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Entrapment by consent : the co-ethnic brokerage system of ethnic Yi labour migrants in China

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Propositions

1. The crux to understanding the unequal status of migrant workers is the intersection of class, ethnicity, gender and state policies.
2. Brokers should not be regarded as migration evils, nor should they be simplified as cogs in the social network that facilitates labour migration; instead of this stark dichotomy, opening the black box of brokerage should be considered within a spectrum of exploitation, protection, control and facilitation.
3. The class status of Yi migrants in this study refers to both ascribed status – Black Yi and White Yi; and achieved status – brokers and workers.
4. If policies continue to be designed to prevent labour instability rather than to improve the social wellbeing of migrant workers and to change their structural disadvantages, migrant workers, including the Yi, will continue to be marginalized, and the upshot will be more collective resistance.
5. Contemporary labour studies have tended to view labour politics through the lens of the working class struggle; however, the connection of labour migrants to their home areas (countries) should also be taken into consideration when analysing the collective resistance or alternatively non-resistance of migrant workers in cities.
6. Apart from the disadvantage of their categorization as working class, migrant workers are place-based, ethnicized and gendered. Consequently the working class is divided and fragmented.
7. For fieldworkers who study ethnic minorities or labour migrants, the sympathy and empathy spontaneously generated by life sharing between researchers and informants is more important and enlightening than any learned tactics.
8. The marginalized status of ethnic Yi migrant workers, to a certain extent, reflects a structural inequality in which anyone can become entrapped, despite the forms and contextual differences they might face.
9. I believe that one of the responsibilities of today's scholars is to break down the boundaries between disciplines instead of building walls around them.
10. The gender perception of a female researcher sometimes appears autonomously in an analysis, even if this was not planned in the initial framework.
11. It takes an athlete to dance, but an artist to be a dancer – Shanna LaFleur.
12. Love never fails.