practices for a discipline, social practices shall also be the important criterion for judging a discipline. It should be emphasized that some disciplines we call “big or disciplines” nowadays were once “small ones” in history, and those “small disciplines” have become “big ones” because of the demand of present social practices. The same is true of many modern inter-disciplines and integrated disciplines. The criterion of the demand of social, historical practices may also be called the practical, historical criterion (Gao, 1987, pp.45-51). The demand of the institutional construction of Party regulations as great social practices and grand cause must promote the theoretical research of Party regulations to develop as an independent discipline.

The institutional construction of Party regulations keeps developing in the revolutionary struggle and ruling practices of the CPC. Party governance is necessary for state administration and the Party must govern its members strictly in accordance with Party regulations. Complete institutions of Party regulations are safeguards for governing the CPC, a large party with more than 88 mn members and 4.3 mn grass-root organizations. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the practical development of Party regulations has witnessed an unprecedented new situation, and Party regulations become more institutional, normative and scientific in both the content and the form of their formulation. Those practices and research results of the institutional construction of Party regulations have laid a firm foundation for the formation and development of the discipline of Party regulations studies, which is indicated mainly in the following aspects (Li, 2015, pp.80-96).

Firstly, continuously improving coordinated mechanism. The CPC Central Committee has reinforced coordination in its work relating to Party regulations for promoting the construction of the system of Party regulations and improving its scientific construction. It

promulgated the Regulations on Formulating the CPC Regulations in May 2012, issued the Planning Outlines on the Formulation of the CPC Regulations (2013-2017) in November 2013, and approved the establishment of the Joint-Work Meeting System of the CPC Regulations in August 2015, which started the systematic stage of Party regulations construction. In practice, the Party organizations at the ministerial and local levels have explored in promoting the systematic construction of Party regulations.

Secondly, taking steps in improving the formulation of Party regulations. Through development of years, with the number of Party regulations increased and their quality improved, a system of Party regulations has taken shape at the following three levels: the foundation being the CPC Charter; the trunk consisting of two codes and 26 regulations; and the branches consisting of approximately 1,800 rules, provisions, measures and detailed rules. In rank and hierarchy, Party regulations are also divided into three levels: over 140 pieces of Party regulations at the central level; approximately 150 pieces of Party regulations at the ministerial level; and 1,500 pieces of Party regulations at the local level. At the 6th plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee held in Beijing from October 24 to October 27, 2016, two important Party regulations, namely *Several Codes on the Political Life within the Party in the New Situation* and the *Inner-Party Supervision Regulations of the CPC* were passed, which have put forth clear requirements for and made specific provisions on keeping serious inner-party political life and improving inner-party supervision. So far, a system of Party regulations has taken shape with careful structure, detailed content, consistent logic and effective implementation.

Thirdly, conducting orderly filing and smoothly completing the liquidation of Party regulations. Upon the promulgation of the Provisions on Filing the CPC Regulations and Normative Documents in 2012, a large scale of organized filing of Party regulations has been done across the country. In June 2012, the Opinions of the Office of the CPC Central Committee on Liquidating Party Regulations and Normative Documents was issued with approval by the CPC Central Committee, hence initiating the centralized liquidation of Party regulations and normative documents for the first time in the history of the CPC. On November 17, 2014, the Decision of the CPC Central Committee on Further Repealing and Declaring Invalid a Batch of Party Regulations and Normative Documents was issued, hence indicating the entire completion of the liquidation of central Party regulations and normative documents. The filing and liquidation of Party regulations has laid a firm foundation for constructing the institution system of Party regulations.

Fourthly, keeping on reinforcing execution and education. The CPC Central Committee has strengthened its integrity and anti-corruption and paid great attention to

the implementation of Party regulations, with increasing force in the execution of Party regulations. For instance, after the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee passed the “Eight Provisions” on December 4, 2012, the comrades at the Political Bureau has been taking the lead role in implementing them strictly, Party organizations at various places have promulgated corresponding provisions on implementing them, and disciplinary inspection and supervision agencies at various levels have taken the implementation of the spirits of the “Eight Provisions” as a routine work with reinforced efforts in inspection and supervision. Furthermore, various activities and campaigns have been undertaken, including publicity and trainings, the Party’s Mass Line Educational Practices, the Special Education on “Three Strictness and Three Honesties”, and the Learning and Educational Campaigns on “Studying CPC Charter & Regulations and Leaders’ Speeches, and Becoming Eligible CPC Members”, hence strengthening the recognition and understanding of Party regulations on the part of Party members and leading cadres, and reinforcing their voluntariness and initiatives in implementing Party regulations.

