

The urban transition and beyond: Facing new challenges of the mobility and settlement transitions in Asia



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Socioeconomic development, Rural-urban migration, and the urban transition in Asia

- Asia: the most populous continent in the world
- Fast socioeconomic development in recent decades
- Profound socioeconomic transformation in the society
- Enormous migration flows from rural to urban areas, especially large cities
- About half of the Asian population live in the cities



Socioeconomic development, Rural-urban migration, and the urban transition: the case of China

- 87% of China's floating population in cities and towns (2010 census)
- in 2000-2010, 57-65% of China's urban population growth could be attributed to rural-urban migration
- The growth of Shanghai, China's largest city (24 million): Inflow of nearly 10 million migrants
- The emergence and development of Shenzhen, the first special economic zone and one of the most vibrant cities in China: unimaginable without the inflow of migrants



The volume of Shanghai's migrants: 9.96 million, 41% of the total population



Shengzhen



82年的深南大道

From a small rural county in 1979 with a population of 314.1 thousand...



...to a megacity with a population of more than 10 million.





Migrants: important driving force for socioeconomic development in urban China

- Main labour source for labour intensive manufacturing and service industries
- Increasingly important in IT and cultural development
- The case of Beijing
- Migrants make the age structure of major migrant destination cities much younger
 - The case of Shanghai: the proportion of the population aged 60 reduced from 22.69% to 14.94% in 2010



The proportion of migrants in selected industries, Beiijing (%)

	Service to household and other services	Hotels and catering services	Construction	Whole sale and retail trades	Information transmission, computer services and software	Leasing and business services	Manufacturing	Real estate	Cuture, Sport and entertainment
2010	74.85	72.58	62.53	68.05	47.83	45.65	52.11	44.23	40.27
Source: Ma, Hu & Yin, 2014:340-342									



Economic booms, migrants and cities: the paradigm of the urban transition

- The economic booms and agglomeration economies attract migrants
- Migrants constitute the backbone of cities
- The dominance of the paradigm of the urban transition



Beyond rural-urban migration and the urban transition: new challenges of the settlement transitions and *in situ* urbanization in Asia (1)

- The urban transition dominated by rural-urban migration: not the full story in Asia
- Developmental trajectories not captured by the urban transition paradigm focusing on rural-urban migration
- The settlement transition: “the urbanization of the countryside without massive rural-urban migration”, in “the extended metropolises” in Asia
- *In situ* urbanization: exists on a much wider geographical basis in southeastern provinces of China (eg. Zhu, 1998; 1999; Zhu et al., 2012)
 - One of the major characteristics of China’s urbanization process since the late 1970s.
 - “The most dramatic (and surprising) story of China’s transformation in China’s reform era” (Friedmann, 2005)

Beyond rural-urban migration and the urban transition: new challenges of the settlement transitions and *in situ* urbanization in Asia (2)

- Two dimensions of the process of *in situ* urbanization
 - The creation of new urban centers, especially designated towns in rural areas
 - Tremendous functional and physical changes of rural settlement through the development of township and village enterprises (TVEs)



Beyond rural-urban migration and the urban transition: new challenges of the settlement transitions and *in situ* urbanization in Asia (3)

- Between the late 1970s and late 1990s, reclassification played a dominant role in China's urban growth (Zhu, 2017).
- Rural-urban migration overtook reclassification as the most important source of urban growth in the period between the 2000 and 2010 censuses
- *In situ* urbanization back on the policymaking agenda of Chinese government: guiding 100 million rural residents of the central and western regions to become urbanized near their hometowns.

Beyond rural-urban migration and the urban transition: new challenges of the settlement transitions and *in situ* urbanization in Asia (4)

- *In situ* urbanization also exists in many other developing countries in Asia, including Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India etc. (eg. McGee, 1991; Qadeer, 2004)
- Opportunities: an alternative way to achieve urbanization
- Challenges: different from the conventional urban transition; requiring new approaches in planning and policy making.

Beyond rural-urban migration and the urban transition: the mobility transition and new forms of migration in Asia (1)

- Zelinsky's hypothesis of mobility transition (Zelinsky, 1971):
 - “There are definite, patterned regularities in the growth of personal mobility through space-time”
 - Different forms of mobility and 5 stages of the mobility transition
- Different forms of mobility, different trajectories in the mobility transition
- The later period of the late transitional society: rural-urban migration declining, urban-urban and intra-urban migration, as well as circulation keeping their upward trend



