



南方科技大学

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SoF Workshop

国际大都市  
中的流动人口：  
抱负，欲望与  
个体能动性  
Migration in  
World Cities:  
Aspiration,  
Desire, and  
Agency

2018年6月29日  
29 Jun 2018

会议地点：  
南方科技大学  
行政楼401会议室

Venue:  
Conference Room 401,  
Administrative Building,  
Southern University of  
Science and Technology

工作坊主办机构  
Workshop hosted by

南方科技大学  
人文社会科学荣誉学会  
Society of Fellows in  
Liberal Arts, Southern  
University of Science  
and Technology

# **Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts, Southern University of Science and Technology**

荣誉学会（Society of Fellows）是世界顶尖大学特设的学术机构，瞄准获得博士学位不久的青年学术新秀，配以宽松优渥的治学环境，着眼于培育未来学术骨干和催生一流研究成果。南方科技大学于 2017 年成立人文社会科学荣誉学会（SUSTech Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts），开国内风气之先，旨在为青年学者打造开放互动的学术共同体，开展前沿创新的学术研究，增强学校的人文气氛和学术文化积淀。

The Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts at SUSTech is dedicated to stimulating innovative interdisciplinary research in the humanities and social sciences, offering opportunities for scholars of the highest caliber to develop their professional careers. These postdoctoral fellowships aim at fostering the academic careers of scholars who have recently received their PhD. degrees by providing a competitive package and an interdisciplinary scholarly community. Junior Fellows are expected to devote their time to productive scholarship, focusing on publishing their dissertation research, undertaking their proposed project, and engaging in other original work that will further their academic careers.

**Host:**

南方科技大学人文社会科学荣誉学会

Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts, Southern University of Science and Technology

**Co-organizer:**

French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC, Hong Kong)

**Supported by:**

Institute for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences & Center for Social Sciences,  
Southern University of Science and Technology

**Conference Conveners:**

陈惠云, 韩泊明

Chan Wai-wan (Vivien) and Amir Hampel

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## Acknowledgements

人文社会科学荣誉学会第一场跨学科工作坊的顺利举办得到了南方科技大学社会科学中心暨社会科学高等研究院的大力支持。我们谨借此机会衷心感谢社科中心主任周永明教授以及行政秘书郑慈慈女士给予的鼎力支持和协助。我们也尤其感谢我们的秘书董韦小姐协助筹备各种大大小小的会议安排。我们也感谢是次工作坊的学术伙伴--法国现代中国研究中心（香港）的主任 Eric Florence 博士及其办公室经理胡顯中先生给予的支持和帮忙。最后，我们要特别感谢是次工作坊的所有参与者，没有你们乐意分享你们的研究，也就没有我们工作坊的举行。

— 陈惠云、韩泊明

This conference is the first workshop organized by the Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts. It could not have come together without support from the Center for Social Sciences and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences at Southern University of Science and Technology.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Zhou Yongming, director of the Center for Social Sciences, along with administrative secretary Ms. Zheng Cici, for their help and support. We would especially like to thank Ms. Dong Wei, secretary of the Society of Fellows, for assisting with preparations for the conference, great and small.

In addition, we would like to thank our partners at the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (Hong Kong): Dr. Eric Florence, Director of the CEFC, and office manager Mr. Henry Wu, who helped put together this conference.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all of the participants for sharing their time, their energy, and their knowledge.