Fifthly, continuously improving the working mechanism of Party regulations. The Party Regulations Bureau under the Office of the CPC Central Committee is designed to safeguard the improved construction of Party regulations in the new era. In addition, as reported by Xinhua News Agency on November 7, 2016, the Office of the CPC Central Committee has issued the Pilot Program on Reforms of State Supervision Mechanisms in Beijing, Shanxi and Zhejiang, according to which various levels of supervision commissions will be established in Beijing, Shanxi and Zhejiang. Such reforms are important political reforms with great significance for the Party and the country. As a top-down design of the state supervision system, such reforms aim at establishing state anti-corruption working agencies under the uniform leadership by the Party. The goals of such reforms are to implement organizational and institutional innovations, integrate resources and forces in fighting corruption, expand the scope of supervision, enrich the means and measure for supervision, realize full coverage of supervision over public servants exercising public power, establish a centrally unified, authoritative and effective supervision system, perform anti-corruption responsibilities, and further advance the integrity construction and anti-corruption struggle, hence constructing an effective mechanism to the effect that officials dare not, cannot and do not want to be corrupt.

Finally, theoretical researches have begun to take effect. With further advancement of the construction of Party regulations, the researches of Party regulations have witnessed a picture full of thriving vitality, mainly evidenced by increasingly expanded research scopes and furthered research depth, with some national level social science research achievements of magnificent significance

completed and some monographs and academic papers of insights and values published.

In spite of outstanding performance made recently in the construction of Party regulations, there still remain some problems, obviously indicated in the following seven aspects: discrepancies still exist in thoughts and understanding, whereby the quality of the formulation of Party regulations remains to be improved; the systematic construction of Party regulations remains to be perfected; the filing of Party regulations remains to be improved; the execution of Party regulations remains to be strengthened; the working system of Party regulations remains to be reinforced; and the publicity and education in Party regulations remain unpopular (Li, 2015, pp.96-108). The theoretic research of Party regulations is largely lagged behind the practical development of the construction of Party regulations, which has constrained the scientific development of the construction of Party regulations to a pretty large extent, hence adversely affecting the realization of the goal of comprehensively advancing the rule of law. The practices of comprehensive and strict Party governance and Party regulations construction are calling for the theoretical research of Party regulations to appear as an independent discipline.

4. THE RESEARCH OF PARTY REGULATIONS BOASTS A RESEARCHING GROUP WITH CLEAR TOPICS, CORRESPONDING INSTITUTIONS AND JOURNALS

The establishment of a discipline is evidenced also by research groups and teams with clear topics and corresponding educational and academic institutions and publications. The creative work of research groups and teams is the prerequisite for the formation of a discipline. Research groups play a guiding and decisive role in creating the building of a discipline, and the formation of a discipline is essentially the result of collective works, crystallization of the creative works by social groups. A mature discipline is marked by specific norms created and well recognized by the group of such discipline, and by insightful studies covered by such norms. And such guiding and decisive role of the academic group in creating the discipline shall undoubtedly become an important criterion on classification of the discipline. Besides, the establishment of corresponding education facilities, research institutions and professional associations and societies is also a criterion on classification of the discipline, which is supplementary to the abovementioned criteria. The specialties and courses in higher education institutions indicate the construction and acknowledgment of corresponding disciplines, which actually imply the classification of disciplines.

Professional associations and societies have the tasks of discussing, communicating and promoting the academic ideas of new disciplines. The associations and societies of different natures imply that there are different natures of disciplines. Therefore, the associations and societies of different natures also imply the classification of disciplines. The formation of a discipline is also evidenced by corresponding publications. All the criteria mentioned above may be called collectively the organizational criteria (Gao, 1987).

The discipline of Party regulations is an integrated inter-discipline, and as a newly emerging one, it still remains to become mature. Though the discipline of Party regulations has not been listed in the Catalogue of Disciplines and Specialties issued by the MOE, it is necessary for us to discuss its attributes, its connotation and denotation, and its research object and content and to establish and improve its construction, and any doubt about the reasonableness for the existence of Party regulations as a discipline is actually meaningless. The authors hold that for establishing Party regulations as a discipline, it is not necessary to set up strict organizational criteria or wait for full maturity. If there are certain research foundation and achievements, with a certain number of people engaged, and if there is a demand for its research, research and study may be conducted on the discipline of Party regulations. If conditional are available, various institutions may be established to conduct researches on Party regulations, hence providing theoretical supports to the practical development of the institutional construction of Party regulations (Zhang, 2014).

