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## **The warp and weft of life: heritage and working-class nostalgia in a Chinese textile town**

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## Propositions

### **The Warp and Weft of Life: Heritage and Working-class Nostalgia in a Chinese Textile Town**

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1. Industrial heritage often marginalizes the very people it claims to honor.
2. Habitus and guanxi can be understood as forms of industrial heritage transmitted across workplaces and generations.
3. The transformation of “industrial rust belts” into “livable beauty belts” in contemporary China exemplifies bureaucratic nostalgia, replacing working-class pain with sanitized aesthetics.
4. Former textile workers’ nostalgia combines pride in socialist labor with grief over state abandonment, often suppressed in official heritage narratives.
5. China’s class transformations reveal a gap between official narratives of progress and lived experiences of dislocation.
6. Class still matters, as it reveals the political logic underpinning neoliberal policies.
7. Industrial nostalgia functions as a social affect that shapes collective identity, cultural memory, and worker agency.
8. While bureaucratic nostalgia erases pain through aestheticization, social nostalgia reclaims it as a basis for memory, dignity, and class identity.
9. An inclusive and critical approach to industrial heritage must treat working-class communities not as objects of preservation, but as its primary living bearers.
10. Anthropology at home relies on cultural intimacy to mediate the distance between the researcher’s biography and interlocutors’ lived experiences.