

(Updated)

Transborder Biopolitics: Ageing, Youthification, and Diaspora Governance in Global China

This article theorizes youthification (*nianqinghua*) as an emerging strategy of diaspora statecraft whereby homeland states manage generational change in overseas populations. Based on eighteen months of fieldwork in China and Chinese migrant communities across Europe, this article finds that Chinese officials address aging diaspora leadership as a problem of political succession: established migrant intermediaries are approaching retirement, while their foreign-born descendants are less embedded in China's institutional and affective networks. In response, hometown governments increasingly target diaspora youth as governable resources for renewing homeland ties and sustaining homeland influence. This mode of extraterritorial biopolitics extends China's long-standing population governance into overseas domains. This article argues that aging, beyond its domestic demographic significance, has become a diasporic challenge that prompts pre-emptive youth incorporation. This article advances scholarship on diaspora politics and Global China by showing how local states reproduce China's global presence not only across territory, but also across generations.