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## Land Acquisition Sentiment Perception in Digital Space: A Gender Comparison Study Based on Social Media Comments

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### Abstract

Land expropriation is a fundamental institutional arrangement in the process of rural revitalization and a significant policy issue that triggers the differentiation of public rights perception. Based on comment data related to land expropriation on Weibo and Douyin platforms from 2020 to 2025, this study utilizes large language models for emotional labeling to systematically examine the emotional distribution characteristics and gender differences surrounding land expropriation issues in digital spaces across multiple dimensions. The research finds that land expropriation issues have formed a highly structured emotional pattern in digital spaces, where public dissatisfaction is intensely focused on the nodes of execution behavior and procedural deficiencies, rather than being diffused at the level of abstract rules. Regarding the gender dimension, both sexes exhibit complementary emotional investment logics across different policy dimensions, reflecting differentiated rights situations and perception mechanisms. Land expropriation sentiment in digital spaces serves as an important window for understanding the structure of public rights perception, and the introduction of a gender perspective helps reveal a more detailed picture of differentiation within this structure.

Full Text

Preamble

## Land Acquisition Sentiment Perception in Digital Space: A Gender-Based Comparative Study Using Social Media Comments

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Abstract

Land acquisition is a critical process in urbanization, often accompanied by complex social emotions and public discourse. In the digital age, social media has become a primary arena for citizens to express their sentiments regarding land policies. This study explores the nuances of land acquisition sentiment perception within digital spaces, specifically focusing on gender differences in public reactions. By analyzing social media comments, we employ machine learning and deep learning techniques to quantify sentiment polarity and thematic concerns. Our findings reveal distinct patterns in how men and women perceive and discuss land acquisition, providing valuable insights for policymakers to foster more inclusive and gender-sensitive urban governance.

### 1. Introduction

As urbanization accelerates, land acquisition remains a focal point of social stability and public interest. Traditional methods of assessing public sentiment often rely on surveys and interviews, which may suffer from limited sample sizes and time lags. The rise of digital space offers a new frontier for understanding public opinion in real-time. Social media platforms serve as a “digital barometer,” reflecting the immediate emotional responses of various demographic groups to land-related interventions.

Gender, as a fundamental social construct, significantly influences how individuals experience and interpret land acquisition. While existing literature has touched upon the socio-economic impacts of land loss, there is a relative scarcity of research focusing on the gendered dimensions of sentiment perception in online environments. This study aims to bridge this gap by utilizing large-scale social media data to compare the emotional trajectories and topical priorities of male and female users regarding land acquisition.

### 2. Methodology

**2.1 Data Collection and Preprocessing** The data for this study were retrieved from major Chinese social media platforms. We utilized web scraping

techniques to collect comments related to “land acquisition,” “compensation,” and “relocation” over a specific period. To ensure data quality, we performed rigorous preprocessing, including the removal of duplicate entries, spam, and irrelevant advertisements.

**2.2 Sentiment Analysis and Topic Modeling** To quantify the emotional tone of the comments, we employed a deep learning-based sentiment analysis model. Each comment was classified into positive, neutral, or negative categories. Furthermore, we utilized

### 摘要

Land acquisition serves as a foundational institutional arrangement within the process of rural revitalization, yet it remains a critical policy area that triggers significant divergence in public perceptions of rights. Based on comment data related to land acquisition from the Douyin platform, this study utilizes Large Language Models (LLMs) for sentiment labeling to systematically examine the distributional characteristics and gender differences of public sentiment surrounding land acquisition issues in digital spaces across multiple dimensions.

The findings indicate that land acquisition issues have formed a highly structured emotional landscape within the digital sphere. Public dissatisfaction is intensely focused on two specific nodes—executive behavior and procedural deficiencies—rather than being diffused across the level of abstract regulations. Regarding the gender dimension, men and women exhibit complementary emotional orientations across different policy dimensions, reflecting differentiated rights situations and perceptions. Sentiment regarding land acquisition in digital spaces serves as an important window for understanding the structure of public rights perception; furthermore, the introduction of a gender perspective helps reveal a more nuanced and granular picture of the internal divisions within this structure.

### 关键词

### Abstract

Land acquisition is a critical issue in the process of urbanization and industrialization, involving the complex redistribution of interests and psychological adjustments among various stakeholders. This study utilizes Large Language Models (LLMs) to perform sentiment annotation on policy-related discourse, aiming to explore the nuances of policy sentiment regarding land acquisition and investigate potential gender differences in these perceptions. By leveraging advanced machine learning techniques, we analyze a comprehensive dataset of public discourse and policy documents. Our findings reveal significant variations in sentiment polarity and intensity across different demographic groups, with a particular emphasis on how gender shapes the reception of and reaction to land acquisition policies. This research contributes to a deeper understanding

of the social-psychological dimensions of land governance and provides empirical evidence for developing more inclusive and gender-sensitive land acquisition frameworks.

## 1. Introduction

Land acquisition serves as a fundamental mechanism for urban expansion and infrastructure development. However, it often triggers intense social debates and emotional responses due to its direct impact on livelihoods, property rights, and social stability. Understanding the public's "policy sentiment"—the emotional orientation and intensity expressed toward specific governance measures—is essential for policymakers to mitigate conflict and enhance policy legitimacy.

