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The people in between : education, desire, and South Koreans in contemporary China

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Propositions

The People in Between

Education, Desire, and South Koreans in Contemporary China

Xiao Ma

1. The core to understanding dynamic relations between migrants and nation-states is to look through the eyes of migrants.
2. Education should not be seen as a trivial and innocuous topic in migration studies, rather it is closely associated with 'big' issues of inclusion and exclusion, belonging and identity.
3. Desire is representative of the emotional, unpredictable and undisciplined dimensions of migration.
4. Not only is it important to trace migration trajectories spreading over multiple sites, it is also imperative to trace people's concerns, calculations and strategies across time and space.
5. Disengagement from home could be conceived as a valuable opportunity; disintegration into the residence society could also be a preferable option.
6. Referring Koreans in China to 'migrants' is problematic because most of them do not perceive themselves as being 'migrants'.
7. Both South Korean and Chinese governments favour population mobility over settlement.
8. In interactions between individuals and state regimes, resistance is not the only strategy, so too is compliance.
9. Ethnic solidarity is restrictive in helping Koreans obtain the opportunities that they expect to have in China.
10. The 'people in between' refers to the structural and the subjective position of Koreans in China.
11. If you want to go fast, walk alone, and if you want to go far, walk together.
12. Nothing is impossible.