

RESEARCH SEMINAR

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Intellectual Migration: Skilled migrants between China/India and North America

20th March 2025 (Thu)
4:30 – 6:00 pm (UTC+8)
Rm 221, Chen Kou Bun
Building, CUHK

The highly skilled play a central role in the knowledge economy. Globalization and the rise of emerging economies have propelled a 'global race for talent' and skilled migration in both traditional and non-traditional directions. The intellectual migration framework (Li et al. 2015, 2020, and 2023) connects higher-education migration with highly-skilled migration on the premise of migration as a conduit for intellectual pursuits as well as career development, and placing college students and seasoned professionals on two ends of a continuum. In investigating the "Who, Why, and Where" of migration and connecting internal with international migration, this framework contains key geographical analytical concepts of intellectual nodes, intellectual gateway v periphery. Empirical evidence will be presented on the migration intentions and experiences of Chinese and Indian college students still in their respective home country, Chinese students and professionals in North America, Indian academic returnees, and American professionals in China.



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Prof. Li received her Ph.D. in geography at the University of Southern California. She is Professor at the Asian Pacific American Studies / School of Social Transformation, and School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning in the Arizona State University, USA. Her research foci are migration, integration, and transnational connections, focusing on the Indo-Pacific Region. She is the author and [co-]editor of eight scholarly books, four journal theme issues, and has 171 other academic publications. She is an Association of American Geographers Fellow, and served as Vice Chair (2004-2010) and the Chair (2010-2012) of the U.S. Census Bureau's Race and Ethnic Advisory Committees on the Asian Population, and the North American Director for the International Society of Studying Chinese Overseas (2010-2025).



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