Traditional methods of sentiment analysis, such as manual coding or dictionary-based approaches, often struggle with the linguistic complexity and domain-specific nuances of land policy discourse. The emergence of Large Language Models (LLMs) offers a transformative opportunity to achieve high-precision sentiment annotation at scale. Furthermore, existing literature suggests that land acquisition impacts men and women differently, yet empirical studies focusing on gendered emotional responses to these policies remain scarce. This paper addresses this gap by integrating LLM-based sentiment analysis with a sociological lens on gender differences.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Data Collection and Preprocessing

The dataset for this study comprises a diverse range of texts, including social media discussions, news reports, and official policy documents related to land acquisition. To ensure data quality, we performed rigorous preprocessing to remove noise, such as watermarks and irrelevant fragments, while preserving the integrity of technical terminology and citations.

### 2.2 LLM-based Sentiment Annotation

We employed state-of-the-art Large Language Models to annotate the sentiment of the collected texts. Unlike traditional classifiers, LLMs can capture context-dependent meanings and subtle emotional cues. The sentiment was categorized into positive, neutral, and negative polarities, with associated intensity scores. The annotation process followed a structured prompt engineering approach to ensure consistency and academic rigor.

## 1 问题的提出

Land expropriation is a critical institutional tool for coordinating urban-rural development and advancing infrastructure construction in China. The rapid

pace of urban development has generated an increasing demand for construction land, which relies heavily on land expropriation mechanisms. Recent revisions to the *Land Administration Law* have further pushed land expropriation toward a track of refined governance, emphasizing principles such as “compensation before relocation,” “improvement of living conditions,” and “ensuring the original standard of living of landless farmers is not reduced, with long-term livelihoods guaranteed.” From initiation to completion, a single land expropriation project often involves specific rights issues, including compensation standards, membership qualification, and resettlement arrangements. The social discussions surrounding these issues centrally reflect public judgments regarding fairness and procedural legitimacy. In this sense, land expropriation constitutes an important policy cross-section for observing public perceptions of rights.

Existing research on land expropriation policy has explored dimensions such as compensation equity, procedural legitimacy, grassroots implementation, and governance responsiveness. These studies have effectively revealed the multi-party interest tensions and power dynamics inherent in the operation of the land expropriation system. Recent scholarship has begun to focus on the specific demands and emotions of the public regarding land expropriation, suggesting that it is not merely a matter of institutional design and policy execution, but also a highly sensitive public issue prone to social perceptual polarization. The widespread use of social media platforms has allowed a large volume of individual expropriation experiences and policy evaluations to surface publicly. Unlike the limited responses captured by traditional questionnaires, online comments present individuals’ authentic perceptions and emotional reactions when encountering land expropriation events in a spontaneous, real-time, and contextualized manner. This provides new empirical material for observing the structure of public rights perception surrounding land expropriation.

Most studies tend to measure public attitudes as a holistic variable, rarely identifying differences in attention allocation and emotional orientation across different policy dimensions or specific evaluative objects. Within existing differentiated analyses, the gender perspective has long been absent. Most existing discussions on gender are concentrated at the institutional and legal levels—Han Wenjing, Female, Lecturer at the School of Government, Beijing Normal University; Chen Ningjing, Female, Undergraduate at the School of Government, Beijing Normal University; Jia Lulu, Female, Master’s student at the College of Applied Arts and Sciences, Beijing Union University.

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Few studies have extended the analysis of gender to public emotional expression. Emotion serves as a reflection of the rights situation of behavioral subjects. Rural women have long been in a disadvantaged position regarding rural land contract management rights and the distribution of land expropriation proceeds. Whether this institutional inequality translates into differentiated

emotional expressions surrounding land expropriation issues currently lacks detailed investigation using empirical data. Based on social media comment data, this study utilizes Large Language Models (LLMs) to perform structured emotional labeling of comment texts. We refine emotional measurement into four dimensions: policy environment and tools, policy implementation subjects, policy target groups, and policy processes. Under this framework, we systematically compare the emotional distribution characteristics of men and women regarding land expropriation. This paper aims to answer two interrelated questions: First, along which policy objects and implementation stages do public emotions regarding land expropriation unfold, and what internal differentiation exists in emotional intensity and direction across different dimensions? Second, does this emotional distribution exhibit stable gender differences? Specifically, does female emotional expression show different intensities and orientations compared to males regarding specific evaluative objects, and what logic of rights perception is reflected behind these differences?

## 2.1 政策情绪研究

Public policy feedback has long been a core issue in public policy research. Chen Jiao' e et al., utilizing grounded theory to study the formation process of netizens' policy attitudes, defined policy emotion as the affective response triggered by comparative psychology based on an individual' s cognitive perception of a policy. This concept is also widely employed in public opinion research, typically referring to the collective expression of emotions, attitudes, and opinions formed around specific policy issues. Therefore, policy emotion can be defined as the emotional reaction triggered by public policy cognition and comparative psychology surrounding specific policy topics. It reflects individual subjective judgments regarding social equity and, once aggregated, can become a significant social force influencing the policy agenda.

The emotional effects triggered by policy formulation and changes have been extensively empirically supported across multiple fields. In the realms of macroeconomics and finance, numerous studies have confirmed that adjustments to monetary policy and economic policy uncertainty significantly influence investor sentiment, thereby triggering stock market volatility. In the fields of resource and environmental policy, public cognition and emotional perception similarly directly impact the social acceptance and implementation efficiency of policies. The development of computational social science has enabled academia to measure public policy emotions using massive amounts of unstructured text. Regarding specific methodological paths, some studies focus on characterizing the dynamic patterns of public emotion under external policy shocks; for example, by constructing sentiment lexicons combined with Vector Autoregression (VAR) models to analyze the lag effects between policy release stages and fluctuations in public emotion. Other studies focus on topic models within online discussions to automatically cluster policy issues, supplemented by machine learning algorithms such as Bayesian classifiers to calculate sentiment probability val-

ues. Although sentiment lexicons and traditional machine learning algorithms have effectively expanded the empirical dimensions of policy evaluation, they often struggle to precisely deconstruct “who expressed what intensity of emotion toward whom” when faced with scenarios like land expropriation, which involve complex power dynamics and multi-actor interactions. In recent years, Large Language Models (LLMs) have been leading a methodological revolution in the field of sentiment analysis. Compared to traditional algorithms, LLMs—with their superior semantic understanding capabilities—can more accurately process complex texts in zero-shot and few-shot scenarios, achieving technical breakthroughs in fine-grained aspect-based sentiment analysis. This technical shift allows researchers to move beyond simple positive-negative classification to precisely identify fine-grained attribute associations, providing a broad creative space for this paper to observe gendered emotional differentiation within the issue of land expropriation.

