

Strategic In-betweenness: Settlement Intentions of Second- and 1.5-Generation Hong Kong Youths in the Greater Bay Area Mainland Cities

Abstract

In an era of growing transnational and trans-local practices, increasing attention has been paid to return migration from advanced to developing economies. Recent studies mainly focused on why second-generation migrants decide to return. A small number of qualitative studies have also investigated how these migrants integrate in their parents' homeland. Nevertheless, less is known about their settlement intentions after the return, the determinants, and whether it is a passive choice or a proactive choice. Drawing on data collected from Hong Kong youths working in the Greater Bay Area Mainland cities of China, and extending upon theories of transnationalism, this lecture investigates the short-term and long-term settlement intentions among the second- and 1.5-generation Hong Kong youths. Taking into consideration the conditions of global talent competition, Dr Shu further examines the discrepancies between high-skilled and low-skilled youths. Logistic regressions show that compared to the later-generation counterparts, second-generation Hong Kong youths overall report higher short- and long-term stay intentions. However, results from interaction analyses indicate that the settlement intentions among the second and the 1.5 generation further vary by their skill levels. Specifically, highly skilled report lower intention. Among the low-skilled youths, the second-generation has a higher settlement intention than the later generation. Among the high-skilled youths, the 1.5 generation has a relatively lower settlement intention. The findings indicate a pattern of "strategic in-betweenness" and unravel a process of rational choice in the settlement intentions among second- and 1.5-generation Hong Kong youths working in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.