Study on Social Integration and Development of Immigrants in China: A Theoretical Framework

Abstract

With growing international connections with China, the number of cross-border migrants (including international migrants and migrants from Hong Kong, Macao, and/or Taiwan) in China has been growing rapidly and the global society faces critical issues related to international migration in China more often than ever. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop a framework for understanding the social integration and development of cross-border migrants in China in order to help improve China's migration policy and its governance. Drawing from international migration literature with attention to the current integration practice in China, Professor Shuzhuo Li will develop a framework to understand cross-boundary migrant integration in China. First, the dynamics of integration among cross-border migrants are understood by exploring the relationships among different dimensions of integration. Second, he emphasizes the inter-relationship between immigrants and residents, the influencing factors at the individual, group, and contextual levels. and the consequences of the migrants' mental-health status, intention to stay, and residential choices. Third, the framework will guide the data collection in each geographic region of China, and the policies related to migrant integration based on the empirical evidence will be proposed. In the summary, he provides several research topics and collaborations toward the immigrants in China.