## 2.2 土地征收政策研究

### Research on Land Expropriation Policy in China: From Institutional Evolution to Public Perception

Research on land expropriation policy in China follows an evolutionary logic that progresses from institutional transformation to implementation bias, and ultimately to public perception. At the macro-institutional level, China’s land expropriation compensation policies have undergone a trajectory of evolution where the focus of protection has shifted from administrative resettlement toward social security and the protection of members’ rights. Although successive revisions of the *Land Administration Law* have pushed compensation standards to transition from the “output value multiple method” to “regional integrated land prices,” the mechanism in practice has not yet fully detached from non-market logic. Consequently, compensation based on true market value has not been fully realized, and the share of value-added gains received by farmers remains limited. The deep-seated root of this institutional dilemma lies in a long-standing “public interest priority” within the legislative logic, which often leads to the procedural restriction of the private property rights of rural collectives and individual households.

At the level of governance, balancing the relationship between public expropriation and private property protection remains a challenge. In terms of grassroots implementation, policy objectives are frequently constrained by the power dynamics of multiple stakeholders and procedural non-compliance. Large-sample survey data indicate that the lack of proper implementation of expropriation procedures is particularly prominent; for instance, 24.2% of cases did not undergo sufficient consultation. This has resulted in nearly half of the surveyed households perceiving the actual compensation to be lower than expected, leading to high levels of dissatisfaction. Such procedural disenfranchisement is a key incentive for the abuse of expropriation powers. The ambiguity of norms and

the periodic absence of judicial remedies cause farmers to lose the opportunity to assert their rights procedurally.

Driven by local interests, competition and bargaining between government levels further exacerbate implementation irregularities. To mitigate administrative resistance, grassroots governments often adopt “bundled implementation” or other informal strategies that link compensation and resettlement with social security policies. The lack of an effective feedback mechanism leaves target groups marginalized during policy execution. Furthermore, the principle of compensating based on agricultural use value severs the path for farmers to share in long-term value-added gains, further intensifying tensions at the implementation level.

Within this complex environment of policy interaction, public psychological perception and policy feedback have increasingly become the focus of academic research. While existing satisfaction studies have explored the impact of procedural fairness, most rely on questionnaires to measure the static mean of overall attitudes, lacking a dynamic identification of specific emotional distributions across different policy dimensions. Although some studies have begun to pay attention to the demands of farmers in digital spaces, there remains a lack of in-depth exploration regarding the gender politics and non-institutionalized discourse found on social media. Based on this, the present study attempts to explore the construction logic of land expropriation discourse within digital spaces.

### 2.3 性别视角下的土地权益感知与网络参与

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) emphasizes the critical role rural women play in family survival. However, in the practice of rural land system reform and land expropriation, the realization of rights often exhibits significant gender disparities due to the influence of traditional rural social structures and the division of labor within the household. At the factual level, rural women have long occupied a disadvantaged position regarding land contract management and the distribution of land-related income. Dong Xin et al. further discovered that the migration of female agricultural populations has a greater impact on whether contracted land is self-cultivated compared to their male counterparts, with the influence of migration among married women being significantly stronger than that of men. At the normative level, Cheng Xueyang points out a structural contradiction between current laws and the mobility of rural women caused by marriage. Due to internal logical conflicts, the protection system for women’s land rights has evolved into a dual dilemma of practice and norms, which often manifests as policy execution bias. This leads to situations where policies originally intended to protect member rights encounter challenges of gender inequality at the grassroots level, particularly during the practical operation of farmland transfer and expropriation. As land expropriation disputes extend into digital spaces, these gender differences are, to some extent, mirrored in online expression. Factors

such as the encroachment of domestic burdens on leisure time and the continuation of traditional gender norms in digital scenarios have resulted in differences between men and women regarding their frequency of voice, modes of expression, and channels for making demands on social media.

While existing scholarship has separately discussed the offline dilemmas of rights and the disparities in online participation, few studies have integrated the two to examine how gendered rights situations specifically shape emotional expression within digital spaces. Taking land expropriation as the policy context and utilizing social media commentary data, this paper aims to provide an empirical basis for understanding this correlation from the perspective of emotional distribution.

### 3.1 数据来源与样本构建

This study first utilized Python to collect comment text related to land expropriation from two social media platforms, Weibo and Douyin. The raw dataset consists of 177,927 comments from Weibo and 206,861 comments from Douyin. These two platforms were selected because their high levels of user activity allow them to serve as significant hubs for real-time public discussion regarding land acquisition and resettlement issues. Furthermore, the two platforms differ in their expressive styles and interaction scenarios; incorporating both into a single analytical framework facilitates a more comprehensive observation of emotional expression surrounding land expropriation issues.

Considering that social media comments are highly colloquial and contain complex types of noise, this paper constructed the final analysis sample by performing secondary manual cleaning on the raw data. Ultimately, a set of valid comments was retained, consisting of [NUMBER] comments from male users and [NUMBER] comments from female users.

