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TRADITIONAL HORSE RACING IN ETHNIC CHINA: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AND THE NEW CHALLENGES

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Abstract

This article aims to present a critical review of one hundred years of academic writings on the traditional horse racing of China's ethnic minorities. In today's China, besides its majority group, namely the Han Chinese, there are 55 ethnic minorities long inhabited in the country's hinterland and frontiers, all of whom have their own equestrian tradition. Accordingly, while the horse racing in China has a history of *longue durée* that could be traced back to times as early as some Stone Age settlements as evidenced by archaeological excavations, it is not altogether homogenous but rather an enormously complex phenomenon full of cultural-ethnic diversity. Based on the data retrieved from the CNKI and VIP databases, this paper explicates that modern scientific studies of Chinese ethnic horse racing started with the Mongolian and the Tibetan groups in the 1920s when anthropology and sport science were first introduced to China; and ethnographic writings and other publications of various forms have ever since been continuously brought out, with multiple disciplines involved. Drawing on bibliometric methods along with the techniques of citation analysis and content analysis, this paper conducts a thorough study of pertinent monographs and edited volumes, journal articles and book chapters, and degree theses, through which research hotspots, research fronts and main themes are identified, crucial arguments and critical viewpoints are highlighted; while the centurial progress and its discontent are recognized, new challenges that current and future research may face are also discussed with some tentative recommendations to be put forward.

Keywords:

Traditional horse racing, traditional equestrian, Chinese minorities, academic works, multidisciplinary research, bibliometric methods



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Introduction

In addition to the Han nationality as the main ethnic group, there are 55 ethnic minorities living in China's interior and border areas for a long time. These ethnic minorities have their own tradition of horse racing with a long history. Archaeological excavations have proved that China is also one of the countries with the earliest origin of horse breeds in the world. (Xie Chenxia, 1991) Horse racing activities can be traced back to some settlements in the Stone Age, Hexi Corridor in Gansu Province, and Dunhuang in Jiuquan. There are a large number of rock paintings of ancient ancestors riding horses on the cliffs along the Hexi Corridor. According to the preliminary research of archaeologists, it is believed that these rock paintings were carved 4000 to 10000 years ago. (Chen Qian, 2021) There are also descriptions of a large number of horse races in the temple murals in Tibet. For example, there are 19 horses galloping forward under the instigation of riders in the Samye Temple murals. However, the forms of horse racing in various ethnic groups and regions are different and full of cultural and ethnic diversity. In the past hundred years, the number of scholars studying the traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities in China has gradually increased, and a number of fruitful achievements have been accumulated. Up to now, no one has made a deep analysis. As a result, this research comprehensively combed and analyzed the traditional horse racing works of Chinese ethnic minorities in the past hundred years with the help of numerous digital resource databases such as CNKI and Duxiu, using the methods of metrological analysis and text content analysis, in order to summarize the academic research achievements of traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities in the past hundred years, seek the challenges faced, and propose countermeasures, so as to promote the healthy and sustainable development of Chinese ethnic horse racing.

Methods

The research mainly adopts metrological analysis, text theme analysis and expert discussion.

Metrological analysis

Bibliometrics is a discipline that takes the document system and bibliometric characteristics as the research object, uses mathematical, statistical and other measurement methods to study the distribution structure, quantitative relationship, change rules and quantitative management of document information, and then discusses some structures, characteristics and laws of science and technology (Qiu Junping, 2019). The author uses the methods of general search, step by step search and document tracing to obtain relevant documents through the document database platforms such as CNKI, Duxiu, National Digital Library and Guizhou Digital Library. Firstly, the horse racing, equestrian and traditional horse racing were directly searched to obtain the horse racing or equestrian literature from 1921 to 2022. Then, we searched the horse racing or equestrian skills of 16 typical ethnic minorities, including Tibetan, Kazak, Mongolian, Miao, Shui, Buyi, Yi, Uygur, Bai,



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Naxi, Tibetan, Tujia, Buyi, Uzbek, Tatar, Xibe, etc. Finally, the method of literature tracing was used to retrieve again, and the main information of all the literatures was listed in the Excel table by entries. After the irrelevant and duplicate literatures were eliminated, 346 literatures were obtained from 1930 to 2022, including 230 periodical literatures, 7 monographs, 22 books including the minority horse racing chapter festival, 33 dissertations, and 38 newspaper literatures. The EXCEL table is used to classify, sort and count the literature data, and to summarize and analyze the content and theme of the text, so as to obtain the data needed for this study and relevant information.

Text content analysis method

Based on the analysis and induction of the existing literature, this study thoroughly read the text content of the existing literature, went deep into the depth of the text from the surface of the text, refined the core ideas, summarized the theme and research methods of the traditional horse racing research of China's ethnic minorities over the past century, and evaluated its achievements and shortcomings.

Expert interview method.

This study visited experts in ethnology and sports science on the topics, text structure, research methods and other issues of the paper, and sought expert opinions. After several revisions, the basic framework and content of this study were determined.

Result

Metrological analysis of the Research on Horse Racing of Chinese Minority Nationalities

The traditional horse racing of China's ethnic minorities has a long history. In the early 20th century, some newspapers and magazines recorded the horse racing of Mongolian, Tibetan and other ethnic minorities in the form of pictures. However, the academic research in the modern sense began in 1931 when Guo Zhushu wrote the article "*Frontier Festival: The Mongolian Horse Racing Conference for Panchen Lamas*" (Guo Zhushu, 1931), This article describes the various scenes of Tibetan Panchen Lama's visit to Mongolia to visit the Mongolian annual horse race in the form of pictures and texts, which fully demonstrates the historical facts of modern China's ethnic minorities' exchanges with horse racing as the medium. If this is the starting point of literature research, as of today, the academic research on Chinese minority horse racing has accumulated research results accumulated for nearly a hundred years. The statistics of the year and number of these research results are as follows (see Table 1).

Table 1: literature on traditional horse racing of China's Ethnic minorities during 1931-2022



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Date of publication	literature number	Date of publication	literature number
1930-1935	25	1991-1995	19
1936-1940	7	1996-2000	7
1941-1948	2	2001-2005	22
1949-1960	4	2006-2010	40
1960-1970	1	2011-2015	90
1971-1980	1	2016-2020	84
1981-1985	8	2020-2022	28
1986-1990	8		

It can be seen from Table 1 that in the 1930s, the traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities in China had entered the vision of domestic researchers, and a considerable number of research results had emerged. However, since the founding of the People's Republic of China until the end of the 20th century, the amount of literature on traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities has been at a low level for a long time. After 2000, the annual number of papers on the study of traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities showed a rapid increase. Based on this, our research on traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities in the past hundred years can be divided into three stages, which are described as follows.