— Chan Wai-wan (Vivien) and Amir Hampel

## List of Participants

**Chan Wai-wan (Vivien) 陈惠云**

*Southern University of Science and  
Technology*

**Chan Yuk Wah 陳玉華**

*City University of Hong Kong*

**Chen Xiaoxu 陈晓旭**

*Tsinghua University*

**Eric Florence**

*French Centre for Research on  
Contemporary China  
The University of Liege*

**Eric Fong 方伟晶**

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Amir Hampel 韩泊明**

*Southern University of Science and  
Technology*

**Guo Hua 郭樺**

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Do Dom Kim 金道覃**

*The University of Chicago*

**Anita Koo 顧靜華**

*Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

**Li Dan 李丹**

*The University of Hong Kong*

**Li Xiyuan 黎熙元**

*Sun Yat-sen University*

**Tom McDonald**

*The University of Hong Kong*

**Miao Weishan 苗伟山**

*Chinese Academy of Society Sciences*

**Tao Yu 陶羽**

*Stevens Institute of Technology (USA)*

**Zhang Jinghong 张静红**

*Southern University of Science and  
Technology*

## Schedule

Time	Program	Speakers
10:00 - 10:15 am	<b>Welcome Address</b>	Zhou Yongming Director, Center for Social Sciences Director, Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts
10:15 - 11:00 am	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<b>"Global Migration of Chinese, 1990-2015"</b> Eric Fong 方伟晶 and Guo Hua 郭樺
11:00 - 11:30 am	Morning Coffee and Tea	
11:30 - 12:45 pm	Panel 1 <b>Geography, Mobility, and Opportunity</b> Chair: Eric Florence	<b>Welfare in Moving: Complexity of Cross-border between Hong Kong and the Mainland of China*</b> Li Xiyuan 黎熙元  <b>New Chinese Migrations: Differentiated Geographies and Diasporas</b> Chan Yuk Wah 陳玉華  <b>Multiple Moves, Translocality and Negotiated Opportunities: Chinese Women Bankers in Australia and China*</b> Wai-wan (Vivien) Chan 陈惠云
01:00 - 02:30 pm	Lunch Break	
02:30 - 03:15 pm	Panel 2 <b>Narratives of Rural to Urban Migration</b> Chair: Zhang Jinghong	<b>"The World Out There is at Once Exciting and Frustrating (<i>waimian de shijie hen jingcai you hen wunai</i>)": Looking Back at Rural Migrant Workers' Aspiration and Narratives of Hope and Desire for Migration and Social Mobility in South-China</b> Eric Florence  <b>Individualizing youth transitions? Rural Students in Urban Vocational Schools</b> Anita Koo 顧靜華  <b>Mobile Population in China's Documentation Difficulty (<i>Banzhengnan</i>) Discourse</b> Do Dom Kim 金道覃

03:15 - 04:00 pm	<p>Panel 3</p> <p><b>Urban Networks and Social Technologies</b></p> <p>Chair: Amir Hampel</p>	<p><b>“Nurturing Credit”</b>: Logics and Practices of Digital Money Borrowing among Chinese Migrant Factory Workers Tom McDonald and Li Dan</p> <p><b>Playing and Being Together: MMORPG and Its Construction of New Urban Life for Young Females in China*</b> Chen Xiaoxu 陈晓旭</p>
04:00 - 04:30 pm	Afternoon Coffee and Tea	
04:30 - 05:45 pm	<p>Panel 4</p> <p><b>Migration, Cultural Capital, and Academic Careers</b></p> <p>Chair: Wai-wan (Vivien) Chan</p>	<p><b>American Universities, Psychological Capital, and Social Entrepreneurship in China</b> Amir Hampel 韩泊明</p> <p>全球化、学术流动与文化认同：中国社科海龟学者的经验* Miao Weishan 苗伟山</p> <p><b>What Makes the Difference? Earnings of Foreign-born Doctoral Engineers in the United States</b> Tao Yu 陶羽</p>
05:45 - 06:00 pm	<p><b>Concluding Remarks</b></p> <p>Group Photo</p>	Eric Florence
06:00 - 07:30 pm	Dinner	

*\* presentation in Chinese*

# Abstracts

## Keynote Speech

### "Global Migration of Chinese, 1990-2015"

**Eric Fong 方伟晶**

*Professor, Department Head*

*Department of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

**Guo Hua 郭樺**

*Research Associate*

*Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Since the 1980s after China's economic reform, an increasing number of Chinese have moved out of the mainland and settled around the world. Unlike earlier generations of overseas Chinese who settled in Southeast Asia and North America, a higher proportion of these recent emigrants from Chinese are moving to Africa or Europe. Based on data compiled by UN, this paper explores the trends of Chinese international migrants over the past few decades. Characteristics of migrants to these destinations around the world will be discussed and a picture of the outflows of Chinese international migrants will be presented.

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## **Geography, Mobility, and Opportunity**

Chair: Eric Florence

### **Welfare in Moving: Complexity of Cross-border between Hong Kong and the Mainland of China**

**Li Xiyuan 黎熙元**

*Professor*

*The Center for Studies of Hong Kong, Macao and the Pearl River Delta, Sun Yat-sen University*

Articles often discuss that border is controlled by the state and has only one function of inhibiting move. This paper suggests that understand the bordering with the dimension of time-space of welfare and argues that the complexity of move comes from the dual function of the border – border inhibits and induces move. The large number and continuance of cross-border between Hong Kong and the mainland in this century reflect that the economic competition and relationship of social groups have strong influence on the border. Every redefinition of the border changes the time-space of welfare so that who can share and how they move changes also. The border would not be deconstructed merely. It will be continuously modified in the process of conflict and negotiation among social groups.