### 3.2 变量设置与文本标注

This study utilizes individual comments as the fundamental unit of analysis, treating each as an independent sample for sentiment and semantic judgment. Corresponding to the four proposed policy dimensions, this paper further refines the evaluation object labels as follows: (1) The policy environment and tools dimension includes policy rules and land acquisition projects; (2) The policy implementation subjects dimension includes the government, implementing parties, law enforcement behavior, and project developer behavior; (3) The policy target group dimension includes farmers (further categorized into general rural residents and landless rural residents) and urban residents (categorized into general urban residents and relocated urban residents); and (4) The policy implementation process dimension includes procedural transparency, participation and consultation rights, and supervision and inspection.

Building upon this framework, this study establishes three categories of informa-

tion: sentiment polarity, sentiment intensity, and evaluation objects. Sentiment polarity is measured using a five-point scale, and sentiment intensity is similarly measured on a five-point scale ranging from 1 to 5. Evaluation objects are identified according to the aforementioned labeling system. Regarding text annotation, this paper employs the large language model GPT-4o-mini for structured recognition. By utilizing standardized prompts to constrain label boundaries, determination rules, and output formats, we achieve fine-grained extraction of “who is being evaluated,” “how they are evaluated,” and the “intensity of the emotional expression.”

### 3.3 结果校验与分析策略

To verify the reliability of the machine-labeled results, this study conducted a manual double-blind review following the completion of the automated labeling process. We then tested the consistency between the manual and machine annotations. The total sample was first stratified by year, from which a random sample of 10% was drawn from each year to serve as the review dataset. Two coders independently completed the coding under double-blind conditions.

The consistency testing methods primarily included Cronbach’s alpha, Pearson correlation coefficients, and paired-sample t-tests. The overall results indicate a high degree of consistency between the machine labeling and manual judgment, demonstrating that the automated approach can reliably reflect the emotional direction and expressive intensity within the comments.

Furthermore, this study utilizes several metrics—including hit rate, average emotional polarity, the proportion of negative sentiment, and average emotional intensity—to conduct a descriptive comparative analysis. This analysis explores emotional differences across genders regarding various policy dimensions and specific evaluation objects.

Cronbach alpha Pearson Cronbach alpha Pearson

### 4.1 土地征收议题的总体情绪格局

The issue of land expropriation exhibits a distinctly negative emotional tone in digital spaces, characterized by a low overall average sentiment score.

Negative comments account for 56.9% of the discourse, with an average emotional intensity of [VALUE]. This indicates that public discussion is not merely a neutral observation of land expropriation; rather, it is generally accompanied by a significant degree of dissatisfaction and emotional involvement. Further observation across policy dimensions reveals a clear hierarchical differentiation in the distribution of these emotions.

The “Policy Environment and Tools” dimension has the highest hit rate at 79.7%, indicating that policy rules and the expropriation projects themselves constitute the most fundamental and common issue frameworks in land expro-

priation discussions. The average emotional polarity for this dimension is 47.2%, with an average emotional intensity of [VALUE], making it the most temperate among the four dimensions. Overall, discussions here are closer to judgmental evaluations based on policy content rather than intense emotional expressions. In sharp contrast, the “Policy Implementation Subjects” dimension, despite a lower hit rate of only 28.9%, exhibits the strongest negative characteristics. Its average emotional polarity drops to 74.4%, while its average emotional intensity reaches [VALUE]. This suggests that public dissatisfaction does not primarily remain at the level of abstract rules; instead, it is more concentrated and sharply directed toward specific responsible entities such as the government and project developers. Malpractice during the implementation phase serves as the core trigger for intense negative emotions.

Average Emotional Polarity; Average Emotional Intensity. Note: “Hit rate” refers to the proportion of comments containing at least one valid evaluation within that dimension relative to the total sample; “Negative proportion” refers to the percentage of comments within that dimension’s hits that have an emotional polarity score of less than [VALUE].

The “Policy Target Groups” dimension shows a moderate level of negative emotion, with an average emotional polarity of 56.7% and an average emotional intensity of [VALUE]. This primarily reflects public concern and empathy for the plight of farmers whose land has been seized, displaced urban residents, and village collectives. The “Policy Implementation Process” dimension has the lowest hit rate at 11.6%, yet its negative proportion is as high as 70.7%, with an average emotional polarity of [VALUE] and average emotional intensity of [VALUE]. Although issues such as procedural transparency, participation and consultation rights, and supervision and inspection are not the most frequently initiated topics, they tend to trigger more concentrated and explicit negative evaluations once they enter the discussion.

In the discourse surrounding land expropriation, online discussions are most concentrated on policy rules, while the strongest emotions are directed toward implementation subjects. The implementation process reveals significant procedural dissatisfaction, and the target groups reflect the public’s emotional concern for the situation of vulnerable populations. Public sentiment triggered by land expropriation encompasses judgments of institutional rules, condemnation of implementation behaviors, and empathy regarding the fate of affected groups. These three emotional logics vary in emphasis across different policy dimensions, collectively forming the emotional landscape of land expropriation issues in contemporary digital spaces.

#### 4.2.1 政策环境与工具维度的性别情绪差异

Average emotional polarity, proportion of negative emotions, and average emotional intensity.

Note: The “hit rate” refers to the proportion of comments containing at least

one valid evaluation under a specific dimension (label) relative to the total sample. The “negative proportion” refers to the percentage of comments with an emotional polarity score of less than 0 among the comments that hit that specific dimension.

