

Survival landscapes: Migrant Workers' Everyday Politics and Production of Remitted Space in China

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Dissertation Abstract

The proposed research explores the emergence of the remitted buildings in South China after the Chinese economic reform. In the 40 years, Special Economic Zones and open coastal economic zones have become the engine of the growth and the base for massive migrant workers to work and live as well as to accumulate and remit money. The working cities and the home villages offer dotted yet continual connections to study what I call "survival landscapes," wherein the migrant workers act as urban pioneers show their agency and mobility in and out of the factory regime. A goal of this study is to elucidate how the survival strategies of the "successful" migrant workers in cities have facilitated the remitted buildings and nurtured a variegated landscape in rural areas.