Metrological analysis of the Research on Horse Racing of China's Ethnic Minorities in the First Half of the 20th Century

In the first half of the 20th century, the research on traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities in China was in the embryonic stage, and the number of literature was very limited. There were mainly 35 literature and works closely related to horse racing of ethnic minorities, including 20 newspaper literature and 15 journal literature, mainly newspaper literature. (See Table 2)

Table 2 List of Chinese Ethnic Horse Racing Literature During 1931-1948

No	title	Author	Publication time	Publishing institutions
1	A major event in China's border areas: Panchen Lama's visit to the Mongolian horse racing conference	Guo Zhuishu	1931 (64) : 15	Good friend
2	Mongolian and Tibetan News: The Duke of Mongolia participated in		1932 (36) : 12-13	Mongolian Tibetan Ten day Journal



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	horse racing activities in Beijing three times			
3	The grand occasion of Chu Minyi's invitation to the Duke of Mongolia to hold a horse race in Nanjing:		1932, 18 (870) : 1	Beiyang Pictorial
4	The first captain of Mongolian horse racing		1932, 1 (4) : 26	Hong Kong Kowloon Magazine
5	Song Ziwen and Chu Minyi Invite the Duke of Mongolia to Race Horses in the Stadium	NanJin Center	1932 (350) : 1	Daya Pictorial
6	The provincial government sent a letter to all the people of Inner Mongolia to participate in the horse race held in the province: promote Mongolian horse breeds to strengthen national defense in the northwest		1932 (84) : 3	Mongolian Weekly
7	Horse Race Held in Suiyuan Province		1932-10-31	Ta Kung Pao (Tianjin)
8	Yesterday's horse race, the Duke of Mongolia did not show up		1932-12-19	Central Daily
9	Tomorrow's race horse		1932-12-17	Central Daily
10	Chu Minyi is very interested in horse racing		1932-12-11	Central Daily
11	Mongolian princes racing in Beijing		1932-12-9	la presse
12	Representative Horse Race in Jinjing, Mongolia	Jian Biao	1932-12-13	la presse
13	Yesterday afternoon, the Duke of Mongolia raced at the Central Stadium		1932-12-9	Central Daily
14	Mongolian Equestrian Show		1933-11-28	Liangyou Book Company
15	Chu invited the Mongolian king to represent the horse race		1933, 9 (3) : 2	photographic pictorial
16	News from China's border areas: Huang Zhao invited Banchan and other two Mongolian princes to watch the horse race		1933, 2 (5/6) : 13-14	Border colonization
17	Suiyuan Horse Race: (Part 1) Group photo of the central leaders and the participants in the horse race of Mongolian princes	NanJin Center	1933 (16) : 28	China (Shanghai)
18	Mongolian representative horse racing		1934-3-6	Central Daily



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19	Mongolian Guo representatives watch horse racing in Beijing:		1934, 1 (2) : 9	Mongolian Tibetan Monthly
20	Lessons from watching the horse racing clubs in Mongolia	Ren Aixian	1935, 4 (6-7) : 34	Lingyin Monthly
21	Dali will hold a grand horse race	Wang Shijin	1935-08-16	Shanghai Daily
22	Suiyuan held a horse race	Gao Geng,et	1935, 8 (10) : 3	times
23	Mongolian and Han hold horse races to promote friendship		1935, 3 (4) : 15	Mongolian Tibetan Monthly
24	Mongolian horse: The horse is five feet to five feet four five high, with big head and sharp ears, Legs long and thin, good endurance, steady and fast pace, and is widely used in military and horse racing		1935 (19) : 7	Popular Pictorial
25	Warm weather Xinjiang Mongolia horse racing busy		1935-6-25	Times Daily
26	Border current affairs: Songshan Tibetan people hold horse race		1936, 5 (6) : 68	Mongolian Tibetan Monthly
27	Tibetan horse racing		1936, 9 (3/4) : 1	Geography magazine
28	Panchen Master: Qinghai Cavalry Performs Equestrian	Zhuang Xueben	1936 (44) : 4	China (Shanghai)
29	Government decree: Decree No. 509 of the Government Council of the Mongolian Union Autonomous Government: Order He Bingwen, Mayor of Houhe City, to follow the instructions for the formulation of the provisional horse racing code and the implementation rules of the provisional horse racing code		1939-8-7: 6	Houhe Special Municipal Office Municipal Monthly Report
30	The Great Unity of Han and Tibetan Nationalities: Xikang Horse Racing Festival	Peng Wenrui	1940, 3 (6) : 18-19	Oriental pictorial
31	The new lineup of the Xikang garrison and the new political trends: The			A good friend



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	provincial government, in order to promote national sports, specially held horse racing competitions. The scene was crowded and impressed the people		1940 (158) : 3	
32	Wind and cloud on the frontier: great exterior scenes include Mongolian grand temple fair, evening party and sacrifice, wrestling, ghost jumping, horse racing, etc		1940, 5 (4) : 7	Qingqing Film
33	The border people's horse racing meeting in Jiuquan,	Yang Yun	1943(202): 30-31.	Battle
34	A Study on Mongolian Custom of Horse Racing	Yang Chunxuan	1943(3): 4-6.	Frontier communication
35	We also wrote something: Horse Racing Conference Year in Hexi	Chen Songceng	1946(16): 58-59.	Enlightened youth

In the first half of the 20th century, China's minority horse racing gradually entered the vision of scholars, and produced a number of reportable literature results worthy of attention. From the perspective of literature types, the period was dominated by newspapers and periodicals (newspapers accounted for 57.1% of the total), mainly reporting the actual situation of horse racing at that time. From the perspective of ethnic groups studied, Mongolian and Tibetan are the main ethnic groups (Tibetan and Mongolian horse racing accounts for 77% of the total). From the perspective of research theme, it mainly introduces the on-site activities of horse racing, folk customs, and is closely related to politics. During this period, the academic research on the horse racing of ethnic minorities was just in the bud. Although the number of documents was small, only involving Mongolian and Tibetan, and most documents only recorded the grand horse racing event in the form of pictures, the research content was single, but it vividly presented the horse racing facts at that time, and fully demonstrated the fact that the horse racing activities of ethnic minorities were carried out in the first half of the 20th century.

Metrological analysis from the founding of the People's Republic of China to the beginning of the new century

From the founding of the People's Republic of China to the beginning of the new century (1949-2000), only 47 minority horse racing documents (see Table 1) have been produced, including 3 newspaper documents, 2 monographs, 11 documents containing the chapters of minority horse racing, and 31 journal papers.

Metrological analysis of newspaper literature

Newspaper documents have a very strong timeliness, which can record the social facts at that time in a timely manner. They are precious historical materials. In the fifty years from 1949 to 2000, the newspaper literature on horse racing of ethnic



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minorities in China was very rare, with only three articles. However, from the perspective of reporting agencies, two of them were reports on horse racing of Shui nationality by the People's Daily, and one was reports on horse racing of Tibetan nationality by the Sports News. These three newspapers are authoritative domestic newspapers, especially the People's Daily is an organ newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Although the number of reports is small, However, it fully shows that the CPC and the national government support and attach importance to the horse racing of ethnic minorities.

Table 3 Newspaper literature on horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities during 1949 to 2000

NO	title	Author	Publishing institutions	Publication time
1	Players from 14 nationalities gather in Hohhot, and the National Games horse race is about to begin	Xinhua News Agency	People's Daily	1959-8-24 (06)
2	Spreading the Seed of National Unity on the Grassland: On the Ruoergai Grassland Horse Racing Conference in Aba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province	Sports News reporter	Sports newspaper	1974-5-23 (01)
3	Drumming in villages and fierce horse racing: Sandu Shui people celebrate the "Duan" Festival	Xinhua News Agency	People's Daily	1961-11-16 (04)

Bibliometric analysis of monograph and book chapters

A monograph is a systematic and comprehensive treatise on a certain field, which has high academic value. According to statistics, two monographs were produced from 1949 to 2000 (see Table 4), and both of them were produced in the late 20th century. Although the number is very rare, it also reflects the leapfrog development of traditional horse racing research of Chinese ethnic minorities in the late 1990s.