From the overall perspective of the policy environment and tools dimension, both men and women maintain a relatively consistent stance regarding the regulatory arrangements and the projects themselves within land expropriation, with overall gender differences being limited. The hit rate for this dimension was 79.1% for men and 80.4% for women. However, the average emotional polarity for men was slightly lower than that for women, while their negative proportion and average emotional intensity were slightly higher. This indicates that men’s overall evaluation of the policy environment and tools is slightly more negative. This discrepancy is primarily reflected in subtle shifts regarding the degree of negative emotion and the focus of their evaluations.

Further breaking down the data into specific labels reveals that gender differences regarding “Rules and Regulations” are limited. The hit rate for women was 60.0% compared to 59.7% for men, and both groups were highly similar in terms of average emotional polarity, negative proportion, and average emotional intensity. Issues such as the fairness and rationality of resettlement measures and other regulatory contents are fundamental topics of common concern for both genders. At this level, emotional expression has not yet shown discernible differentiation. To some extent, this suggests that policy rules serve more as a shared background for land expropriation discussions rather than the primary driver of gender-based emotional differences.

Gender differences are more prominent under the “Project Content” label. Men not only had a higher hit rate but also exhibited lower polarity, with both their negative proportion and average emotional intensity exceeding those of women. When discussions shift from abstract rules to specific land expropriation projects, men are more inclined to express explicit criticism and dissatisfaction. Their questioning of the public interest, necessity, and actual impact on local development regarding projects such as road construction, factory building, and commercial development is more direct. In contrast, women’s emotional expression on this label is relatively moderate; their focus remains more on the fairness of regulatory provisions, with limited emotional projection regarding the legitimacy of specific projects. Although policy texts and project arrangements are the primary objects of public discussion, the degree of negativity within the “policy environment and tools” dimension remains relatively limited in this study. Public emotion is not intensified at the level of abstract rules; rather, the subsequent implementing subjects and the execution process are the key stages where negative emotions further accumulate.

#### 4.2.2 政策执行主体维度的性别情绪差异

Average emotional polarity, negative emotion proportion, and average emotional intensity. Note: The “hit rate” refers to the proportion of comments containing at least one valid evaluation within a given dimension (label) relative to the total sample; the “negative proportion” refers to the percentage of comments with an emotional polarity score below 0 among those that hit that specific dimension.

Gender differences are most prominent in the dimension of “Policy Implementation Entities.” The hit rate for females in this dimension is 27.3%, compared to 30.9% for males. Furthermore, the average emotional polarity of males is more negative, and their negative proportion and average emotional intensity are significantly higher than those of females. Males are more inclined to direct their emotions toward specific responsible entities, such as the government, law enforcement officers, and project developers. This expression is characterized not only by higher attention but also by more intense negative evaluations. The dimension of policy implementation entities constitutes the most concentrated area of gender difference regarding land expropriation issues, with men offering more direct and sharp criticisms of the executive level.

The hit rate for males is significantly higher than that for females, and their average emotional polarity and negative proportion (63.8% vs. 59.7%) are also relatively high. Related comments target the credibility and macro-planning capabilities of the government as the top-level designer and public decision-making entity. The higher hit rate and stronger negative evaluations among males suggest that when discussing land expropriation, they are more inclined to trace problems back to the decision-making level, thereby questioning the overall credibility of the government.

The “Law Enforcement Behavior” label refers to grassroots implementation entities, including administrative departments, personnel, and village committees. The emotional core focuses on whether law enforcement methods are civilized and compliant. The degree of negativity for this label is the most prominent among all categories; the average emotional polarity for both genders is below 0, and the negative proportion for both exceeds 80%. This reflects a widespread and intense public dissatisfaction with grassroots implementation methods. Regarding gender differences, the male hit rate, negative proportion (87.3% vs. 82.8%), and average emotional intensity are all higher than those of females. This indicates that in related comments, males are more likely to concentrate negative emotions on implementation issues such as forced demolition, coerced signing, and violent law enforcement, with their criticisms being more acute. Existing research points out that the behavior of “street-level bureaucrats” within their discretionary space constitutes the substantive interface between the public and the state; non-compliant behavior often triggers public distrust more than the institutional design itself. The data in this paper further suggest that males are more inclined to transform this interface expe-

rience into explicit expressions of accountability, with a significantly stronger willingness to question the misconduct of implementers. Similarly, Wagner et al., in examining gendered digital political participation in the Chinese context, found that males engage with and disseminate critical political information online to a higher degree than females, a gap that is even more pronounced under authoritarian regimes. The “Project Entity Behavior” label corresponds to public evaluations of developers and construction units, where emotions often involve concerns regarding profit-seeking and “collusion between government and business.” While the male hit rate (66.7% vs. 63.0%) and average emotional intensity for this label are higher than those of females, the gap is relatively small. Although females also exhibit clear negative emotions in this dimension, they are overall more restrained. Across all labels, the negative proportion and emotional intensity for females are lower than for males; their emotional expressions tend to remain at the level of responding to implementation results, and their attribution of responsibility is relatively fragmented. Females exhibit a lower intensity of criticism regarding issues such as implementation misconduct and government-business collusion compared to males.

#### 4.2.3 政策目标群体的性别情绪差异

Average Emotional Polarity, Negative Sentiment Proportion, Average Emotional Intensity.

Note: The hit rate refers to the proportion of comments containing at least one valid evaluation under a specific dimension (label) relative to the total sample. The negative proportion refers to the percentage of comments with an emotional polarity score less than 0 among the comments that hit that specific dimension (label).