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## **New Chinese Migrations: Differentiated Geographies and Diasporas**

**Chan Yuk Wah 陳玉華**

*Associate Professor*

*Department of Asian and International Studies, City University of Hong Kong*

This presentation will focus on Chinese migrations since the 1980s. Drawing on cases from my new book “New Chinese Migrations: Mobility, Home, and Inspirations”, it will provide a review of onward Chinese movements from different Chinese communities in Asia. These movements have constituted complicated Chinese migration geographies and intriguing differentiated Chinese diasporas. The conclusion will also tap on the indications that these movements have brought to overseas Chinese studies and migration studies in general.

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## **Multiple Moves, Translocality and Negotiated Opportunities: Chinese Women Bankers in Australia and China**

**Wai-wan (Vivien) Chan 陈惠云**

*Junior Fellow*

*Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts, Southern University of Science and Technology*

Women are emerging as significant actors in international financial industries—fields that are embedded in capitalism, modernity and globality and concentrated in world and global cities. Based on more than 50 in-depth interviews with ethnically Chinese women bankers in Sydney, Hong Kong, Shanghai and four other cities in Australia and mainland China, my study explores the feminisation of mid-level management teams in financial and banking industries in Asia-Pacific world and global cities; a group which has remained relatively invisible. I draw on insights from the concept of ‘power geometry of time-space compression’ and adopt the translocality perspective to examine the interplay and dynamic relationship between multiple- intra- and/or inter- national working experiences, gender and career mobility of women professionals. Mobility enables people to re-integrate social resources so as to expand their individual horizons or fields of activity. Work for contemporary global elites is interlocked with multiple cross-border business trips, and visible and invisible, real and virtual interactions. New business practice requires professionals in the service industry to shuttle across fluid social spaces, knitting dynamic and complex social geographies. I argue that this onward movement/migration produces both opportunities for and constraints upon women bankers in their life trajectory and career mobility. In general, the multiple movements enrich individual’s shared ethnicity, race, gender and life-path with colleagues and clients. Their mobile experiences contribute to their ethnical capital and cultural affinity and turn out to be a valuable personal assets for business development. But my cross-national comparative case study also finds that the clashes of gender and generation perception are getting worse when women professionals are required to have high a frequency of local and international travel to provide personalised service to clients in the fast-moving, highly globalised financial industry. This kind of tension is more common in women professionals in mainland China where the traditional Chinese gender discourse of ‘being a virtuous wife and a good mother’ (xian qi liang mu 贤妻良母) still exerts significant influence.

## **Narratives of Rural to Urban Migration**

Chair: Zhang Jinghong

**“The World Out There is at Once Exciting and Frustrating (*waimian de shijie hen jingcai you hen wunai*)”: Looking Back at Rural Migrant Workers’ Aspiration and Narratives of Hope and Desire for Migration and Social Mobility in South-China**

**Eric Florence**

*Director*

*French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (Hong Kong)*

*Associate Professor*

*Center for Ethnic and Migration Studies, The University of Liege*

Why do people migrate? How do people narrate their experiences of mobility and by what forces – both material and symbolic - are their desires and aspirations for leaving their hometown shaped? How are the hometown and cities represented by rural migrant workers in contemporary China? By looking at various forms of mediation of rural migrant workers’ experiences (documentary films, popular literature, etc.), we will tackle these questions and we shall document rural migrant workers’ multi-layered identity and agency.

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## **Individualizing Youth Transitions? Rural Students in Urban Vocational Schools**

**Anita Koo 顧靜華**

*Associate Head*

*Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Following a rapid expansion of vocational education in 2000s, an increasing number of rural youth receive education and training in urban vocational schools before seeking employment in the cities. Many of them have migrated alone after finishing their compulsory education in rural middle schools to pursue their dreams in the cities. Based on the fieldwork data in two vocational schools in Chengdu, I explore how these rural students seize opportunities provided by the expansion of vocational education, seek chances for self-determination, learn to develop their own career plan and find ways of making a life for themselves in a competitive world filled with risk and uncertainties. With the fact that family origin continue to be highly salient to one's life chances, their lives are heavily shaped by the individualization discourses which always highlights the importance of individuals' decisions and efforts. These rural students constitute themselves as individuals who are free of stable communal and are required to reflexively adopt the principles of the market culture and neoliberal system to fit themselves in the labour market. However, beneath their individualization narratives of transitions which focus mainly on their own choices, hard work and maturity, I found their experiences of finding part-time jobs, getting and even leaving their internships are actually deeply interwoven with the support and advice from their 'brothers and sisters' in schools. Facing an unequal and competitive society, rural students with limited resources and network do perceive reflexive and individualized life strategies as necessary for survival. During their process of 'becoming an employable selves' in such a disadvantaged context, they also understand and practice mutual support and cooperation to combat their hardship and risk collectively.

