

Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa / Ethnography and Qualitative Research

Call for Papers

Social Transformations and Workplace Changes in China and in the Chinese Diaspora

Special Issue Editors:

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In the last decades, China has been undergoing dramatic economic, social and cultural transformations. These include changes in drastically transformed cities and in the countryside, and the emergence of an increasingly fractured and unequal society.

The extraordinary growth of the state supported economy has been largely attained through the labour of about 250 million internal migrant workers experiencing levels of precarisation so extreme that what they experience risks becoming a specific type of labor relations. Yet, no Chinese model of working relations can be posited as interactions between workers, employers, the state, and local governments are multi-layered and more differentiated than scholars usually emphasize. By the same token, migrant laborers are not a homogenous group, as the state sponsored discourse tends to narrate, but are characterized by high levels of heterogeneity in terms of origin, gender, educational level, age, and income.

Breakneck urban growth has propelled China's rise in the past decades, a span of time during which over half the population has become urban. Today, urban residence status is increasingly being commoditized, with new policies coupling the housing and employment markets. Thus, issues of internal migrations, migrant labor, urban development, and housing are more than ever intertwined.

Overall, China is poised in an instable equilibrium, where new social privileges and previously unheard forms of dispossession complicate the civil society. At the same time, the global rise of China is inextricably linked with China's global investments and its development into a diaspora state trying to keep track of, influence, and direct its migrants' positionings in many and different ways. This in turn brings about new statuses, new cultural models and narratives pertaining to different classes, also among the Chinese people living abroad.

We invite ethnographic papers that explore the complexity of these transformations and their implications for China and the world in terms of socio-cultural changes, new forms of

production organization, and internal and international mobility. We welcome interdisciplinary papers based on sound qualitative research.

This call aims to collect contributions that address the issues raised across (but not limited to) the following themes:

1. Internal and international migration
2. Urban transformations and their impact on social relationships
3. New labour regimes in China and outside of China in Chinese firms
4. Chinese direct investments abroad and their implications in term of changing social and working conditions
5. The impact of new technologies on the social fabric and on working arrangements

In order to be considered in this special issue, please send an email to erq@mulino.it containing: title of your contribution, 2,000-word abstract in English, and a short bio (max 100 words) within **15 October 2017**.

After confirmation of your abstract submission, an email with preliminary editorial decision will be sent you by 31 October 2017.

Accepted articles must then be sent no later than **15 March 2018**.

Articles will be externally peer-reviewed.

The papers accepted in their definitive version must be original and must not exceed 8,000 words, written English and must follow the editorial guidelines stipulated by the journal and indicated on the website: <https://www.mulino.it/riviste/issn/1973-3194>. The journal does not accept articles which have not been drafted according to the editorial guidelines, including the required formatting.

Papers exceeding 8,000 words in length may be accepted only in exceptional cases.