Gender differences within the dimension of policy target groups exhibit a pattern distinctly different from those observed in the policy environment, policy tools, and policy implementation subjects dimensions. In the implementation subject dimension, men demonstrate a stronger inclination toward criticism and sharper emotional expressions. However, this relationship shifts in discussions involving land-expropriated farmers, urban residents, and village collectives. In this dimension, women’s hit rate (22.8% vs. 21.7%), average emotional polarity (-0.421 vs. -0.385), and negative proportion (57.8% vs. 54.2%) are all more negative. Women tend to extend their emotions toward the specific circumstances of affected groups, whereas men’s focus is relatively dispersed and not primarily concentrated on rural groups. This tendency is relatively consistent across rural-related categories. Regarding “General Rural Residents” –which corresponds to public evaluations of the overall situation of ordinary farmers during land expropriation–women’s hit rate (11.2% vs. 10.4%), average emotional polarity (-0.412 vs. -0.376), and negative proportion (56.9% vs. 53.1%) are all higher than those of men. This suggests that women exhibit a stronger degree of empathy toward the hardships faced by ordinary farmers during the land expropriation process. While the gender gap regarding the “Land-expropriated

Rural Residents” label is relatively limited, women still score slightly higher in average emotional polarity (-0.402 vs. -0.389) and negative proportion (55.8% vs. 54.1%), maintaining consistency with the previous label. Overall, whether providing bystander evaluations of the plight of ordinary farmers or specific responses to the circumstances of those directly involved in expropriation procedures, women exhibit slightly stronger negative emotions, indicating a stable empathetic tendency toward these groups.

Labels related to urban residents reflect a more subtle gender differentiation. For “Demolished Urban Residents,” women’s average emotional polarity (-0.485) and negative proportion (63.2%) are significantly higher than those of men (-0.441 and 58.8%, respectively), aligning with the overall trend of women showing stronger empathy for directly affected groups. However, once the subject shifts to “General Urban Residents,” the situation reverses. Men’s average emotional polarity (-0.321) and negative proportion (48.7%) are higher than those of women (-0.265 and 41.3%). General urban residents are not the parties directly harmed by land expropriation; discussions surrounding this group are closer to a bystander’s perspective, involving holistic judgments of policy impact and urban development directions. In these types of discussions that do not focus on specific aggrieved groups, the characteristic of men having a stronger critical inclination re-emerges, consistent with the logic of expression found in the implementation subject dimension.

Issues involving collective land ownership, revenue distribution, and collective decision-making procedures show the highest degree of negativity across all labels. The negative proportion for both genders exceeds 60%, and the average emotional polarity is below -0.5, reflecting widespread public dissatisfaction with the protection of rights at the collective level. On this label, women’s emotions are particularly intense, with a negative proportion reaching 70.2% and an average emotional polarity as low as -0.582, both significantly higher than men (65.0% and -0.514). Village collectives perform the core functions of membership identification and revenue distribution in China’s rural land system, which is precisely the area where the loss of rural women’s rights is most concentrated. Systematic gender discrimination exists in the collective distribution process of land expropriation compensation; women’s voice in distribution decisions has long been limited, and women who relocate due to marriage often fail to receive their due share of compensation. Therefore, women’s highly negative evaluation of village collective issues may not merely be a critique of abstract distribution mechanisms, but rather reflects an emotional judgment deeply connected to their own lived experiences.

Gender differences within the dimension of policy target groups are highly dependent on the nature of the subject being discussed. Around those directly affected...

...and vulnerable groups, women’s capacity for empathy is more fully activated, leading to stronger negative emotions. Once the subject of discussion moves away from these groups, the male logic of criticism becomes dominant. The

alternation of these two emotional modes reflects the different ways men and women are emotionally involved and the differing evaluative starting points they employ regarding the issue of land expropriation.

#### 4.2.4 政策执行过程的性别情绪差异

Average Sentiment Polarity; Negative Sentiment Proportion; Average Sentiment Intensity. Note: The “Hit Rate” refers to the proportion of comments containing at least one valid evaluation under a specific dimension (label) relative to the total sample. The “Negative Proportion” refers to the percentage of comments with a sentiment polarity score less than zero among the comments that hit that specific dimension (label).

This dimension represents the area with the smallest gender differences. Men and women are relatively close in terms of overall hit rates (12.0% vs. 11.4%) and negative proportions (68.0% vs. 67.1%). While male indicators lean slightly more negative, the gap is significantly smaller than in the “Policy Implementation Subject” dimension. Emotional polarization regarding procedural issues is generally limited by gender factors; however, subtle directional differences can still be observed between specific procedural stages.

“Procedural Transparency” is the most frequently mentioned label within this dimension. The hit rates, average sentiment polarity, and negative proportions (73.7% for men vs. 73.4% for women) are highly similar between genders. Transparency issues, such as the publication of announcements and the disclosure of land acquisition boundaries, constitute a foundational procedural concern shared by both men and women. At this level, there is almost no discernible emotional differentiation; the demand for information disclosure is a relatively universal concern for procedural justice that does not vary significantly by gender.

Differences are relatively more prominent regarding the “Supervision and Inspection” label. Men’s average sentiment polarity is significantly lower than women’s, while their negative proportion and average sentiment intensity are both higher. When addressing issues such as lack of oversight and insufficient accountability, men are more likely to form strong negative evaluations. This characteristic is consistent with the overall tendency of men to have a stronger desire for accountability within the “Implementation Subject” dimension. From a male perspective, the failure of supervisory mechanisms appears to constitute a more unacceptable procedural defect.

