Occupation, Social Ties and Settlement Intentions: The Case of International Immigrants in Hangzhou

Abstract

Compared to a vast literature of internal migration, we have little understanding about international immigrants in China though it has become a rising immigration destination. Using survey data collected over 1000 immigrants from Hangzhou, Professor Xiaoguang Fan and Professor Zhen Liu try to understand how socioeconomic conditions and social ties from home country and host country matter for international immigrants' settlement intentions in China. The results suggest that high-skilled or self-employed immigrants, as well as immigrants from middle-income countries are more willing to stay in China and this pattern does not vary by migration origin. Also, immigrants that have stronger social ties with other immigrants from the same country of origin are more likely to stay in China. Lastly, confidence in China is a significant moderator of the above effects. Together these findings contribute new knowledge about settlement intentions of international immigrants in new immigration destinations.