Recently, the state authorities of education, institutions of higher education, academic institutions, working agencies of Party regulations, publishing houses and press media have been paying more and more attention to researches on the institutional phenomenon of Party regulations, and the research of Party regulations is at the accelerating stage to become an independent discipline. According to the organizational criteria on establishing a discipline, the research of Party regulations as an independent discipline is taking shape.

In view of policy orientations on academic research and talent cultivation in Party regulations, the Office of the State Academic Degree Commission issued a circular on April 13, 2016, requesting the institutions of higher education above certain level to submit statistical reports of the latest five years on their research achievements and talents trained in the field of Party regulations. As expected, the Office of the State Academic Degree Commission would set up academic degree awarding units or research fields for the discipline of Party regulations.

In view of professional publications and magazines dedicated to research of Party regulations, the Party Regulations Bureau under the Office of the CPC Central Committee created the Studies of Party Regulations,

an internal magazine in 2012. At present, there are a large number of publications and training materials and course books on Party regulations. Especially since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the members of the research groups of Party regulations are on the increase with the quantity of research achievements continuously doubled in recent years.

In view of the research groups and institutions dedicated to research of Party regulations, the research groups are increasing and new research institutions keep on appearing. On May 27, 2016, a symposium on the theory of CPC regulations construction was held at Tsinghua University School of Law, and there were more than 50 attendants, including experts and scholars from the National Judges College, the Party School of the Central Committee of the CPC, China Law Society and other institutions of higher education and academic institutions, leaders of legal departments at central and local levels, editors and correspondents from publishing houses and press media, and college students. Northwest University of Politics & Law, Tsinghua University, and Xinjiang Normal University have taken a lead in establishing research centers of Party regulations, which are of a ground breaking significance for the research of Party regulations and the establishment of Party regulations as a discipline. On September 21, 2016, the General Office of CPC Hubei Provincial Committee and Wuhan University jointly established a research center of Party regulations, which, located at Wuhan University, is the first research center of Party regulations in China jointly sponsored by a CPC provincial committee and a university, and also a pioneering work in the construction of research institutions of Party regulations. The center is an institute with special staff members dedicated to collaborative, innovative research on the theoretical and practical problems relating to Party regulations, hence providing intellectual supports for forming a scientific theoretical system of Party regulations and constructing the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics.

5. COMPREHENSIVE CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS CRITERIA

The important criteria including research object, scientific method, practical history and organizational construction are interdependent and closely connected, and under constraints with each other, they form a dynamic, organic unity, which may be used to establish a discipline in a comprehensive manner. Any discipline has its determined research object and unique research method. The research object and the research method are fundamental, internal and paramount factors of the criteria to the classification of disciplines. The research object and the research method are in a dialectic relationship, and as criterion on classification of disciplines, they are not isolated from

each other. Though important, the research object and the research method are not complete or sufficient as criterion on classification of disciplines, and only by combining with the organizational and practical criteria can they constitute integral and complete criteria on classification of disciplines. A discipline is formed in specific social practices, and social practices, if took as criterion on classification of discipline, are only a kind of external factor. However, an external factor may affect an internal factor, and social, historical practices may constrain the criteria of research object, scientific method and organization construction. Similarly, the extent and nature of a scientific method is also subject to the constraint of certain social, historical practices which bring forth corresponding academic groups and institutions and educational facilities, and adjust the quantity, quality, organizational form, and the topic and way of researches. Especially, in some sense social practices even play a controlling and dominant role in the development of modern “big disciplines”. For instance, there are demands and possibilities for practices in some countries, where some research fellows may conduct specific researches, but in other countries, there are neither demands nor actually possible conditions for such practices. Likely, certain social, historical practices also play an adjusting and dominant role in the establishment of educational facilities in the institutions of higher education, professional associations, societies and press and magazine agencies. Thus, the organizational criteria are necessarily subject to the constraints of social, historical practices (Gao, 1987).

Based on the above-mentioned comprehensive analysis and considerations, the research of Party regulations satisfies the internal factor of two criteria: research object and methods. That is to say, it may become an independent discipline in a theoretical sense. But to form an independent discipline in a real sense, it must also satisfy the criterion of social, historical practices. If those three criteria are met, it shall and must become an independent discipline. Disciplinary success should be evidenced by the broader recognition of the importance, high demand for its work, and the numerical increase of its practitioners (Timothy et al., 2006). Judged accordingly, it may be firmly believed that the research of Party regulations is to be established as a discipline, and it shall and must form an independent discipline. The institutional construction of Party regulations boasts a very long social, historical practice, and such practice is unique and becomes increasingly important for China, which calls for guidance by academic theories. Furthermore, as believed by the authors, for the establishment of Party regulations as a discipline, it is not necessary to set up strict organizational criteria or wait for full maturity.