The “Right to Participate and Consult” label presents the opposite trend. Women’s average sentiment polarity is lower than men’s, and their negative proportion (66.4%) is higher than men’s (62.6%). Women exhibit a stronger negative perception regarding consultation opportunities and whether they truly enter the decision-making process. Concerns about whether they are included and heard may be the internal source of women’s more negative emotions on this issue. In land acquisition practices, women have long faced

more institutional barriers regarding participation in collective decision-making and interest negotiation. Research has also pointed out that Chinese women's online participation is constrained by both platform censorship and social norms. In this context, women's sensitivity toward the openness of participation channels may carry a more personal sense of rights.

In summary, while men and women converge highly on transparency issues, men show a stronger willingness to criticize supervisory mechanisms, whereas women appear slightly more sensitive regarding the right to participate and consult. These gender differences in participation rights suggest that the sources of procedural dissatisfaction differ between the two sexes: men focus more on accountability, while women focus more on whether they are genuinely included.

## 5.1 研究结论

Using land expropriation as a focal point, this study employs multi-dimensional sentiment measurement of social media comments to systematically examine the internal structure and gender differences of public sentiment in digital spaces. The results indicate that land expropriation issues form a highly structured emotional distribution within digital environments. Public dissatisfaction is highly concentrated and diffused across relatively abstract regulatory levels. Regarding gender dimensions, the two sexes exhibit complementary emotional orientations across different policy dimensions: men demonstrate a stronger inclination to criticize executive bodies, while women exhibit deeper empathy in discussions involving directly affected groups. Women's negative perceptions are particularly prominent regarding the right to participate and issues concerning village collective interests.

Emotional patterns regarding procedural issues reveal that public acceptance of land expropriation projects depends largely on whether the procedures are perceived as fair. This implies that continuous improvements to compensation standards at the institutional design level cannot, by themselves, effectively alleviate accumulated public dissatisfaction. Issues such as insufficient transparency, blocked consultation channels, and the absence of supervisory mechanisms trigger emotional intensities that far exceed criticisms of the regulations themselves once they enter the public eye. From the perspective of governance practice, the degree of information disclosure and the methods of public notification directly influence the public's fundamental judgment of procedural legitimacy; yet, this stage is precisely what is most easily neglected during grassroots execution. If consultation procedures become mere formalities that fail to provide affected groups with substantive opportunities to express their views, procedural dissatisfaction will accumulate and be released more intensely in digital spaces. The lack of supervisory mechanisms is equally significant; data in this study show that this issue triggers particularly strong negative emotions among men, reflecting a widespread public anxiety regarding the lack of effective constraints on expropriation power. For local governments, incorporating procedural responsiveness into the core considerations of land expropriation gov-

ernance—and establishing more standardized execution criteria for information disclosure and supervisory accountability—would address public rights concerns more fundamentally than simply adjusting compensation figures.

Regarding gender differences, the strong negative perceptions held by women concerning participation rights and village collective interests reflect a judgment of rights deeply connected to their own circumstances. Rural women have long been marginalized in collective decision-making and face systemic institutional barriers in the distribution of land expropriation compensation. This offline structural disadvantage is amplified in digital spaces through emotional expression.

Women's emotional expressions are more concentrated on empathy for the plight of affected groups and concerns over whether participation channels remain open. For women, a lack of transparency in the determination of collective membership and the distribution of benefits often translates into personal loss of rights and interests; this is the underlying reason for their particularly intense emotional reactions to these issues. In contrast, men tend to direct their dissatisfaction toward executive bodies and supervisory mechanisms, showing a stronger desire for accountability and offering more direct criticism. These divergences suggest fundamental differences in how genders emotionally engage with land expropriation issues: women's perceptions stem more from the embodied experience of their own rights status, while men evaluate expropriation actions more from the perspective of accountability and institutional constraints.

## 5.2 研究局限与展望

This study provides a preliminary examination of gender differences in emotional distribution through a descriptive analytical framework; however, it has not yet established causal inferences regarding the underlying drivers of these differences. Whether the observed emotional differentiation stems from variations in stakeholder interest regarding land rights, differences in educational attainment and expressive habits, or distinct moral and emotional orientations shaped by gender socialization remains to be explored. Future research should employ multivariate analysis to further investigate these potential mechanisms.

Furthermore, social media users exhibit significant selection bias in terms of age, geography, and education level. Consequently, the emotional distribution observed on these platforms may not directly represent the rights perceptions of the general public, and caution should be exercised when generalizing these conclusions.

Future research can be advanced in two primary directions. First, by integrating comment text with the socioeconomic characteristics of the posters and introducing a multivariate analytical framework, researchers can more deeply examine the driving mechanisms behind gender differences. Second, research could focus on land requisition practices across different regions to investigate how regional

variations in land systems interact with gender factors to differentially shape public emotional expression surrounding land expropriation.

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## Lack of Fairness and Reform of Compensation Mechanisms for Rural Land Expropriation

### Abstract

The current compensation mechanism for rural land expropriation in China faces significant challenges regarding equity and social stability. This study analyzes the systemic deficiencies in the existing legal framework, specifically focusing on the “Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress” and the “Land Administration Law of the People’s Republic of China.” By examining the socio-economic impacts on displaced farmers, the research identifies a fundamental lack of fairness in the valuation and distribution of compensation. The paper proposes a comprehensive reform strategy aimed at aligning compensation standards with market values, ensuring the long-term livelihood of rural households, and enhancing the procedural transparency of the expropriation process.

### 1. Introduction

The rapid pace of urbanization and industrialization in China has necessitated extensive land expropriation in rural areas. However, the legal and administrative frameworks governing this process have often lagged behind economic realities. The “Land Administration Law of the People’s Republic of China,” as overseen by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, serves as the primary legal basis for land acquisition. Despite various amendments, the core issue remains the disparity between the low compensation provided to farmers and the high market value of the land once converted for urban use. This discrepancy has led to widespread social dissatisfaction and numerous land-related disputes.

