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

学校から労働市場に:現代中国人の日本留学

Speaker 1

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Dr. Gracia Liu Farrer is a COE Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Stratification and Inequality, Tohoku University, Japan. She obtained her PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago (2007). She has been conducting research among Chinese immigrants in Japan since 2000. Her is currently investigating Chinese student migrants' transnational labor market practices, career mobility, and the issues of racial and gender stratification emerging in the transnational labor market between Japan and China.

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 bilingual 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