Table 4 The monographs on traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities in China during 1949 to 2000

title	author	press	Publication time
History of Chinese Equestrian	Zhang Caizhen	Wuhan Publishing House	1994
Qinghai Yushu Jockey Club	Feng Weilie	China Workers' Publishing House	2000



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In order to more comprehensively collect the literature of this stage and grasp the research trends of this stage, this study selected chapters containing the contents of Chinese minority horse racing from the anthologies, dictionaries, local chronicles, monographs and other books (see Table 5).

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Table 5. Chinese Ethnic Racing Literature Selected from Book Chapters during 1949-2000

No	Author	Precipitation chapter	title	press	Publication time	type
1	Su Jingcun	A preliminary study on the history of Yi people's horse racing activities (Zhong Dehong); Bai race horse (Xu Fengchi), pages 45-47	Sports historical materials	People's Physical Culture Publishing House	1982	Anthology
2	Ji Xin	Entertainment Custom Legend: Origin of Horse Racing Festival (Miao Nationality): 375 pages	Chinese Folklore	China Folk Literature and Art Publishing House	1985	Anthology
3	Wang Mingxing	Chapter 14 National Traditional Sports, Horse Racing of Manchu, Mongolian, Dahir and Ewenki	Physical Education Textbooks of National Colleges for Nationalities	Chengdu University of Science and Technology	1987	teaching material
4	Hu Xiaoming	Horse racing of 23 ethnic minorities, including Uygur, Dahir, Kazak, Manchu, Mongolian and Ewen	National Sports Highlights	Academic Press	1989	monograph
5	Mo Fushan	Yi Nationality Horse Racing Festival	Dictionary of Chinese Folk Festival Culture	Sichuan Ethnic Publishing House	1990	Dictionaries
5	Guizhou Provincial Department of Culture	Part VII Yi Nationality: Baicaoping Yi Nationality Horse Racing Festival (Yang Guangxun):	A Grand View of Guizhou Minority Festivals	Staff Education Press	1991	Anthology



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6	Group Literature Division, etc	Chapter V Folk Amusement Competition of Shui Nationality (Horse Race)	Exploring the Folk Custom of Shui Nationality	Guizhou Ethnic Publishing House	1992	monograph
7	He Jiquan	Section IV of Chapter VI National Sports (Horse Race)	Annals of Sandu Shui Nationality Autonomous County	Sichuan Ethnic Publishing House	1992	local records
8	Sandu Shui Nationality Autonomous County Annals Compilation Committee	7、Horse racing, sheep catching, horse wrestling, girl chasing	Ethnic customs in Xinjiang	Guizhou People's Publishing House	1993	monograph
9	Huang Bingrong	Athletics: The Legend of Horse Racing of Miao Nationality	Integration of the Origin of Chinese Folk Custom · Entertainment Volume	China Tourism Press	1994	Anthology
10	Xue Li	Section 3, Chapter V Sports on National Festivals (Horse Racing)	Records of Weining Yi, Hui and Miao Autonomous County	Gansu People's Publishing House	1994	local records
11	Compiling Group Chinese Minority Folklore Dictionary	Literature and sports: Water race, Mongolian race	A Dictionary of Chinese Minority Folklore	Guizhou People's Publishing House	1995	Dictionaries

For the above books containing horse racing chapters, from the time of publication, they were all between 1982 and 2000, with a trend of increasing year by year. It can be seen that in the 1980s, the horse racing of China's ethnic minorities only attracted the attention of relevant personnel; From the type of books, there are 4 collections, 2 dictionaries, 2 local chronicles and 3 monographs. From the author of the book, most of them are compilation teams led by government departments or governments, which shows that the Chinese minority horse racing has



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attracted the attention of relevant local government agencies. These books and works describe Chinese minority horse racing or equestrian as a chapter or subsection, affirm the existence of Chinese minority horse racing or equestrian, record some facts, and provide a certain material basis for future research. However, in terms of number, such records are still very few, which is far from enough to reflect the actual situation that traditional horse racing activities of Chinese ethnic minorities widely exist among the people.

Bibliometric analysis of Journal Papers

During the 50 years from 1949 to 2000, 31 journal articles were produced, accounting for 65.9.3% of the total literature. (See Table 6)



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Table 6 List of Periodical Papers during 1949 -2000

No	title	author	Journal name	Publication time	Ethnicity
1	The Legend of Gesar (Horse racing and becoming king)	Qinghai Folk Literature Research Association	Qinghai Lake	1960	Tibetan
2	Investigation Report on Jianchang Horse	Pu's family	Animal husbandry and veterinary medicine	1956/6/29	yi
3	Introduction to Inner Mongolia Racecourse	Zhang Haifeng	Journal of Architecture	1959/12/27	The Mongolian
4	Horse Race of Miao Nationality in Xinchang Commune of Duyun County	Wei Yuzhang	Guizhou Ethnic Studies	1982/4/2	miao
5	Riding nationalities in ancient yunnan and related problems	Zhang Zengqi	Journal of Yunnan University for Nationalities	1984/7/1	hybrid
6	Horse riding tug of war	Li Maohong	Contemporary Sports	1985/5/31	hybrid
7	Protection and utilization of Sichuan horse resources	Wang Jiaoxun	Sichuan Grassland	1985/7/2	hybrid
8	See Gesar from LingGesar · Horse Racing	Xie Zuo	Qinghai Social Sciences	1985/10/28	Tibetan
9	The Horse's Feet Disease in Spring -- On the "March Street" Jockey Club in Dali, Yunnan	Qiu Zhengping	Contemporary Sports	1986/10/28	Bai nationality, Tibetan nationality
10	Ethnic Sports -- Horse Racing in the Mountain Turning Festival	Chen Mingxian	Sports Literature and History	1987/5/1	Qiang and Tibetan
11	Exploring the Origin of Aquarium Horse Race	Liu Shibin	Guizhou Ethnic Studies	1988/4/1	Aquatic animals
12	Investigation Report on Dwarf Resources in Wenshan Prefecture	Jie Dewen	Yunnan Animal Husbandry Veterinary	1989/7/2	multi-ethnic