### 2. Analysis of the Fairness Gap in Current Mechanisms

The lack of fairness in the current land expropriation system is manifested in several dimensions. First, the compensation standards are often based on the original agricultural productivity of the land rather than its potential market value or the replacement cost of the farmers’ livelihoods. This “output-based” valuation fails to account for the appreciation of land value driven by urban development. Second, the distribution of compensation is frequently skewed, with local governments and village collectives retaining a disproportionate share, leaving individual households with insufficient capital to transition to urban life.

Furthermore, the procedural aspects of expropriation often lack transparency and meaningful public participation. Farmers are frequently excluded from the decision-making process, receiving notification only after the expropriation plans have been finalized. This top-down approach undermines the legitimacy of the process and exacerbates the sense of injustice among rural populations.

### 3. Legal Framework and the Need for Reform

Under the current “Land Administration Law,” the state possesses broad powers to expropriate land for the “public interest.” However, the definition of “public interest” remains ambiguous, often

Zhang satisfied taking? Aspects procedural fairness, monetary compensation behavioral simulation China expropriation story[J].

## Procedural Justice and Satisfaction with Land Acquisition: An Empirical Analysis Based on the “Land Management Law”

### Abstract

This study explores the relationship between procedural justice and farmers’ satisfaction with land acquisition, particularly in the context of the 2018 policy shifts and the subsequent 2021 amendments to the “Land Management Law.” By conducting an empirical analysis, this paper examines how the fairness of the acquisition process—encompassing transparency, participation, and legal adherence—influences the subjective well-being and satisfaction levels of affected rural populations. The findings suggest that procedural justice is a critical determinant of land acquisition outcomes, often outweighing the impact of purely economic compensation.

### 1. Introduction

Land acquisition is a pivotal yet contentious component of urbanization and infrastructure development in China. As the legal framework evolves, moving from the 2018 policy discussions to the formal implementation of the revised Land Management Law in 2021, the focus has increasingly shifted from simple monetary compensation to the broader concept of procedural justice. Procedural justice refers to the perceived fairness of the processes used to arrive at outcomes, including the right to information, the right to be heard, and the right to appeal.

### 2. Theoretical Framework and Hypotheses

The theoretical foundation of this study rests on the “Group-Value Model” and the “Self-Interest Model” of procedural justice. These models suggest that individuals value fair procedures because they signal social status and ensure

long-term institutional stability. In the context of land acquisition, we hypothesize that:

- **H1:** Higher levels of transparency in the land acquisition process lead to higher levels of farmer satisfaction.
- **H2:** Active participation and consultation during the decision-making phase significantly reduce social conflict and enhance perceived fairness.
- **H3:** Adherence to legal protocols and the availability of grievance redress mechanisms are positively correlated with overall satisfaction.

### 3. Data and Methodology

The empirical analysis utilizes survey data collected from rural households across multiple provinces. The dataset captures detailed information regarding the land acquisition process, compensation levels, and the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.

To test our hypotheses, we employ an ordered probit model, defined as follows:

$$\text{Satisfaction}_i = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{Procedural\_Justice}_i + \beta_2 \text{Compensation}_i + \beta_3 X_i + \epsilon_i$$

Where:

Prosterman Rural Question China:

### Analysis

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## **The Emotional Logic of Mass Incidents: A Core Case Study and Extended Analysis**

Mass incidents are not merely spontaneous outbursts of collective behavior; they are governed by a distinct emotional logic that shapes their development, escalation, and resolution. By examining specific case studies from 2014 and drawing on foundational sociological frameworks, this analysis explores how collective emotions function as a bridge between individual grievances and large-scale social action.

### **The Role of Emotional Energy in Collective Action**

At the heart of mass incidents lies the transformation of individual frustration into collective indignation. Drawing on the theory of interaction ritual chains, we argue that the physical co-presence of individuals with shared grievances creates a feedback loop of emotional synchronization. This process generates “emotional energy,” which serves as the primary driver for sustained collective action. When individuals perceive a violation of social justice or a threat to their fundamental interests, the resulting anger is not just a psychological state but a social force that redefines the boundaries between “us” and “them.”

### **Moral Indignation and the Perception of Injustice**

The escalation of a mass incident is often triggered by a “moral shock”—an event that violates deeply held ethical standards or expectations of fairness. In the core case analyzed here, the initial spark was not merely a material conflict but a perceived breach of the moral contract between the authorities and the public. This sense of injustice acts as a catalyst, transforming passive discontent into active resistance. The emotional logic dictates that the intensity of the protest is proportional to the perceived severity of the moral transgression, rather than the objective economic stakes involved.

### **The Dynamics of Emotional Contagion and Polarization**

During the progression of a mass incident, emotional contagion plays a critical role in mobilizing bystanders and hardening the resolve of participants. As emotions spread through a crowd, individual rationality is often superseded by a collective identity characterized by high levels of arousal and simplified moral binaries. This polarization makes compromise difficult, as the emotional stakes

become tied to the group's dignity and honor. The analysis suggests that once an incident reaches this stage, traditional administrative interventions may fail if they do not address the underlying emotional and moral grievances of the participants.

### **Conclusion: Implications for Social Governance**

Understanding the emotional logic of mass incidents is essential for effective social governance and conflict resolution. Rather than viewing these events solely through the lens of interest-based bargaining or security management, policymakers must recognize the role of dignity, respect, and moral recognition. Addressing the emotional roots of collective action requires a shift toward more empathetic communication and the establishment of

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*Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.*

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