The Right to the Entrepreneurial City in Reform-Era China

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Abstract

One paradoxical reality of reform-era China is that the right to the city does not necessarily go to those who have already moved to the city. By employing the perspective of urban accumulation regime and taking Shanghai, the most populous city in the world’s most populous country, as a case study, this paper elucidates how urban citizenship can be granted and explores the underlying rationale. The paper argues that the right to the Chinese city, which emphasizes eligibility rather than entitlement, has become part of the broader project of entrepreneurial city building.

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