Educationally Channeled International Labor Mobility: Contemporary Student Migration from China to Japan

Speaker 1

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Abstract

International education is an important trend of global population movement. With many international students entering the host labor market, it is increasingly a channel of labor migration. This sociological study, drawing on extensive ethnographic, interview and survey data, introduces the varied labor market outcomes of contemporary Chinese student migrants in Japan. It points out that the international education brings complex labor migration phenomenon. Both skilled and unskilled labor is produced in the process. Moreover, among the skilled migrants, the contents of the employable skills vary. I highlight the close relationship between the economic globalization process and the labor market outcomes of contemporary international student migrants. I argue that aside from scientific and engineering skills, Chinese students are contributing their bi-lingual and bicultural abilities to Japan's global economic development. They act as liaisons and bridge-builders, helping bring regions and countries together into a global economic network.