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13	Study on Ecological Adaptability of Jianchang Horse	Li Shihong et al	Sichuan Agricultural University News	1989/10/1	yi
14	A brief analysis of the source and current of ponies in china	Hou Wentong	agricultural archaeology	1990/4/2	hybrid
15	Qingcheng Horse Race -- Speed Horses in the Fourth National People's Games	Jiangling	Chinese nation	1991/11/27	multi-ethnic
16	A Study on the Origin of Jianchang Horse	Li Xin	Sichuan Animal Husbandry Veterinary	1992/4/15	yi
17	Nomadic horseback riding culture in North Asia	Fujikawa Fanyan et al	Northern Cultural Relics	1992/9/30	multi-ethnic
18	Investigation on the resources of pony breeds in yunnan	Jie Dewen	Yunnan Animal Husbandry Veterinary	1993/7/2	multi-ethnic
19	The sweet fruit of the foreign team jumping -- Xinjiang League won the gold medal of equestrian in the 7th National Games	Li Dong	Sports Expo	1993/10/28	multi-ethnic
20	The Horse Culture of Mongolian Nationality	Bo Shaobu	Inner Mongolia Sociology	1994/1/30	The Mongolian
21	The Joy of Kazak Festivals -- Riding a Horse and Talking about Goats	Selik Ganizak	Ethnic family	1994/2/15	kazak
22	A preliminary study on the source current of ponies in yunnan	Jie Dewen	Yunnan Animal Husbandry Veterinary	1994/12/30	multi-ethnic
23	A Preliminary Study on the Origin of Yunnan Horses (also Southwest Horses)	Jie Dewen	agricultural archaeology	1995/9/30	multi-ethnic
24	Investigation of pony resources in yunnan	Jie Dewen	Yunnan Animal Husbandry Veterinary	1995/12/30	multi-ethnic
25	A summary of the research on the resources and	Xie Dewen et al	Yunnan Animal Husbandry Veterinary	1995/12/30	multi-ethnic



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	germplasm of yunnan ponies				
26	Investigation on pony resources in six prefectures of yunnan province	Xie Dewen et al	Yunnan Animal Husbandry Veterinary	1995/12/30	multi-ethnic
27	Mulberry burning sacrifice and horse racing in Yushu Grassland	YongJia Qiongpei	Tibet, China	1996/2/15	Tibetan
28	Northern Tibet Jockey Club	Zhang Guoyun	Science and technology tide	1998/6/5	Tibetan
29	A Comparative Study of Dunhuang Tubo Document Origin of Horse Ritual Function and Dongba Sutra Xianming Horse	Yang Fuquan	Ethnic Studies	1999/1/25	tubo
30	Grassland Grand Meeting "Horse Racing Festival"	Liu Dongping	External communication	1999/4/15	The Mongolian
31	Horse racing of Tibetan people in Tibet	Ding Linghui	Tibetan Folk Custom	2000/2/15	Tibetan

On the whole, there were only 31 articles in traditional horse racing journals of Chinese ethnic minorities from 1949 to 2000, of which only 4 were published before 1980, but since 1980, the number of articles has gradually increased. It can be seen that the national horse racing in the southwest mountain area began to attract the attention of the academic community after the reform and opening up. From the perspective of the nationalities studied (see Table 6), there are Mongolian, Shui, Tibetan, Yi, Miao, Kazak, Qiang and other nationalities, as well as research documents on horse racing of multiple nationalities. Compared with the first half of the 20th century, the number of nationalities involved is significantly increased. From the perspective of research themes, the research themes of traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities in this period gradually diversified, including not only the recording and description of the current situation of horse racing at that time, but also the analysis of the origin of some ethnic minority horse racing, the analysis of horse racing culture, and the study of the biological characteristics of ethnic minority horses. In this period, although the amount of literature is very small, it is clear that the academic tendency of Chinese minority horse racing has changed from activity reporting and description to specific issues.



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Bibliometric analysis of traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities since the new century

number	title	author	Dissertation institution	time	level
1	Research on the Present Situation and Development of the Horse Racing Festival in Dangxiong County, Tibet	An Hongyan	Suzhou University	2007	master
2	Study on the characteristics of horse genetic resources in southwest china	Sun Yujiang	Inner Mongolia Agricultural University	2008	doctor
3	On Yushu equestrian culture and its characteristics	Suonan Beks	Central University for Nationalities	2009	master
4	A preliminary study on the development of horse culture tourism in xinjiang	Dong Huijing	xinjiang normal university	2009	master
5	A study on the folk custom characteristics of mongolian horse racing	Black Cloud Biliger	Inner Mongolia Normal University	2010	master
6	A study on the characteristics of mongolian horse racing	Gao Xing	Beijing Sport University	2011	master
7	Research on the Development of Horse Racing in Yili, Xinjiang	Li Tao	xinjiang normal university	2012	master
8	A study on the images of horsemen in rock paintings in inner mongolia	Chen Chen	Zhengzhou University	2012	master
9	Research on the design of mongolian modern horse racing ground	Wang Jun	Inner Mongolia Agricultural University	2012	master
10	An analysis of mongolian traditional horse racing customs	Erdenbayar	Inner Mongolia Normal University	2012	master
11	The Local Knowledge of the Kazakh People and Horses in Zhaosu and the Horse Industry	Halkebule Baishan	xinjiang normal university	2013	master
12	Research on the Present Situation and Development of Horse Racing in Inner Mongolia	Zhao Baokui	Inner Mongolia Normal University	2013	master
13	Research on the Current Situation and Development Strategy of Chinese Horse Racing Culture	Guo Libing	Tianjin Institute of Physical Education	2014	master
14	Research on the Development of Equestrian Sports in Xinjiang	Liu Zhiwei	xinjiang normal university	2014	master
15	Research on the development of xinjiang elite equestrian athletes	Yang Zhaodi	xinjiang normal university	2014	master
16	Research on the Consumption Decision of Service Products of Urumqi Equestrian Club Based on Consumer Attitude	Xu Minghua	Xinjiang Agricultural University	2014	master
17	An Empirical Study on Horse Race of Miao Nationality in Dazhai Village, Gulong Town, Guizhou Province	Tu Yao	Guizhou Normal University	2014	master
18	On the Application of Mongolian Horse Culture in Grassland Tourism	Wang Qinggang	Inner Mongolia Normal University	2015	master
19	Feasibility Study on Trial Issuance of Guess Horse Racing Lottery in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region	Lv Jinlong	Inner Mongolia Normal University	2015	master



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20	Research on Hohhot's Cultural Industry Brand Construction Led by Horse Racing	Yue Chunbo	Inner Mongolia Normal University	2015	master
21	Design and Implementation of Horse Riding Tour System Based on Android	Zhang Jiawei	Inner Mongolia University	2018	master
22	Research on the Spatial Environment Form of Inner Mongolia Racecourse from the Perspective of Nadam Culture	Huang Yajiao	Inner Mongolia University	2018	master
23	A Study on the Cultural Representation of the End Slope Horse Race of Shui Nationality in Sandu County, Guizhou Province	Wang Yongmei	Sichuan Normal University	2020	master
24	A Study on the Inheritance and Development of Dongke Jockey Club in Gonghe Town, Huangzhong County, Qinghai Province	Wu Guolin	Qinghai Normal University	2020	master
25	Research on the New Media Communication of Mongolian Horse Culture	Wang Weiwei	Inner Mongolia University	2020	master
26	Research on the development of horse culture industry in inner mongolia	Su Rina	Central University for Nationalities	2020	master
27	Investigation on the Operation of Xinjiang Equestrian Club	Wang Chaoyu	xinjiang normal university	2021	master
28	Research on Oral History of Xinjiang Sports Intangible Cultural Heritage Jockey Club	Zhang Yifan	xinjiang normal university	2021	master
29	A study of horse culture in mongolian films	Sun Xudong	Inner Mongolia Normal University	2021	master
30	Research on the development of horse racing industry in inner mongolia from the perspective of ecotourism	Wang Fang	Inner Mongolia Normal University	2021	master
31	Study on the Spread of Horse Culture in Xilingol Region	Qin Yuan	Inner Mongolia University	2021	master
32	A Study on the Horse Racing Culture of Liangshan Yi People's Torch Festival	Yang Ayou	Sichuan Normal University	2021	master
33	Research on the development path of national traditional sports in yili under the background of rural revitalization	Wu Huanzhen	Jilin Institute of Physical Education	2022	master

Since the beginning of the new century, all kinds of literature on horse racing of China's ethnic minorities have grown rapidly. From 2001 to 2005, the number of papers issued was 22, from 2006 to 2010, 40, from 2011 to 2015, from 2016 to 2020, 84, and from 2021 to 2022, 28 (see Table 7). It is obvious that since the beginning of the new century, a large number of Chinese minority horse racing documents have emerged, with a rapid growth in the number of papers published, and the master's degree with the theme of traditional national horse racing has gradually emerged. This shows that since the beginning of the new century, Chinese minority horse racing has attracted extensive attention from scholars.

