

New Urban Space in China: Towns, Rural Labour and Social Inclusion

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in International Studies.
University of Technology, Sydney
2006

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Niu Xuejie and Niu Ruiyan for their invaluable help organizing fieldtrips and carrying out interviews in Hongtong County. Through them and their family I gained invaluable knowledge about China's cultural diversity and about the kindness of its people. A big thank you to their parents, for their generosity and for all their efforts in finding and contacting interviewees for my study. I am extremely grateful to the Niu family for their help over the years with my field work, for their friendship and for making my stay in Hongtong a life-changing experience.

To Gengwang for arranging interviews, for driving us around while carrying out fieldwork and for agreeing to become part of the study. Thanks as well to Zhao Chunyang and to his family who were also kind enough to help me find interviewees. Even though I cannot mention all of you individually, many thanks to all the people I interviewed in Hongtong County for sharing your personal stories with me. I hope to be doing justice to them in my thesis.

A big thank you to Li Mei from Shanxi University, who was always kind and willing to help me on the many occasions that I asked for her help. Thanks as well to my students at Shanxi University, with many of whom I had very engaging conversations about China and the experience with reform. To Zhang Fenxi, Li Xueqian, and Professor Tian Youru for their help on my various trips to Taiyuan.

Thanks as well to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training for granting me a scholarship to complete my doctoral degree. Also crucial to the completion of my doctoral thesis was the funding I received from the Institute for International Studies at the University of Technology, Sydney to travel to China on several occasions to undertake field research.

A special thank you to my supervisor Professor David Goodman, for his intellectual guidance and constant support despite his busy schedule. To my co-supervisors, Devleena Ghosh and Guo Yingjie, for their ideas, feedback and suggestions of new avenues for my research.

To friends and colleagues at the Institute for International Studies. I was very lucky to be able to work in an environment with such an intellectually inspiring group of people, one which is also characterized by its group solidarity.

My most heartfelt thank you goes to my family back in Mexico. For their love and their unconditional support in all my endeavours.

Completing this doctoral thesis has been one of the most challenging undertakings in my life, but it has also been a very rewarding one. In the process I have cemented friendships and made new ones. My most sincere gratitude to all of you who have helped and supported me through this long journey, to those of you that I have mentioned here but also to the many that I have left out but to whom I am equally grateful.

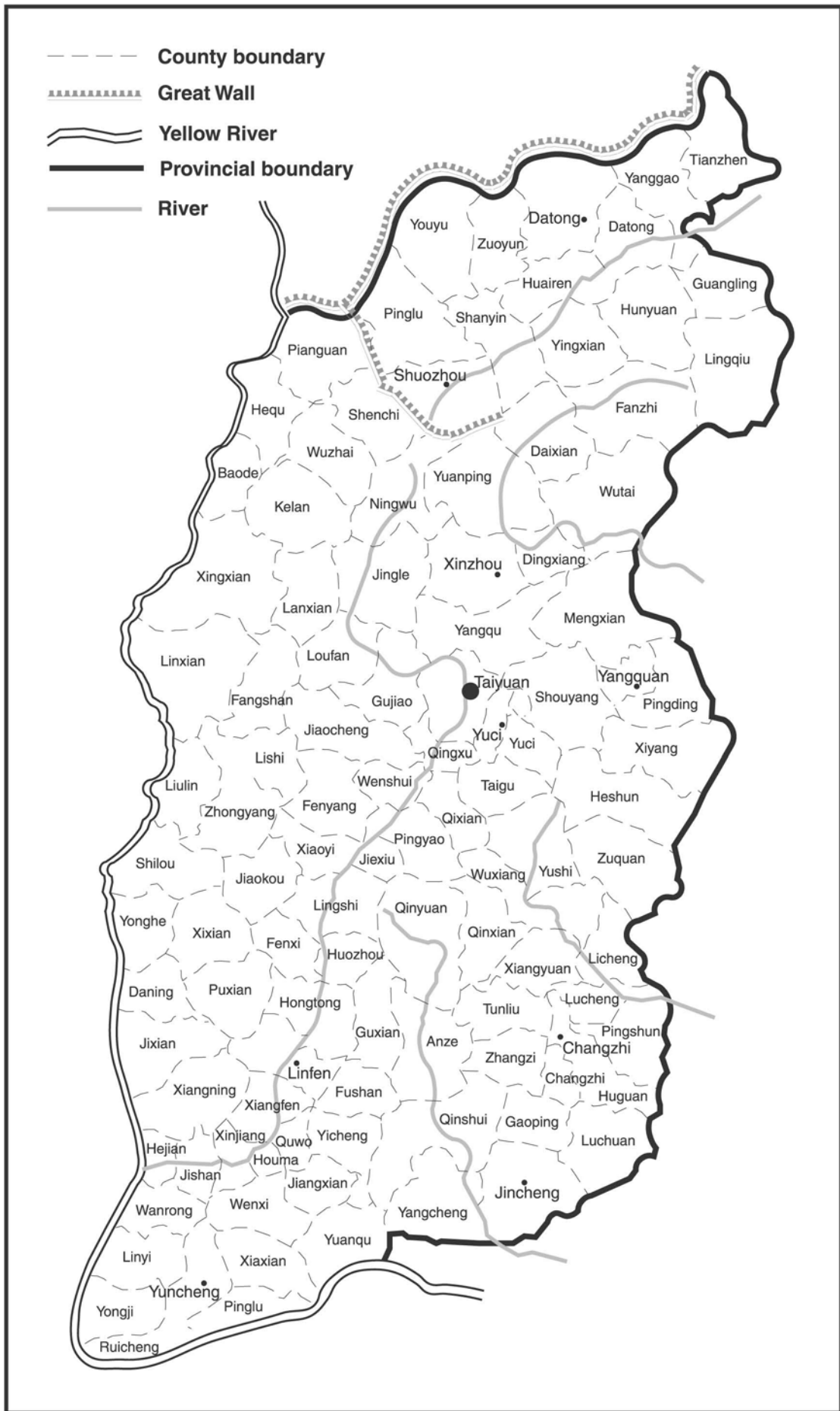
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Abbreviations

