

Title

Urban-Rural Mobility & Migration (WP6)

Summary

Rural-to-urban migration and its changing patterns are considered the key factors affecting urbanisation dynamics in China, which shape and reshape flows and linkages within urban-rural regions and beyond. In the process, segmented institutions responsible for the household registration system further deepened the urban-rural social divide. However, a radical reform of the household registration system that replaced the former 'Urban-Rural Hukou' by 'Resident Hukou' has been carried out on a national scale since 2014. This reform aims to gradually reduce the urban-rural divide.

The working package 'Urban-Rural Mobility & Migration (WP6)' takes the Huangyan-Taizhou region in the Yangtze River Delta as starting point for its research that will look into the aspects of: 1) the trajectory and patterns of urban-rural migration, and the way (im)mobilities are created; 2) the driving forces and key factors of migration; 3) the current urban-rural socio-spatial boundaries; 4) the changes in migration and mobility resulting from the recently reformed hukou system. Using mixed research methods, such as statistical analysis, new data (e.g. big data) analysis, mapping, semi-structured interviews and participatory observation, both qualitative and quantitative data will be collected, analysed and interpreted.

At the macro-level, the guiding questions for this research are: What is the general situation of migration and mobility in Taizhou, and what are the main driving forces and key factors behind it? At the micro-level, this WP will investigate the various forms of interactions between the urban-rural migration and urban-rural socio-spatial transformation. In doing so, a crucial layer of socio-spatial information on the research region will be provided and added to the research database. Thus, WP6 will contribute to the interpretation of the reasons for and effects of the phenomenon of migration and mobility. Beyond that, it will provide approaches and theories to identify the critical socio-spatial localities of urban-rural transition. Its findings will support experimental spatial interventions and relevant knowledge transfer with empirical evidence.

In collaboration with Shanghai University, WP6 will be led by the 'Center for Cultural Studies on Science and Technology in China (CCST)', making its broad networks to the Chinese science community, university partnerships and key policy institutions available to URA.

Contact

Dr. Sigrun Abels (Principal Investigator)
sigrun.abels@tu-berlin.de

Dr. Huang Huang (Senior Researcher)
huang.huang@campus.tu-berlin.de

Lukas Utzig (Student Assistant)
utzig@campus.tu-berlin.de

Technische Universität Berlin
Center for Cultural Studies on Science and Technology in China (CCST),
Institute of Philosophy, and the History of Literature, Science and Technology,
Marchstr. 23, Office MAR 2-2
10587 Berlin (Germany)