## Mobile Population in China's Documentation Difficulty (*Banzhengnan*) Discourse

Do Dom Kim 金道覃

*PhD Candidate*

*Department of Anthropology, The University of Chicago*

In modern states, documents are an important bridge between state and state subjects, whether citizens or non-citizens. They present some state subjects as legible, and are the windows through which citizens experience the operations of elusive ideas such as state, bureaucracy, and law in their everyday lives. In the case of China, documents and documentation practices are especially significant in understanding mobile population, as they are both tools and consequences of the rise of mobile population. In fact, many scholarly works focus on prominent documents like household registration booklets, showing how they matter critically to the lives of the mobile population, especially migrant laborers. However, what can be learned by shifting focus from a single document to a broader network of documents along with the bureaucratic practices that constitute China's population documentation regime?

This presentation focuses on a discourse that Chinese media have termed *banzhengnan*. *Banzhengnan* literally means the difficulty (*nan*) of having documents issued (*banzheng*), a term addresses the broader population documentation regime rather than a few specific documents. Although the term may not be used in everyday conversations, it is a phenomenon that many people can immediately relate to. How, then, does mobile population emerge in this discourse, and how does it align with or diverge from other figures that appear in it? What other fields does the discourse relate to, and how does it inform us about the way mobility is understood in China? In exploring these questions and outlining what other fields mobile population and mobility index, I will further examine how studying migration in Chinese global cities relates to conversations on migration and mobility in other parts of the world.

## Urban Networks and Social Technologies

Chair: Amir Hampel

### **“Nurturing Credit”: Logics and Practices of Digital Money Borrowing among Chinese Migrant Factory Workers**

**Tom McDonald**

*Assistant Professor*

*Department of Sociology, The University of Hong Kong*

**Li Dan 李丹**

*Research Assistant*

*Department of Sociology, The University of Hong Kong*

This paper presents results from ethnographic fieldwork conducted in a small factory on the outskirts of Shenzhen, China, amidst the growing proliferation of digital money platforms within migrant workers’ lives. Specifically, we focus on features that form part of the Sesame Credit (*ZhimaXinyong*) platform, offering users access to multiple novel forms of formal credit that act as alternatives to (largely unpopular) credit cards. Migrant laborers are shown to make sense of their ability to successfully accumulate increasing amounts of credit through local ideologies of nurturing, situating these ideals alongside other concepts of nurturing persons (such as kin or friends) which permeate in everyday life. The nurturance of credit by participants comes to represent more than simply managing debt responsibly, but instead reveals migrant workers’ desire to enact a very different philosophical understanding of debt. The credit-accumulating practices workers partake in constitute an attempt to rebuke the “economy of interest” that has come to govern modern financialized forms of debt (Graeber, 2011). Somewhat contradictorily, workers practices of nurturing credit also seek to maintain the possibility of being able to access larger amounts credit if needed, as a safeguard against the precarity of everyday urban life facing low class migrant workers. We argue that nurturing credit constitutes a significant way of understanding the specific—and inherently ambivalent—monetary repertoires (Guyer, 2004) and forms of agency migrants seek to deploy in an era of financialization.

## **Playing and Being Together: MMORPG and Its Construction of New Urban Life for Young Females in China**

**Chen Xiaoxu 陈晓旭**

*PhD Candidate*

*School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University*

Abstract: Solitude in megacities is considered as one of the most serious urban diseases. This situation is much worse for the young females who just graduate or about to owing to the long-term effect of the one-child policy. While some studies demonstrate MMORPG might jack up the feeling of loneliness, others believe communication in the virtual world will help to build up new connections. This study accordingly followed these young females who play a very popular game called World of Warcraft (WoW), into their online and offline life to explore the complex mechanism between game playing and solitude. Participant observation (6 months) and in-depth interview (N=22) were employed to collect their life experience data. Our research confirms that MMORPG becomes a useful way for these isolated young females to gain social support to be integrated into the city. In particular, online games can provide a space for being alone together, where allow the female gamers develop a strategy of “mismatch” to flow over the different cultural model.