BOLSS	Bureau of Labour and Social Security
CASS	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CMS	Cooperative Medical System
EBR	Extra-Budgetary Revenue
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
GVIO	Gross Value of Industrial Output
HDI	Human Development Index
HPF	Housing Provident Fund
HRS	Household Responsibility System
LAL	Land Administration Law
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NHSS	National Health Services Survey
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
PAYG	Pay-as-you-go pension system
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PRC	People's Republic of China
PSU	Public Service Units
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SOE	State Owned Enterprise
TSS	Tax Sharing System
TVE	Township and Village Enterprise
VAT	Value-added Tax
WHO	World Health Organization

Glossary of Chinese terms

baojia zhidu 保甲制度 system of mutual community supervision used in late Imperial China

baomu 保姆 women working as nannies and cleaners in private homes

baoxianfei shouru yanglao nianjin 保险费收入养老金 The old age pension insurance fund

chengguanzhen 城关镇 city-based-town

chengjian ju 城建局 Urban Construction Department

Dahuaishu genjizuyuan 大槐树寻根祭祖园 Dahuaishu ‘Ancestral Park’

danwei 单位 work unit

dazhuan 大专 college degree

dingti 顶替 position replacement scheme used mainly during the Maoist period

diqu 地区 district

ganbu 干部 cadre

gangwei zerenzhi 岗位责任制 cadre responsibility system

geren suodeshui 个人所得税 personal income tax

getihu qiye 个体户企业 individually owned enterprise

gongban laoshi 公办老师 public teacher

gongshang baoxian 工伤保险 work injury insurance

gongye xiangzhen qiye 工业乡镇企业 industrial TVE

gu cheng 古城 old part of the town

guanxi 关系 interpersonal relations

gufen qiye 股份制企业 share holding enterprise

Guhuai 古槐 old scholar tree

guotu siyuanchu 国土资源处 Department of Land and Natural Resources

Guowuyuan yanjiujigou 国务院研究机构 State Council Research Organization

guoyou danwei ren yuan 国有单位人员 state sector employees

jianzhizhen 建制镇 administrative or statutory towns

jimao shichang 集贸市场 trade markets

jingji shiyong fang 经济适用房 ‘affordable’ or ‘economy’ housing

jinxiu xiao 进修校 training school

jizhen 集镇 market towns

huanbao fei 环保费 fee to protect the environment

hukou 户口 household registration booklet

hutong 胡同 narrow dirt alleyways

keji gongzuoren yuan 科技工作人员 professional staff

laodong he shehui baozhangju 劳动和社会保障局 Labour and Social Security Department

laoxiang 老乡 fellow native

litu bulixiang 离土不离乡 leave the land but not the countryside

lixishui 利息税 interest tax

meikuang anquan jianchaju 煤矿安全监察局 Coal Mine Security Supervision Department

minban jingji 民办经济 society-run economy

minban laoshi 民办老师 community teacher (village teacher)

