

## **Imaging the flying Panda: Social factory and the prosaic geographies of China's mass innovation/entrepreneurship campaign**

**Dr. June Wang**

### **Abstract**

“Can Panda fly?”, questioned The Economist in its special report on China's economic ambition with the “Made in China 2025” blueprint. The key strategy, as specified by China's “Mass Innovation/Mass Entrepreneurship” campaign, rests in start-up urbanism that promises the integration of a soaring technology power and the real economy. This raises the question of forming the desired labour of the future, namely, entrepreneurial techno-subjects in China through what we call the new education-incubatory assemblage that motivates and mobilises university students and junior knowledge workers to start up tech enterprises and correspondingly, a mobile, flexible, self-actualizing life. How does the new education-incubatory machine assemble a new, willingly participatory community, and re-territorialise the techno-political ordering of the community? We attempt to answer the question by examining the spatiality of social factory in China. We propose to read it through a prosaic state space, where political apparatus and biopolitical individuals are re-configured to cross the old boundaries between space of work and life, learning and networking, cities and countries, us and them. This imagines new social territories of the future economy, which is stretched, distributed but connected, and which seems to be geopolitically innocent but meanwhile serves the very purpose of a flying panda.