## **Migration, Cultural Capital, and Academic Careers**

Chair: Wai-wan (Vivien) Chan

### **American Universities, Psychological Capital, and Social Entrepreneurship in China**

**Amir Hampel 韩泊明**

*Junior Fellow*

*Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts, Southern University of Science and Technology*

Chinese students who aspire to study abroad are not only worried about getting good grades. Like many people in China, they often imagine that Westerners are more creative and more confident than themselves. Many businesses and educators promise to teach Chinese students how to present themselves as passionate, self-aware, and self-confident, especially to American admission counselors. Drawing on ethnographic work on educational consulting companies and educational reformers in Beijing, I will show that cultivating psychological capital is not only a major industry, but also a form of social and cultural activism. Much of this is driven by young Chinese graduates who return from studying overseas, founding social enterprises that teach creativity and confidence to Chinese students. Their work appears circular: they are entrepreneurs teaching entrepreneurship, innovators encouraging innovation, and idealists who tell young adults to be idealistic. Recent studies of social entrepreneurship have critiqued the way it collapses morals and markets; also, scholars usually approach psychological capital as a form of investment in the self. I will argue that young Chinese entrepreneurs are teaching others how to develop psychological capital, and they are doing so as a social intervention. This work participates in a history of modernist reform that encompasses both material and moral aspirations: while they position themselves as social critics, these social entrepreneurs address widespread concerns about Chinese education, and they further government efforts to promote creative industry and public morality. They also reproduce the high value that people in China commonly attached to education, and to an imagined Western modernity.

## 全球化、学术流动与文化认同：中国社科海龟学者的经验

Miao Weishan 苗伟山

*Assistant Research Fellow*

*Institute for Media Research, Chinese Academy of Society Sciences*

摘要：不同于以往研究从政府政策和市场流动的视角检阅海龟学者，本文基于自下而上的视角，在文化认同的框架下理解海龟学者在回到母国后的身份认同、学术实践和相关影响。基于 2015-2018 年对 64 名中国新闻传播学海龟的长期访谈和观察，本文认为：1) 不同于以往研究认为的海龟学者相对本土学者享有学术文化资本和更多的机会，海龟学者回国后面临着知识范式、学术政治和文化身份等多重困境，这极大程度地限制了他们的知识生产。2) 不仅如此，本文访谈对象中有相当一部分无法顺利嵌入到本土的知识场域，海外求学成为他们的负资产；同时他们在国际知识舞台上无法发声，成为被国际和本土双重“抛弃”的学术离散群体。3) 基于此，本文强调学术流动性必须作为一个特定情景化、动态和多维度的复杂过程来理解。本文的研究发展挑战了主流的基于自然科学、从 brain drain/gain/circulation 等视角出发、强调海龟学者的文化资本和优势的主流认知，从文化认同的视角为我们理解全球化和人才流动提供了一个更加丰富的框架。

## **What Makes the Difference? Earnings of Foreign-born Doctoral Engineers in the United States**

**Tao Yu 陶羽**

*Associate Professor of Sociology, Director of Gender and Cultural Studies*

*College of Arts and Letters, Stevens Institute of Technology (USA)*

Foreign-born scientists and engineers in the U.S. make significant contributions to scientific research, development, and innovation in their fields. However, research into their career outcomes is lacking. This paper employs National Science Foundation's Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) 2008 and 2013 to examine the effect of nativity (foreign-born vs. U.S.-born) on the earnings of engineers with doctoral degrees in three employment sectors: academia, industry, and government. Preliminary findings show that foreign-born scientists and engineers did not earn less than their U.S.-born counterparts in academia or industry in either year, but the foreign-born working in government earned less than their native-born counterparts in 2008 but not in 2013. In addition, some background variables, notably experience and rank in academia, had different effects on the earnings of foreign-born engineers from those of native-born engineers. These findings lend some support to the assimilation theory but more support to the glass ceiling effect. The findings of this paper update the literature regarding immigrants' overall earnings disadvantages and provide new insight regarding how individual characteristics alter the effect of nativity, how these effects differ by employment sectors, and how these effects change over time among the highly educated and selected groups. Limitations and policy implications are also discussed.



Cover Photo: Amir Hampel, Dongmen, Shenzhen Aug 2010



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