minyingshi qiye 民营企业 people-run enterprise

mubiao zerenzhi 目标责任制 target responsibility system

nongcun jingying guanli zhongxin 农村经营管理中心 Centre for Rural Management and Administration

nongcun shehui yanglaobaoxian 农村社会养老保险 The rural old age insurance scheme

nongji fazhan zhongxin 农机发展中心 Centre for Agricultural Mechanization Development

nongye Xinyong Hezuoshe 农业信用合作社 Agriculture Credit Cooperative

nongzhizhe zhongxue 农职业中学 vocational junior secondary school

pinkun zhi Gong 贫困职工 impoverished staff and workers

renkou suzhi 人口素质 population quality

shang ping fang 商品房 commodity housing

shehui baozhang buzhu zhichu 社会保障补助支出 social insurance system subsidy

shengyu baoxian 生育保险 childbirth insurance

shi 市 city/prefecture

shiye danwei 事业单位 public service units [PSU]

shiye baoxian 失业保险 unemployment insurance

shiyebaoxian guanlifuwu zhongxin 失业保险管理服务中心 Unemployment Insurance Service Centre

silai shui gongsi 自来水公司 Urban Water Company

siying qiye 私营企业 enterprise privately owned by more than one person

Susan qijie 苏三起解 ‘Susan under escort’ (Peking Opera)

waiyusuan 外预算 extra-budgetary revenue

waidiren 外地人 outsider

weisheng fei 卫生费 public health fee

weishengyuan 卫生院 public health centre

xiang 乡 townships

xiaochengzhen 小城镇 small town

xiangzhen zongrenkou 乡镇总人口 total population

xiagang zhizai jiuye zhongxin 下岗职再就业中心 Laid-off Workers Re-employment Centre

xiangcun dushihua 乡村都市化 ruralization

xianzhi 县志 county gazetteer

xiaokang 小康社会 all-round well-off society

xingzhengshiye yanglaobaoxian 行政事业养老保险 pension insurance for public servants

yanglao baoxian 养老保险 old-age pension insurance

Yichang liangzhi 一厂两制 'one factory, two systems' campaign intended to channel those workers employed in the TVE sector holding urban registration to the old age insurance scheme for urban workers, and those with a rural registration to be incorporated into one of the local rural pension schemes

yiliao baoxian 医疗保险 medical insurance

yingyeshui 营业税 business tax

zaijiuyefuwu zhongxin 再就业服务中心 Re-employment Service Centre

zhandao fei 站道费 fee on street vendors

zhen 镇 town

zhenqu 镇区 a town's urban built up area

zhenqu qiye 镇区企业 enterprise within the town's urban built up area

Zhongguo renshoubaozhang gongsi 中国人寿保障公司 China Life Insurance Company Limited

zhongxiao qiyeju 中小企业局 Department for Small and Medium Enterprises

zhongzhuan 中专 technical degree

zhuada fangxia 抓大放小 grasp the large and release the small

zhufang gongjijin 住房公基金 housing provident fund [HPF]

zi jian fang 自建房 self-built housing

zuidi shenghuo baozhangjin 最低生活保障金 minimum living standard insurance fund

Abstract

Since the late 1970s internal migration has become a fundamental feature of economic and social change in the People's Republic of China. So has rapid urbanization as the rural population moves to the cities and towns in search for work. In the process, new urban spaces have been created that not only provide the springboard for economic development but also present challenges for social coherence and stability. Considerable attention has been focussed on the impact of this migration on the larger cities and on the migrants to those cities; processes that inevitably highlight the difficulties of China's socio-economic transformation. Nonetheless, the experiences of those cities represent but one of the country's urban realities. In fact, the majority of China's urban population live in a highly dispersed system formed by thousands of small cities and towns.

Through the examination of a county in North China (Hongtong County, Shanxi Province) and its county town (Dahuishu Town) this study suggests that outside the larger cities there may be alternative accounts of urban social change and the integration of rural migrant workers. Empirical findings point to greater openness and flexibility in the incorporation of rural workers. Though shortcomings are still observed, there is also considerable governmental and social awareness of the problems brought by rural-urban migration and urbanization processes; a willingness to act and a capacity to promote and deliver greater social inclusion. Dahuishu Town's distinct development experience has allowed for the construction of a more inclusive social environment, one which provides all inhabitants, including rural workers with a platform towards advancing their economic and social well-being.

Impossible as it is to be representative of town development throughout China, this study provides an example of and a guide to alternative development processes to those documented in large urban centres. Small town urban development in Hongtong County is not a resolved issue, but it suggests that China's transformation may not necessarily result in dysfunctional and socially polarized urban environments.