Table 7 Statistics on the literature number of Chinese ethnic Minorities horse racing during 2001-2022



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year	Total number of the literature	monograph	Dissertation	newspaper	Journal Papers	Core journal papers	Book chapter
2001-2005	22	0	0	1	16	5	5
2006-2010	40	1	5	11	21	7	2
2011-2015	90	2	15	2	67	3	3
2016-2020	84	2	6	1	63	5	2
2020-2022	28	0	7	0	19	1	0

It can be seen from the table that since the 21st century, the types of Chinese minority race research literature include monographs, published literature, papers, dissertations, newspapers, and journal papers. With dissertations, monographs, and journal papers as the main types of literature, the following three types of literature are discussed respectively (newspapers and published literature at this stage will not be described separately because of their small academic value)

Bibliometric analysis of dissertations

Dissertations are summaries of research on a specific topic, most of them have certain originality, it is generally not published and belong to rare literature. (Tan Hua, 2004). Thesis with the theme of traditional national horse racing did not appear until 2007. Since then, the master's and doctoral theses with the theme of traditional Chinese minority horse racing have been presented year by year, reaching 33 by 2022 (see Table 8 for details).

Table 8 List of master's and doctoral dissertations on traditional horse racing of Chinese minorities (2000-2022)

In terms of the research area, most of them are concentrated in Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi. There are 15 papers in Inner Mongolia alone, accounting for nearly 45.5% of the total, and 8 papers in Xinjiang, accounting for nearly 30.3%. In terms of ethnic distribution, Mongols are the largest, followed by Tibetan, Xinjiang Kazak, Shui, Yi, Miao and other nationalities. From the perspective of research themes, the development and application research of national horse racing industry is the largest, with 14 articles, accounting for 42.4% of the total. Other topics include cultural connotation interpretation, inheritance and development research, discussion of custom characteristics, mining of local knowledge and other aspects.

number	title	author	The author	Publication time
1	Kazakh horse racing game	A Yifu	Yili People's Publishing House	2006



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2	Kazak Equestrian Movement and Its Research	Elkhan, Tursenhan	Yili People's Publishing House	2013
3	Horse Race and Training of Mongolian Nationality	Narimudara	Inner Mongolia Science And Technology Press	2014
4	Jialuo Horse Race	Wen Za	Gansu Ethnic Publishing House	2017
5	Mongolian horse racing	Hasagu	Inner Mongolia Science And Technology Press	2020

Bibliometric analysis of monographs

Since the 21st century, there have been 5 academic monographs on Chinese ethnic minority horse racing, mainly focusing on the years after 2010. It can be seen that in the past decade, the research on Chinese ethnic minority traditional horse racing has developed towards a systematic and deeper direction. From the perspective of ethnic groups, they are respectively Kazak, Mongolian and Tibetan. These monographs focus on the exploration of the history, rules and skills of traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities in China. Although the number is not large at present, it lays a foundation for further research.

Table 9 List of academic works on traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities during 2000-2022

Bibliometric analysis of journal papers

Since the beginning of the new century, the number of academic papers on traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities has increased rapidly. From the time of distribution of the papers, there were only 31 papers in the 50 years from 1949 to 2000, and 186 papers in 2000, which shows that the study of minority horse racing has been paid more and more attention in the 21st century. From the perspective of the journals that published the papers, the general journals are the main ones, and only 21 of the 186 papers are core Chinese journals. In recent years, the number of papers published in core journals has decreased, which also reflects the lack of quality of research achievements on Chinese minority horse racing. In particular, since 2020, only one core journal paper has been produced in two years, indicating the fact that Chinese minority traditional horse racing is facing academic difficulties. From the perspective of ethnic groups studied, the research on Mongolian is the most, followed by Tibetan, Shui, Kazak, Miao, Yi, Saihantala Yugu, Bai, etc.

Table 10 Statistical List of Academic Papers on Traditional Horse Racing of Chinese Ethnic Minorities during 2000-2022

Distributive age	2001-2005	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020	2020-2022
Number of papers	16	21	67	63	19
Core journal papers	5	7	3	5	1



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Content topic analysis

Based on the above analysis, and the text content analysis, it is found that the research on Chinese minority horse racing over the past hundred years mainly focuses on the exploration of the source history, the excavation of local knowledge and skills, the research of cultural connotation, and the exploration of industrialization development.

Historical Study on the Origin and Development of Horse Racing of Various Nationalities

Over the past hundred years, scholars have paid more attention to the excavation of historical materials and the exploration of historical origins of horse racing in China's ethnic minorities while describing and introducing the phenomenon and facts of horse racing in various ethnic groups. Representatives of this theme mainly include Yang Chunxuan, Liu Shibin, He Chunyun and others. In 1943, Mr. Yang Chunxuan published the article "Research on Mongolian Folk Horse Racing", which for the first time combed and summarized the historical origin of Mongolian horse racing customs. (Yang Chunxuan, 1943) Liu Shibin made a speculative exploration of the historical origin of the race from the ceremony that must be performed in the race of the Shui people, and came to the view that the end of the race of the Shui people originated from the productive labor of the Shui people. (Liu Shibin, 1988) He Chunyun, Xiang Youming and others believed that the horse racing of the Naxi people originated from the "horse washing ceremony" in the ancient cremation custom through their investigation of the cremation customs of the Naxi people, such as Tai'an and Baidi in Zhongdian, Lijiang, Yunnan. (He Chunyun, Xiang Youming et al., 2010)

On the whole, this is obviously a research topic that has been paid close attention to for a long time, but the content of the relevant discussion mainly focuses on the inferential analysis of the origin problem. The historical process of the evolution and development of horse racing of all ethnic groups is still neglected. This situation should be related to the lack of historical materials.

