当代经济学系列丛书

Contemporary Economics Series

主编 陈昕







 $\checkmark \rightarrow \lor \checkmark \rightarrow \uparrow \checkmark \lor \checkmark \rightarrow \lor \checkmark \rightarrow \uparrow \checkmark \lor \checkmark \lor \checkmark$

基于中国制度背景的 实证会计研究

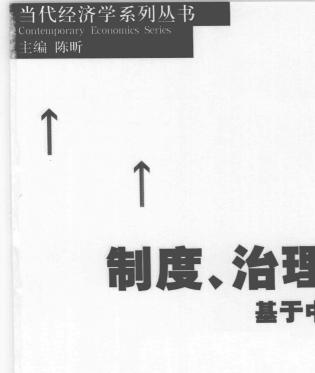


李增泉 孙铮著









制度、治理与

实证会计研究





VYOIA 10-0101

1010-01

V 10/0

10

71

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

制度、治理与会计:基于中国制度背景的实证会计研究/李增泉,孙铮著.一上海:格致出版社:上海人民出版社,2009.10

(当代经济学系列丛书. 当代经济学文库/陈昕主编) ISBN 978-7-5432-1666-2

I.制··· II.①李···②孙··· III.会计制度-研究-中国 IV. F233. 2

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2009)第 165857 号

责任编辑 钱 敏 装帧设计 敬人设计工作室 吕敬人

本书由上海文化发展基金会图书出版项目资助出版

制度、治理与会计

——基于中国制度背景的实证会计研究 李增泉 孙 铮 著

格致出版社・上海三联书店・上海人民出版社 (200001 上海福建中路193号24层 www.ewen.cc)



编辑部热线 021-63914988 市场部热线 021-63914081 世纪出版集团发行中心发行 上海图字印刷有限公司印刷 2009 年 11 月第 1 版 2009 年 11 月第 1 次印刷 开本:850×1168 1/32 印张:11.75 插页:6 字数:249,000

ISBN 978 - 7 - 5432 - 1666 - 2/F • 216

定价:28,00元

为了全面地、系统地反映当代经济学的全貌 及其进程,总结与挖掘当代经济学已有的和潜 在的成果,展示当代经济学新的发展方向,我 们决定出版"当代经济学系列丛书"。

"当代经济学系列丛书"是大型的、高层次 的、综合性的经济学术理论丛书。它包括三个 子系列:(1)当代经济学文库;(2)当代经济学 文库;(3)当代经济学教学参考书系。该丛 在学科领域方面,不仅着眼于各传统经济学科 的新成果,更注重经济前沿学科、边缘学科和 综合学科的新成就;在选题的采择上,广泛思想 新颖独到、作品水平拔尖的"高、新、尖"著作。 "文库"力求达到中国经济学界当前的最为 "文库"力求达到中国经济学界当前的最高, 平;"译库"翻译当代经济学的名人名著;"教 参考书系"则主要出版国外著名高等院校的 通用教材。

本丛书致力于推动中国经济学的现代化和国际标准化,力图在一个不太长的时期内,

从研究范围、研究内容、研究方法、分析技术等方面逐步完成中国经济学从传统向现代的转轨。我们渴望经济学家们支持我们的追求,向这套丛书提供高质量的标准经济学著作,进而为提高中国经济学的水平,使之立足于世界经济学之林而共同努力。

我们和经济学家一起瞻望着中国经济学的未来。

有效市场假说与资本资产定价模型作为20世纪60年代西方财务学领域最重要的理论进展,对传统会计理论形成了巨大挑战,进而促进了以 Ball 和 Brown(1968)①为代表的实证会计研究方法的出现。尽管这些早期文献的研究目的并非解释和预测会计实践,而是检验会计信息在资本市场定价中的作用,但正是是这的会计契约观的诞生。当然,产权理论,特别是代理理论在经济学领域的发展对新会计理论的推动也居功至伟。这些以预测和解释会计实践为研究目标的实证会计研究成果集中体现在 Watts 和 Zimmerman 于 1986年出版的《实证会计理论》(Positive Accounting Theory)②一书中。可以说,在20世纪八九十年代,实证会

Ball, R., Brown, P., 1968, "An Empirical Evaluation of Accounting Income Numbers", Journal of Accounting Research, 6,159—178.

Watts, R. L., Zimmerman, J. L., 1986, Positive Accounting Theory, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

计的研究文献主要是围绕着建立在代理理论之上的三个假说,即分红计划假说、债务契约假说和政治成本假说予以展开的。建立在代理理论上的会计契约观为我们理解会计行为提供了重要的观察视角,用"会计理论界的一场革命"来形容并不为过。

① 可参见赵宇龙(1998),第41-49页。

② 例如《中国会计与财务研究》、《会计研究》、《中国会计评论》等。

③ 本书第1章会进一步阐述截至目前的中国实证会计研究的"模仿"痕迹。

问题应如何问起? 西方已有的会计理论可否用来指导我们对中国会计问题的探究?