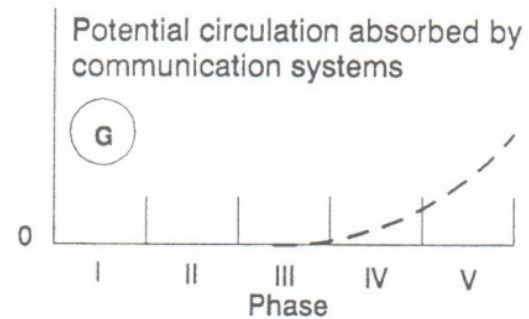
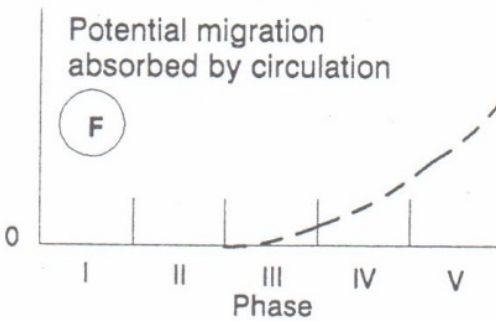
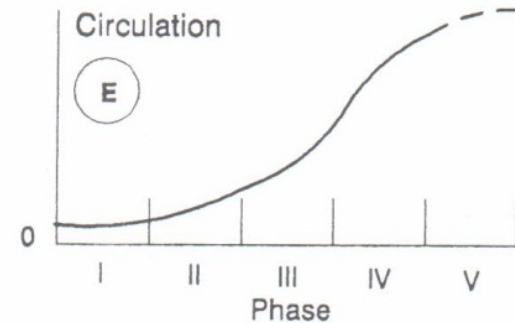
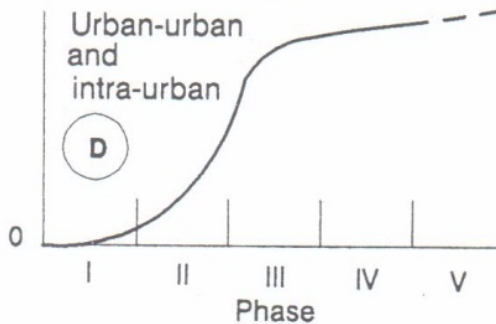
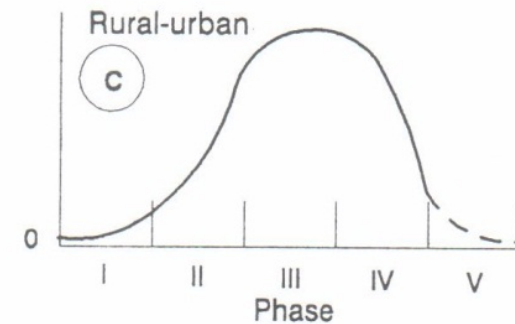
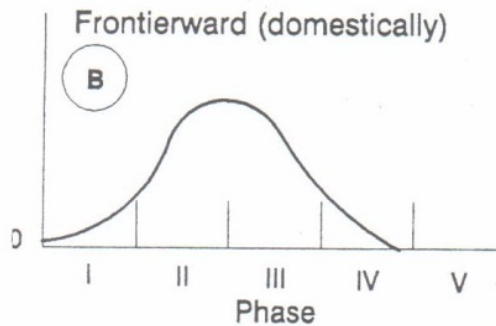
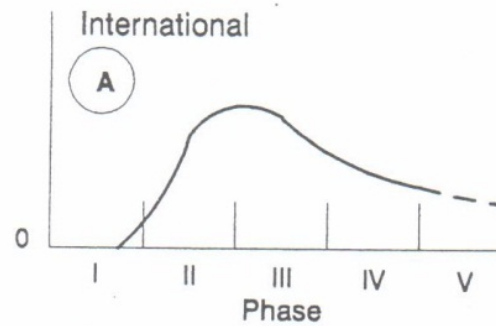
I Pre-modern traditional society

II The early transitional society

III The late transitional society

IV The advanced society

V The future super-advanced society



Beyond rural-urban migration and the urban transition: the mobility transition and new forms of migration in Asia (2)

- Many countries in Asia are in, or approaching the stage of the mobility transition where urban-urban, intra-urban migration and circulation will dominate
- Not enough attention has been paid to such changes
- China: does the leveling-off of rural-urban and long-distance regional migration mean members of the floating population are “stabilized” in their destinations cities and no longer floating?
 - Urban-urban and intra-urban migration may take over

Beyond rural-urban migration and the urban transition: the mobility transition and new forms of migration in Asia (3)

- The multi urban-urban and intra-urban mobility in developed countries and its implications for Asia
- IMAGE (Internal Migration Around the GlobE) project: positive correlation between aggregated crude migration intensity (ACMI) and GDP per capita, and China's low ACMI
 - Implications for China: a great potential for China's migration intensity to increase in the future; and the rise of urban-urban and intra-urban migration and circulation in the context of declining rural-urban migration
- China's 2010 census: 21.73 per cent of members of the floating population are urban-urban migrants (Ma, 2014)
- A survey in Fujian Province in 2015 : about 60 per cent of rural-urban migrants had already experienced subsequent urban-urban and/or intra-urban migration.
- New challenges

Conclusions and policy implications (1)

- Asian countries are facing threefold challenges of
 - not only urban growth dominated by rural-urban migration;
 - but also the settlement transition characterized by *in situ* rural-urban transformation;
 - and the mobility transition increasingly driven by urban-urban and intra-urban migration.
- The conventional paradigm of the urban transition is increasingly inadequate in capturing these new challenges.
- **Recommendation: The paradigm be expanded to incorporate *in situ* urbanization in the settlement transition and new forms of migration in the mobility transition to reflect the new realities**

Conclusions and policy implications (2)

- The widespread phenomenon of *in situ* urbanization as further evidence to support UN' view expressed in ICPD Program of Action advocating more balanced spatial distribution of the population and redistribution and relocation of industries and businesses from urban to rural areas
- Much larger spatial scale of *in situ* urbanization than previously realized
- **Recommendation:**
 - More efforts be devoted to exploring this alternative way of rural-urban transformation
 - **Migrant sending areas: Explore a new developmental approach incorporating migration and *in situ* urbanization into an integrated framework**

Conclusions and policy implications (3)

- Widespread phenomenon of *in situ* urbanization, and the increasing importance of urban-urban and intra-urban migration, support the view expressed in the New Urban agenda advocating “urban-rural interactions and connectivity by strengthening sustainable transport and mobility”
- Merely emphasizing rural-urban links and urban-rural interactions and connectivity: not enough in the context of rising status of urban-urban and intra-urban migration
- **Recommendation:**
 - More attention be paid to new forms of mobility and new dimensions of spatial connectivity
 - Spatial links and connectivity be envisaged at finer spatial levels; coordination across boundaries
 - More attention be paid to the portability issues of various social security programs and public services
 - UN serves an important role to coordinate comparable data collection of various countries

谢谢

Thanks!



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