Mining of local knowledge and skills

The research on horse racing skills of various ethnic groups has always been the focus of scholars' attention. A large number of research achievements on horse racing skills have been made before the liberation, but only limited to the exploration of military equestrian skills. There are few literatures that explore and introduce the horse racing skills of ethnic minorities in China. Since 1949, new breakthroughs have been made in mining and sorting out the horse racing skills of ethnic minorities in China, and text documents recording and introducing the traditional horse racing skills of various ethnic groups have gradually emerged. For example, the Dictionary of Chinese Minority Folklore describes the skills of



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Mongolian, Kirgiz, Dahir, Xibe, etc (Compiling Group of Chinese Minority Folklore Dictionary, 1995). Huang Bingrong introduced the horse racing skills of Tajik, Kazak and other ethnic groups in Xinjiang in detail with a lot of space in his monograph "Xinjiang Ethnic Customs", including the skills of holding sheep on the horse, chasing girls, chasing girls, wrestling on the horse, and collecting silver on the horse (Huang Bingrong, 1993). Presented the profound and unique horse racing skills of various ethnic minorities in Xinjiang from multiple perspectives. Some journals also explore local knowledge such as horse hunting and horse training of ethnic minorities. For example, Geng Zhongyao explains the skills of horse hunting, horse training and equestrian riding of the Yi people from the perspective of traditional knowledge and its protection (Geng Zhongyao, 2018), which gives people a fresh feeling and highlights the important position of equestrian knowledge in the Yi cultural system. Some local chronicles also actively explore and sort out the horse racing skills of various ethnic minorities in China, such as the detailed or brief introduction to the horse racing skills and rules of more than ten ethnic groups of Yi, Miao, Shui, Buyi, Tibetan, and Bai in relevant chapters or entries in the Dictionary of Chinese Folk Festival Culture (Mofushan, 1990), and the Chinese Traditional Sports Annals (China Sports Museum, 1990), It presents the horse racing skills of people of different nationalities and regions in different historical periods horizontally and vertically, providing valuable literature for further exploring the deep logic of horse racing of various nationalities.

Research on Horse Race Culture

The research on this theme only appeared in the 21st century, involving the analysis of cultural connotation, the survey of cultural changes, the interpretation of cultural symbols, and the prominent anthropological orientation in methods. Its achievements are mainly represented by the papers of Ding Linghui, Gu Xiaoyan, Sun Dechao, etc. The researchers mainly used the conceptual tools of ethnology, anthropology and culturology to explain the cultural connotation, changes and representation of Chinese minority equestrian and horse racing from different perspectives. Ding Linghui, from the perspective of folk culture, made a detailed study of the historical origin, folk beliefs, techniques, rituals and regulations of Tibetan horse racing, and further comprehensively demonstrated the broad and profound cultural connotation and folk customs of Tibetan horse racing (Ding Linghui, 2000). Gu Xiaoyan explained the changes of the race culture of the Shui nationality from the perspective of cultural adaptation theory (Gu Xiaoyan et al., 2006), and Sun Dechao et al. expounded the symbolic meaning of the traditional equestrian and horse racing symbols of the Yi nationality from the perspective of cultural semiotics (Sun Dechao, 2015). Most of the master's degree theses also interpret the cultural connotation of traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities from different perspectives, such as Research on the Cultural Representation of Shuizu Tuanpo Horse Racing in Sandu County, Guizhou Province, and Cultural Interpretation of Liangshan Yi Torch Festival Horse Racing



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(see Table 8). In general, the research on horse racing culture has been the mainstream of the research on Chinese minority horse racing since the new century, with the largest proportion of achievements. The research topics in this direction are also gradually diversified and gradually expanding.

Exploration of industrialization development

Driven by the market economy, issues such as the development of national horse racing culture industry and the integration path of sports and tourism have attracted continuous attention from the academic community, and a large number of research achievements have been produced that take the industrialization of traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities as the problem orientation. These achievements are represented by the research achievements of Liang Min and Wang Fang. For example, in 2007, Liang Min took the National August 1 International Horse Racing Festival in Litang County as a case to propose a specific model for the combination of traditional festivals and tourism economy in ethnic minority areas (Liang Min, 2007). Since then, a large number of master's degree papers have studied the industrialization of horse racing in China's ethnic minorities. For example, Wang Fang analyzed the current difficulties in the development of horse racing industry from the perspective of ecotourism and proposed corresponding development strategies (Wang Fang, 2021). To sum up, the research on this theme basically tends to combine the horse racing tradition of ethnic minorities with the development of local tourism, develop the horse racing industry, promote the inheritance of horse racing and economic development, but unfortunately, no specific and operable measures or plans have been seen so far. The effect of its transformation and application is still poor. The development of academic research and horse racing practice presents two pieces of skin, and it is difficult for academic to serve the current situation of practical development.

Analysis of research methods

Before the 21st century, Chinese minority horse racing researchers mainly carried out relevant research through direct narration and introduction. After entering the new century, they gradually adopted field research, comparative research, mixed research, etc.

Analysis of Narrative Research Method

Narrative research method accounts for the largest proportion in the existing literature entries. Before the 21st century, almost all the literature used the narrative research method to present the horse racing facts in this period by using the intuitive and clear narrative and introduction method. This kind of research method is mainly represented by the relevant research of journalists, Wei Yuzhang, Ding Linghui and other scholars. For example, in 1961, the People's Daily gave a detailed introduction to the grand occasion of the Dragon Festival Horse Race of the Shui Nationality in Sandu, Guizhou, which opened the precedent for domestic reports and research on



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the Shui Nationality Horse Race (Xinhua News Agency, 1961). In addition, some periodical papers, such as Wei Yuzhang's Horse Racing in Xinchang Commune of Duyun County (Wei Yuzhang, 1982) and Ding Linghui's Horse Racing in Tibet, have made more detailed introductions to the rules, ceremonies, customs, etc. of horse racing (Ding Linghui, 2000). However, in sorting out, the author also found that so far, the literature using the narrative research method has mainly focused on the reports, ritual descriptions and rule records of China's ethnic minority horse racing activities, and has always been stagnant in the level of plane descriptive research, lacking a deep description of other phenomena and events related to horse racing activities. In particular, the in-depth and detailed description of the activity process and details of various actors (characters and horses, human skills, horse skills, organizational structures, artifacts, etc.) also failed to accurately grasp their internal relations, resulting in insufficient depth in the study of Chinese minority horse racing.

Analysis of field survey method

Fieldwork has always been the mainstream research method in the study of traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities. Gu Xiaoyan, Zhang Yifan and He Ayou are the representatives of the authors who used fieldwork in the existing literature. Gu Xiaoyan investigated the activities of the Shui people's horse race in Sandu Shui Autonomous County in the form of interview and participation observation in the field survey method to explore the changes of the Shui people's horse race culture (Gu Xiaoyan, 2006). Zhang Yifan used the method of field study to present the social facts of Xinjiang Sports Intangible Cultural Heritage Jockey Club, which were rarely known to people, by way of oral narration of history. (Zhang Yifan, 2021). Based on the field study of horse racing in Liangshan Torch Festival, He Ayou made a textual research on the horse racing culture of the Yi people's Torch Festival from four aspects: "diachronic memory", "artifact culture", "institutional culture" and "spiritual culture". He Ayou comprehensively interpreted the connotation and significance of the horse racing culture of the Yi people's Torch Festival (He Ayou, 2021). Obviously, the introduction of fieldwork in anthropology has provided a tool for further exploration of Chinese minority horse racing and effectively enhanced the depth of Chinese minority horse racing research. However, in general, the existing field survey methods are mainly conducted by means of interview and observation. The research methods are relatively simple, and the field data obtained from them are also very limited, which restricts the development of traditional horse racing research of Chinese ethnic minorities in depth. Therefore, in combination with the actual situation, urgent need to innovate research methods.