其实,不仅中国学者面临理论选择的困惑,即使在西方,会计理论界也在反思目前的学术进展。例如,Fields等(2001)^①对发表在20世纪90年代的会计选择文献进行了批评,指出由于缺乏对已有基础理论(即代理理论)的拓展,这些文献仅仅是在重复检验80年代已有的理论,在加深我们对会计选择的经济逻辑的理解上并没有取得太大进步;Holthausen和Watts(2001)^②也认为,在90年代出现的大量用股票价格相关性作为会计选择标准的经验性文献,由于缺乏会计选择的理论基础而无助于我们对会计实践的认识。

自 2003 年起,香港中文大学的黄德尊教授和范博宏教授受邀在上海财经大学会计学院讲授以新制度经济学(或产权经济学)为基础的会计研究方法。至此,困惑笔者多年的中国会计研究的理论选择问题似乎豁然开朗:中西方的制度差异虽然是中国会计研究的难点,

Tields T. D., Lys T. Z., Vincent L., 2001, "Empirical Research on Accounting Choice", Journal of Accounting and Economics, 31:255—307.

② Holthausen R. W., Watts R. L., 2001, "The Relevance of the Value-relevance Literature for Financial Accounting Standard Setting", Journal of Accounting and Economics, 31:3-75.

但也是中国会计研究融入国际学界的机会。 西方目前主流的会计契约观赖以建立的基础 理论是代理理论,该理论在研究中国会计问题 时的局限性可追溯到前提假设,即西方相对完 善的社会制度。换言之,该理论分析的主要是 面临相同制度约束的自由人之间的代理关系, 政府是以"裁判",而非"运动员"的角色参与自 由签约的个体交易。然而,在中国这个最大的 转型经济国家中,政府部门仍然掌控绝大多数 的资源配置,经常以"运动员"的角色参与经济 交易。因此,自由签约(集中表现在企业层面 的所有权与控制权分离),在分析中国企业的 组织结构时就并非一个足够现实的假设前提。 任何有竞争力的组织结构必须实现交易成本 的最小化,而交易成本的大小则从根本上受到 经济制度(或者产权体系)的影响,因此,我们 完全有理由预期中国上市公司的会计与财务 行为应该与英、美等国存在重大差异。理解这 些差异需要一个不同于西方主流会计理论的 研究框架,并将中国的社会制度作为其最重要 的理论元素。

由于相信新制度经济学在构造上述框架中的重要作用,2005年起我们在上海财经大学会计与财务研究院组织了以新制度经济学为基础的实证会计研究兴趣讨论班,该班主要由作者的研究生及相关院系的部分青年教师

构成,规模控制在15人左右。讨论班采取读书报告和论文演讲相结合的讨论方式,目的在于提高大家对新制度经济学(特别是产权新制度经济学(特别是产权新制度经济学(特别是产权的的理解,并尝试将其结合到转型经济中的会计与财务问题的研究框架中。截至目前,该讨论班已运作了五年多的时间,收到了良好产了上海的研究兴趣,并且所以产权理论为基础的较高质量的积极,并且所以产权理论为基础的较高质量的积极,并是一个大家的大型。这些成果大多已经发表在了国内权威的专业期刊上,有些还获得了教育部人文社会的专业及中国会计学会优秀论文奖等多个奖项。

抛砖引玉!围绕制度、治理和会计的相互 关系,本书对上述研究成果进行了梳理,斗胆 提供一个初步的以新制度经济学为基础的中 国会计问题的研究范式,以求教于学界同仁。 本书主体包括四部分:

第一部分为有关会计研究方法论的问题,由一篇论文构成。该文首先论述了建立在新制度经济学基础上的会计问题设问方式,然后在回顾国内相关文献的基础上,指出了针对中国会计问题的几个研究方向。

第二部分研究中国企业财务行为的制度 诱因,由三篇论文构成,分别关注企业的债务 融资、并购重组与多元化投资行为。研究结论 是中国企业的上述行为由于其经营环境的特 殊性而与西方企业具有本质上的差异。

第三部分从制度诱因和经济后果两个层面研究中国上市公司的治理结构,由四篇论文构成,分别关注企业金字塔结构的成因、所有权结构与掏空、股利和股票价格信息含量的关系。研究结论是,中国的宏观金融环境对中国上市公司的治理结构具有重要的解释能力,并在控股股东的掏空行为、股利政策和股票价格信息含量上表现出显著的经济后果。

第四部分研究中国的制度环境对会计信息有用性的影响,由三篇论文构成,分别关注会计信息在薪酬契约、管理层更换与债务契约中的作用。研究结论表明,政府对金融市场和产品市场的干预行为显著削弱了会计信息在自由契约中的作用。

路漫漫其修远兮,吾将上下而求索。构造一个研究中国会计问题的研究框架,为中国的会计改革事业提供分析视角和经验证据,是会计学界义不容辞的重任。谨以此书与学界同仁共勉!

