

Rural-Urban Inequality in Post-Reform China: Persistent Divides and Key Stratifying Forces

June 27, 2026 | Room 520, Chen Kou Bun Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong |

Time Slot	Session/Topic	Speaker	Discussant	Details
09:00–09:10	Opening Remarks	Prof. Nicole CHEUNG (Chair, Department of Sociology) The Chinese University of Hong Kong		10 minutes
09:10–09:15	Organizers' Speech	Prof. Ling ZHU & Prof. Jing SONG The Chinese University of Hong Kong		5 minutes
09:15–10:20 Keynote Speech 				
09:15–10:00	Keynote Presentation	Prof. John LOGAN Brown University		45 minutes
10:00–10:20	Keynote Q&A			20 minutes
10:20–10:35	Coffee Break			15 minutes
10:35–12:15 Session 1: Rural-Urban Inequality Through the Lens of Migration Session Chair: Prof. Jing SONG				
10:35–10:55	Presentation 1: Fleecing from Bei-Shang-Guang? A Multilevel Understanding of Internal Migrants' Settlement Intentions in China's Supercities and Megacities <i>Authors: Xiaoman WU (PhD Candidate), Xi'an Jiaotong University; Prof. Zheng MU, National University of Singapore</i>	Prof. Zheng MU National University of Singapore	Prof. Ling ZHU The Chinese University of Hong Kong	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
10:55–11:15	Presentation 2: Migrate to Succeed versus Migrate to Survive: Divergent Housing Outcomes Between Urban and Rural Migrants, 2003-2022 <i>Authors: Prof. Ling ZHU, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Yuxuan GU (PhD Candidate), The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i>	Prof. Ling ZHU The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Prof. Zheng MU National University of Singapore	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
11:15–11:35	Presentation 3: Urban-Rural Physical Health Divide Among Chinese Children: Pattern, Selection, and Heterogeneous Effects of Migration <i>Author: Boyan ZHENG (PhD Candidate), Princeton University</i>	Boyan ZHENG (PhD Candidate) Princeton University	Yingzhe ZHU (PhD Candidate) Northwestern University	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
11:35–11:55	Presentation 4: Educational transition barriers for migrant children and re-migration of rural migrant labors in China <i>Authors: Anyi LIU (PhD Candidate), Nanjing Agricultural University; Jiangwen HUA (Master's Student), Zhongnan University of Economics and Law; Prof. Hongwei HUANG, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law; Prof. Hao HU, Nanjing Agricultural University</i>	Jiangwen HUA (Master's Student) Zhongnan University of Economics and Law	Prof. Hua ZHONG The Chinese University of Hong Kong	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
11:55–12:15	Open Q&A			20 minutes
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break			90 minutes

14:15-15:30 | Session 2: Institutional Stratifiers: Sustaining and Reproducing Rural-Urban Inequality | Session Chair: Prof. Sara ZHONG

14:15-14:35	Presentation 5: Are Rural-Urban Earnings Gaps Closing in Contemporary China? The Roles of Employment Precarity and Organization Sectors <i>Author: Zhipeng ZHOU (PhD Candidate), Cornell University</i>	Zhipeng ZHOU (PhD Candidate) Cornell University	Junru CHEN (PhD Candidate) The Chinese University of Hong Kong	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
14:35-14:55	Presentation 6: Rising wealth and declining morals? Gendered moral discourses about women's gatekeeping roles against the urban-rural hierarchy in Chinese villages <i>Authors: Prof. Jing SONG, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Prof. Felicia F. TIAN, Fudan University; Dr. Shichao DU, Fudan University</i>	Prof. Jing SONG The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Prof. Zizhen WANG Xiamen University	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
14:55-15:15	Presentation 7: Paradoxical Stratification: Understanding Rural Hukou Holders' Support for the Chinese Hukou System <i>Author: Prof. Zizhen WANG, Xiamen University</i>	Prof. Zizhen WANG Xiamen University	Prof. Jing SONG The Chinese University of Hong Kong	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
15:15-15:30	Open Q&A			15 minutes
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break			15 minutes

15:15-17:00 | Session 3: Digital Transformation and Its Impact on Rural-Urban Inequality | Session Chair: Prof. Ling ZHU

15:45-16:05	Presentation 8: Digitalization and Rural-urban Income Dynamics: The Joint Effects of Digital Dividend and Digital Divide — Evidence from Chinese Cities (2008–2020) <i>Authors: Junru CHEN (PhD Candidate), The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Prof. Ling ZHU, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i>	Junru CHEN (PhD Candidate) The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Zhipeng ZHOU (PhD Candidate) Cornell University	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
16:05-16:25	Presentation 9: The Hierarchy of Digital Vulnerability: Stratified Social Bonds across Rural Left-behind, Rural Non-Left-Behind, Migrant and Urban Adolescents <i>Authors: Prof. Hua ZHONG, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Xinge JIA (PhD Candidate), The Chinese University of Hong Kong Dr. Wei YAO, Tsinghua University Prof. Xiaojin CHEN, Tulane University</i>	Prof. Hua ZHONG The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Prof. Hongwei HUANG Zhongnan University of Economics and Law	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
16:25-16:45	Presentation 10: Reproducing Urban–Rural Care Gaps: City–Countryside and Coastal–Inland Inequalities in Patients' Utilization of Online Medical Platforms in China <i>Author: Yingzhe ZHU (PhD Candidate), Northwestern University</i>	Yingzhe ZHU (PhD Candidate) Northwestern University	Boyan ZHENG (PhD Candidate) Princeton University	15 min presentation + 5 min discussant
16:45-17:00	Open Q&A			15 minutes
17:00–17:10	Concluding Remarks	Prof. WONG Wang, Ivy (Director of Gender Studies Programme) The Chinese University of Hong Kong		10 minutes