Analysis of case study methodology

Some scholars used case studies to study the traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities. The representatives of such research methods mainly include Han Yuji, Sun Dechao, etc. Sun Dechao and others explored the symbolic meaning of the traditional sports culture of the Yi people from the perspective of cultural



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semiotics, taking horse racing of the Yi people as one of the cases (Sun Dechao et al., 2015). Han Yuji and others selected the "horse racing of the Yi people" in Liangshan Prefecture, Sichuan Province, as a case study, and elaborated the natural environment for the survival of the Yi people's horse racing from the two dimensions of natural environment and social environment, thus revealing the relationship between the national traditional sports culture and the natural environment (Han Yuji and Wang Hongshen et al., 2020). Goltz pointed out that the research site is not the research object, and anthropologists are not studying villages, but doing research in villages (Clifford Goltz, 2014). How to discuss the core issues of horse racing and even sports through village cases, as well as the deeper logic of the broader social and cultural system of Shui Nationality and its changes and adaptation, is the focus that we should pay attention to. The method of case study is of great value in exploring more grand practical problems from the micro world of horse racing of a single nation and a single field. However, among the existing literature achievements, the results of case study method are relatively few, and some researchers are unable to effectively explain the problem because of the weak representativeness of the selected cases. Therefore, in the study of traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities, the case study method should be optimized, and the expanded case method should be introduced to solve the problem of weak representativeness of cases.

Comparative study method analysis

On the basis of field research, some researchers adopted cross cultural comparative research, such as Qu Zhibin, who crossed ethnic boundaries and made a comparative analysis between Shui race and Mongolian race (Qu Zhibin, 2017). Gu Xiaoyan, based on many field investigations in the Duanjie Village of the Shui Nationality, compared the differences of horse racing forms between the present and the past, and analyzed the changes of the race culture of the Shui Nationality (Gu Xiaoyan, 2006). Under the background of cultural diversity in the current era, it is an important academic hotspot to conduct a comparative analysis of the horse racing culture of different nationalities and regions and carry out cross cultural and cross regional research. However, there are few scholars who use the comparative research method in the traditional horse racing of China's ethnic minorities, and the objects of comparison are limited to the comparison of the external environment, lacking the in-depth comparison of the cultural connotation and local knowledge of different nationalities and regions.

In general, in the past hundred years, the research on traditional horse racing of China's ethnic minorities has continued to innovate in research paradigms and methods. From the early direct narrative research to today's the ethnographic field study, case study, cross-cultural research, etc. The research paradigm continues to innovate and the research methods are gradually diversified, but it still cannot meet the research needs of traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities.



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Discussion

Achievements and Predicaments of the Research on Traditional Horse Racing of Ethnic Minorities in China in the Past Century

The literature base of traditional horse racing research of Chinese ethnic minorities has been preliminarily established, but the excavation and collation of basic historical materials are still insufficient

As an important carrier to record sports information and related knowledge, sports literature is the basis of sports science research (Tan Hua, 2004). In the past hundred years, the traditional horse racing research literature in the modern sense of China's ethnic minorities has grown from nothing to many. Whether it is the excavation of local knowledge and local skills of horse racing, the analysis of cultural connotation, or the exploration of practical development, it has made certain achievements. These achievements not only timely recorded many important social phenomena in the traditional horse racing of China's ethnic minorities, but also made a certain excavation of the cultural logic behind the horse racing phenomenon, which basically touched on some important contents, forms and problems in the research of Chinese traditional horse racing, making the research of Chinese traditional horse racing more in-depth. Some of the research papers have had a noticeable impact in the academic community. For example, Peng Liqun and Xu Le's research paper on the development of equestrian sports in China, *Research on the Development of Equestrian Sports in China*, has been cited for 70 times (Peng Liqun and Xu Le, 2010). On the whole, in the past hundred years, research on traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities has accumulated a batch of achievements in five types, including journal papers, master's and doctoral dissertations, books, newspaper articles, and monographs. These achievements and documents have initially laid a foundation for the research on traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities.

Although the literature base of traditional horse racing research of China's ethnic minorities is basically established, according to the results of bibliometric analysis, the literature of traditional horse racing research of China's ethnic minorities is mainly concentrated in the 21st century. Of the existing 346 literatures, only 82 were published before 2000 (see Table 1), accounting for 7% of the total literature, which fully demonstrates the lack of basic literature before the new century, and also reflects the inadequacy of field data mining and sorting in the early stage. On the one hand, the traditional horse racing literature of some ethnic minorities has not yet been excavated. For example, the Buyi people also have traditional horse racing. However, in the existing literature, only a brief report on the Buyi people's horse racing movement was found in *Qianxinan Daily* (reporter, March 25, 2010) on March 25, 2010, and no text literature about the Buyi people's traditional horse racing was found. On the other hand, the collection and excavation of existing literature are still on the surface. For example, Tibetan, Shui, Yi,



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Mongol, Kazak and other horse racing movements have received extensive attention from the academic community, and have also produced a number of commendable research results. However, when carefully analyzing the contents of these national traditional horse racing documents, most of them are descriptions of ceremonies and rules, as well as explorations in the sense of culturology and sociology. There is a lack of in-depth excavation of various national horse racing skills and exploration of the cultural logic behind the skills. The collection and excavation of field data on people, horses, things, technology, politics and their interactions in horse racing is still very insufficient, which has led to the fact that so far, most of the academic research on traditional horse racing of China's ethnic minorities still stays in books, lacking solid field investigation data. Therefore, no ethnographic monograph of ethnic minority horse racing have been published so far. The lack of basic literature mining and sorting seriously restricts the promotion of the academic research on traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities in China.

The main research directions and topics are basically formed, but the trend of vertical expansion is not obvious

Based on the above analysis, before the founding of the People's Republic of China, the traditional horse racing research of ethnic minorities in China mainly focused on the introduction and reporting of Tibetan and Mongolian horse racing activities. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, especially since the beginning of the 21st century, research topics have continued to expand and gradually condensed into a stable research direction, including the history, culture, skills The development of horse racing industry has formed a number of research topics with wide coverage based on this research direction.

However, although a number of research topics formed under the existing research direction continue to expand, there are still deficiencies in depth. Most of the studies have not been divided into sub topics under the existing topics to carry out research. For example, since Gu Xiaoyan put forward the topic of changes in the race of the Shui Nationality, there have been many journal papers with the theme of changes in the race culture, and most of the subsequent researchers are keen on finding out the facts of changes in the race culture of the Shui Nationality based on field research, but few researchers have made in-depth inquiries and studies on the root causes and types of changes in different Shui Nationality villages in different historical periods. It can be seen that although the traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities has formed a relatively stable research direction, the vertical expansion ability and depth of the topic are insufficient. The research on most topics still stays at the surface of "talking about things and horses", lacking the exploration of the deep logic behind the phenomenon, especially the exploration of the multiple elements such as horses, materials, technology, politics (policies) and their internal relations in horse racing activities.