李增泉 孙 铮 2009年10月 于上海财经大学会计与财务研究院

ABSTRACT

As the most important progress of financial theory in 1960s, Efficient Markets Hypothesis(EMH) and Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) challenges classical accounting theory, and consequently introduces the emergency of positive accounting research, such as Ball and Brown (1968). 1 Although these early studies are not intended to explain or predict actual accounting practice but to examine the role of accounting information plays in capital assets pricing, they provided rich empirical evidences to evoke the prevalence of contracting perspective in accounting research. The progress in Property Right Theory, more specifically agency theory in economics, also contributes magnificently to the development of new accounting theory.

Ball, R., Brown, P., 1968, "An Empirical Evaluation of Accounting Income Numbers," *Journal of Account*ing Research, 6,159—178.

In the book of Positive Accounting Theory (Watts and Zimmerman, 1986), the accounting researches explaining and predicting actual accounting practice are fully summarized and reviewed. For nearly 20 years (1980s—1990s), positive accounting researches have been focusing on three hypotheses based on agency theory; bonus plan, debt contracting, and political cost. Within the framework of Agency theory, contractual view of positive accounting did provide us a new angle to explain accounting practice. In this sense, it is a 'revolution' in the evolution of accounting theory.

Positive research method was accepted by China accounting researchers 20 years later. Even if taking Zhao Yulong's study, the information content of accounting accruals (1998, Economic Research Journal), as the starting point, positive accounting research only has ten years' history in China.

Watts, R. L., Zimmerman, J. L., 1986, Positive Accounting Theory, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

Zhao, Yulong, 1998, "The Information Content of Accounting Accruals—Evidence from Shanghai Stock Exchange", Economic Research Journal, 7:1—49.

Leaping forward in the past ten years, positive studies nowadays are widely imitated and well received as popular icon in China's accounting academic research. © Regardless of the quality of research, the fundamental transition from normative to positive research methodology itself is commendable in the progress of China's accounting theory. Nevertheless. Chinese accounting researchers have been replicating studies in western countries with trivial modifications from the beginning, due to a lack of positive research foundation in China. Assuming replication is unavoidable for beginners, how can we move beyond? What are the most important accounting research questions in China? Are the accounting theories in western countries suitable for examining China's accounting questions?

Not only China's accounting researchers facing challenges of adopting theories, researchers in west are also grumbling about

The Journals include China Accounting and Finance Review, Accounting Research, and China Accounting Review. In chapter one, we give evidence on a replication focus in China accounting research.

the current progress in accounting theory. Fields et al. (2001)^① conclude that research in last decade made limited progress in expanding our understanding of accounting choice because of a focus on replication rather than extension of current theory, after review a collection of 1990s researches related to determinants and consequences of accounting choice. Holthausen and Watts (2001)^② also criticize the value relevance research studies for having limited implications for standard setting because the underlying theories are not descriptive.

Since year 2003, professor T. J. Wong and Joseph P. H. Fan (both from Chinese University of Hong Kong) having been visiting Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and offering seminars on accounting research method based on New Institutional Economics (NIE) or Property Right Theory

Tields T. D., Lys T. Z., Vincent L., 2001, "Empirical Research on Accounting Choice", Journal of Accounting and Economics, 31:255-307.

² Holthausen R. W., Watts R. L., 2001, "The Relevance of the Value-relevance Literature for Financial Accounting Standard Setting", Journal of Accounting and Economics, 31,3—75.

(PRT). Ever since then, the question confused authors for many years on how to choose an appropriate theory for China's accounting research had a clear answer. The differences in institutions between east and west present both the challenges and the opportunities for China accounting studies to play a role in international accounting research. The underlying theory of contracting perspective on accounting, also the main stream view in west, is agency theory, which has limited implication in examining China's accounting questions because the underlying assumption of developed institutions may not hold. Under this assumption, the major question is how to solve the agency conflicts between individuals in arm-length transactions. In this game, the government is the judge not a player. While in the biggest transitional economy like China, the government controls most resources and participates in economic activities as a "player". For this reason, free market trading assumption is not realistic in analyzing governance structure in China, especially at the firm level when ownership and control is separated.

Assuming that the evolvement of organization structure is to achieve minimized transaction cost (which is affected by institutions), and given the difference in institutions between China and western countries, we expect the accounting practice in China to be quite different from in U. S. or U. K.. To understand these differences, a different theory framework incorporating the difference in institutions is required.

Since we believe NIE is crucial in constructing this framework, from 2005 a seminar course on NIE based accounting research method has been initiated. The regular participants are about 15 of author's master students and some junior research staff. Presentations and discussions on books, papers are required to help the participants to better understand NIE (especially PRT) and use the theory to construct an accounting research framework in transitional economies. So far, it has been done for five years and achieves desirable outcomes. Great interest has been inspired among the staff and students; a batch of high quality papers has been published in top-tier journals and was