

Book reviews

Robyn R. Iredale and Fei Guo (eds.) (2015). **Handbook of Chinese migration: Identity and Wellbeing**. Cheltenham, UK/Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Publishing. (330 pp, ISBN 978-1-78347-663-3).

Iredale and Guo's volume includes 14 chapters and together they provide an overview of internal and international migration trends in China. This handbook documents and updates the mobility trends and the implications of movements for Chinese people's identities, their wellbeing and their relationships in light of the economic, social and demographic changes that are taking place in China.

Part I of the book includes seven chapters and addresses internal migration in China, from a range of disciplinary perspectives. Chapter 2 reveals trends in the development of hukou (household registration) system over time and identifies many of its ramifications for internal migration and migrants. Chapter 3 suggests that short-term migrants still constitute the majority of the China's floating population, with coastal provinces as the main receiving areas and inland provinces as the main sending areas. Chapter 4 explores whether native-place wage discrimination, based on particular provinces of origin, exists in China's urban labor markets for rural-to-urban migrants workers. Chapter 5 examines the determinants of wage arrears among rural-urban migrants, the effect on economic wellbeing and how the experience of wage arrears affects several subjective indicators of wellbeing. In chapter 6, the authors show that living arrangements do not significantly differ between the rural elderly with migrant children and those without them. They do note that migrant children in a household are linked to better health status, but lower levels of life satisfaction overall. Chapter 7 notes the historical development of minority migration and the government's resettlement policies for poor villagers from ethnic minorities. In Chapter 8, the authors explore the application and use of the concept of social exclusion in explaining marginalization of rural-urban migrants in contemporary China.

Part II of the book is made up of five chapters that explore the relationship of the Chinese state to emigration and return migration. Chapter 9 compares two phases of diaspora engagement that has encouraged co-ethnics abroad to retain their ties to their homeland in the past and the economic benefits of those relationships in the present. Chapter 10 focus on social and economic polarization that is a notable feature of Chinese life in the United States, and the development as well as the impact of 'symbolic identity' for these movers settled in the US. Chapter 11 provides a unique case study of Chinese enterprises in Barcelona and the role that family-hiring practices play for Chinese immigrants. In chapter 12, the authors follow social exchanges among Chinese immigrants to Australia and how they who negotiate their careers. Finally, Chapter 13 argues that migration from China is increasingly a means of reinforcing and reproducing



social inequality and economic development is likely to strengthen both the desire and the capability of the higher strata of the population to emigrate.

Migration in China and of Chinese is accompanied by rapid national development. This handbook offers insights to understand Chinese migration from different periods, different regions and different disciplines, and will inspire Chinese migration researchers as they focus on changing policies including as the New Type Urbanization, the Targeted Poverty Alleviation, the Construction of Beautiful Village, the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road. These projects and others will bring about serious changes, foster mobility and have a profound impact on identity and wellbeing of Chinese movers and non-movers in the future, both domestically and internationally.

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