Anyway, the theoretical research of Party regulations remains to develop as a mature, independent discipline.

The theoretical research of Party regulations is only at the initial stage, a far cry from being a mature theoretic system. Currently, it is incapable of guiding the practical development of Party regulations, even without forming specific research paradigms (Song, 2015, pp.433-36). However, to regard the theoretical research of Party regulations as an independent discipline may help deepen the theoretical research, strengthen the institutional construction of Party regulations, and perfect the construction of socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics. The key is to reinforce organization, guidance and promotion, with focus on breaking down the disconnection between the theoretical research and practices of Party regulations. To such end, the following works shall be done. Firstly, course books and popular primers shall be compiled, providing rich materials for education and training on Party regulations. Secondly, with the establishment of research bases of Party regulations, institutions of higher education are encouraged to set up professional courses, specialties and academic degree awarding units for cultivating high-quality talents in the specialty of Party regulations (Song, 2015, p. 430). Thirdly, research projects and grants on Party regulations shall be established at various levels, hence forming a batch of high quality research achievements in Party regulations. Fourthly, disciplinary borders shall be broken down and inter-disciplinary experts and scholars shall be organized to create professional research teams in Party regulations, hence breaking down the theoretic bottleneck that constrains the construction and development of Party regulations. Finally, opportunities shall be taken to establish professional societies of Party regulations, and launch public magazines, hence providing platforms for the research of Party regulations (Li, 2015, pp.124-25).

SUMMARY

“Party regulations are the system carrier of party governance by the rule of law, and both Party regulations system and state laws system are the norms of governance and parts of the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics.” (Qin, et al., 2016) The research of Party regulations as a discipline is an integral part of the philosophical and social sciences with Chinese characteristics. Party regulations are the institutional safeguards for strengthening and improving the leadership of the Party, the research of which may not only help strengthen and improve the leadership of the Party but also enrich the philosophy and social sciences with Chinese characteristics to a great extent.

To establish the theoretic research of Party regulations as an independent discipline as early as possible is not only of necessity but also of great significance. To establish the theoretic research of Party regulations as an independent discipline may help promote knowledge in Party regulations by specialties and courses from the

college stage (Song, 2015, p.430), which is conducive to improving the ruling capacity and quality, saving the resources put in on-the-job learning of Party regulations, and improving the voluntariness and initiatives of Party members and leading cadres in observing Party regulations.

Boasting the property crossing three disciplines of Party construction, law and politics, it is hard to list the theoretic research of Party regulations neatly in any of the above-mentioned three disciplines. Therefore, in academic research and teaching, the theoretic research of Party regulations should be established as an independent discipline. However, for the convenience of teaching, if academic degree awarding units are not available under existing conditions, as a matter of expediency, the theoretic and institutional researches on Party regulations may be listed in any of the three disciplines of Party construction, law and politics in terms of course and academic degree designs. Anyway, since the system of Party regulations is an integral part of the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics, temporarily, it is more proper to list the research of Party regulations in the discipline of law.

REFERENCES

- Fu, Z. T. (2015). Party regulations within the rule of law system. *Journal of Party School of Central Committee of the CPC*, (3), 17-23.
- Gao, X. H. (1987). Criteria on classification of scientific disciplines. *Research of Social Sciences*, (4), 45-51.
- Li, Z. (2015). *Study on CPC regulations*. Beijing: China Social Sciences Publishing House.
- Qin, Q. H., & Su, S. L. (2016). Benchmarks on and paths to connect and coordinate party regulations and state laws. *Science of Law*, (5), 21-30.
- Song, G. D. (2015). *Governance by party regulations*. Beijing: Law Press China.
- Timothy, F., & Garen, M. (2006). *An empirical assessment of the rise and fall of accounting as an academic discipline*. Retrieved from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=975120.2017-02-07
- Wang, Q. S. (2015, October 23). Sticking to high standard of morality and bottom line of law, and advancing institutional innovations in comprehensively strict party governance. *Renmin Daily*, p.A4.
- Wang, Z. M., et al. (2016). *Study on CPC regulations* (pp.4-5). Beijing: Renmin Press.
- Yu, J. S., & Wu, Z. P. (Ed.). (2009). *International economical law*. Beijing: Law Press China.
- Yu, G. R. (2016). Tradition of ritual law and good governance by good law. *Journal of Jinan University*, (4), 53-56.
- Zhang, B. X. (2014). The criteria for establishment of ethnography and its scientific connotation. *Shaanxi Education (Higher Education)*, (6), 28-29.
- Zhou, Y. Z. (2016). Legal techniques and attributes of the new party disciplinary regulation. *Journal of Wuhan University*, (1), 6-9.