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Research paradigms and methods continue to innovate, but still cannot meet the research needs of traditional national horse racing

In the past hundred years, the research on traditional horse racing of China's ethnic minorities has continued to innovate in research paradigms and methods. From the early direct narrative research to the narrative research within 50 years after the founding of the People's Republic of China, to the ethnographic field research, qualitative and quantitative research since the new century. The research paradigm continues to innovate, and the research methods are gradually diversified. Through the statistics of the research methods in the existing master's and doctoral dissertations with the theme of traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities, it is found that the current research methods on traditional horse racing of ethnic minorities in China include field survey, questionnaire survey, case analysis, cross-cultural research, and so on, and show a growing trend. Although research paradigms and methods continue to innovate, they still cannot meet the research needs of traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities. Because the existing research focuses on people in terms of research paradigm and methods, and regards people as the whole of national horse racing, it lacks attention to horses, objects, skills and their interaction in horse racing, which makes it impossible to present the deep literature logic within the traditional horse racing of Chinese minorities. Because horse racing is an interspecies sport (GILBERT, M, and GILLET, 2012), which is a multi species mixture formed by the tacit cooperation between people and horses, it is necessary to pay attention not only to people in the racing field, but also to horses, things and skills related to horse racing, as well as to the internal relationship among people, horses, things and skills, The research methods used in the existing achievements obviously cannot meet the research needs of horse racing. The fieldwork research method used in the existing research is still a single point ethnographic survey method based on the Malinowski style, traditional, and village as a unit. No one has applied the multisite ethnography research method that has been widely popular in the international anthropological community, which has formed a cross village, national The reality of the regional network pattern is very disproportionate. It is obvious that the traditional single point field survey method has been unable to meet the current development needs of the aquatic horse racing. It is necessary to adopt the research method of "multi species ethnography" that has flourished since the beginning of the 21st century

Prospects for the Study of Horse Racing in China's Ethnic Minorities

In view of the above analysis and the current academic difficulties, the research on traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities needs to be broken through in the future development from three aspects: consolidation of basic literature, deepening of research topics and innovation of research methods, as shown below.



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Consolidate basic documents and improve the digital protection level of documents

As mentioned above, the research on traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities is mainly concentrated after the new century. Before the 21st century, there were very limited research documents, especially from the founding of the People's Republic of China to the reform and opening up (1949-1978), there were only six documents, and the literature at this stage was extremely lacking. Faced with such a situation. The future research should strengthen the collection, collation and research of literature and history materials. First of all, we will investigate, sort out and study the cultural relics archives of ethnic minority horse racing, especially the collection and sorting of various cultural relics, documents and artifacts from the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China to the period before the reform and opening up. Second, we should carry out research on the oral history of minority horse racing, especially the study on the oral history of minority horse racing where there is horse racing but no relevant text materials. Third, strengthen the level of detailed and accurate field data. During the field investigation, researchers should try their best to immerse themselves in the field for a long time to carefully collect, classify and sort out the historical materials of various aspects, such as the artifacts in the race of various ethnic groups, the local knowledge of horse training and horse racing, traditional skills, oral data, images, cultural relics, archives, documents, etc. Fourth, the historical data database of traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities is established with the help of big data platform. Strengthen the sorting of images, texts and artifacts, strengthen the sharing of information resources, and improve the level of electronic and information management, so as to consolidate the basic literature base of traditional horse racing of Chinese ethnic minorities.

Refine existing research topics and expand new research topics

In the future, the research on Chinese minority horse racing should start from two aspects: refining existing research topics and expanding new research topics. In terms of refining existing research topics, we should focus on finding and solving real problems, and look for topics that have not been touched on or have not been studied deeply under the framework of existing topics. For example, in the discussion on the development strategy of the aquarium horse racing, the strategy of sports tourism integration was proposed. "Folk horse racing and tourism integration" and "Industrial horse racing and tourism integration" should be set as independent research topics. According to their respective priorities, they should continue to dig deeply, comprehensively consider multiple factors, clarify the interaction between various elements, and form a targeted and operable practical guidance strategy. In terms of expanding new research topics, we should give full consideration to the sports, social, economic, political and other characteristics of Chinese minority horse racing, and give priority to making breakthroughs in the construction of the network of traditional national horse racing actors, the



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interaction between people and horses in horse racing, the development of horse racing industrialization, and the traditional national horse racing to build a strong sense of the Chinese national community. So as to construct and improve the content system of traditional horse racing research of Chinese ethnic minorities.

Make full use of the advantages of other disciplines to innovate research methods

Faced with the shortage of research methods in existing research, this study believes that it is necessary to introduce cutting-edge research methods in sociology, ethnology, anthropology and other disciplines. The following research methods will be introduced preferentially.

- 1) The introduction of ethnographic in-depth description method, in-depth study of various phenomena and facts in horse racing, and use content network analysis method and relational ethnography method to sort out the internal relations among people, horses, objects, skills, and more in traditional horse racing of Chinese minorities.
- 2) The method of multipoint ethnography is adopted. In the face of the limitations of the single point ethnographic survey, we should give priority to the "multipoint ethnography" (George Marcus, 2011). In other words, in the future field survey of traditional horse racing, we should break the Ethnicity and regional restrictions and conduct more field surveys
- 3) Make good use of oral history research methods. In the face of insufficient excavation of basic literature, priority should be given to the use of oral history research method to fully collect and sort out oral data related to horse racing in the field.
- 4) Borrow the "depth ratio research method". In the face of the shortage of cross-cultural comparative research in existing literature, we should use the deep comparative research method in sociology to carry out in-depth comparative research on various aspects such as the cultural connotation of horse racing, traditional skills, national way of thinking, and local knowledge in horse racing.
- 5) Flexible use of the expanded case method. The representativeness of case studies is not strong. The extended case method proposed by Michael Burawoy (Michael Burawoy, 2007) should be adopted to place the daily activities in equestrian and horse racing of all nationalities in a grand environment that transcends local and historical situations, and achieve the transcendence of cases with the help of theory.

Through the introduction and innovation of research methods, we can break the dilemma of traditional Chinese minority horse racing research methods. This makes the actor network and deep cultural logic behind the practice of traditional horse racing of China's ethnic minorities clear.



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Conclusion

Looking back on the centenary history of Chinese minority horse racing research, the research on Chinese minority horse racing began to sprout in the first half of the 20th century, and produced a batch of documentary achievements represented by Tibetan and Mongolian horse racing. From the founding of the People's Republic of China to the beginning of the new century: the academic research on traditional horse racing of China's ethnic minorities has developed slowly, and the number of literature achievements is small. However, the number of ethnic groups studied has been increasing, and the research theme has been gradually expanded, which has also produced a number of narrative research achievements with epochal significance. Since entering the 21st century, the academic research of Chinese minority horse racing has developed rapidly, various research achievements have emerged rapidly, the number of documents has increased rapidly year by year, multidisciplinary theories and methods have been gradually introduced into horse racing research, and the research of Chinese minority traditional horse racing has developed in depth and breadth. At the same time, new challenges and academic dilemmas continue to emerge, mainly as follows: the lack of basic literature, research methods still cannot meet the research needs of traditional Chinese minority horse racing, and the ability to expand the research theme vertically is still seriously insufficient. Therefore, this study believes that it is necessary to strengthen the collection and collation of the historical data of national horse racing, improve the electronic information level of the protection of national horse racing data, deepen and expand research topics, learn from and innovate research methods, especially flexibly use the methods of relational ethnography, ethnographic in-depth description, expanded case method, oral history, etc. in sports anthropology. So as to break through the current academic dilemma and achieve innovation in academic research.

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