

Project Title: **Educational Aspiration of Migrant Children**

Project Summary:

China is experiencing one of the largest rural-urban migrations in its history. During the 80s and 90s, migrant workers were 'floating' who temporarily stayed in big cities. Numerous researches reported that migrant workers engaged in the lowest-ranking work in cities and suffer from social discrimination. Entering the new century, many of migrants settled in cities. They either set up their families there or bring their families from home farmland to cities. Increasing number of 'migrant children' resides in the city with their parents, but we know relatively little about them. Under the household registration system in China, this enlarging group of 'migrant children' continue to be regarded as rural population. This research aims to examine how the current migration policy and education system limit the chances for educational attainment among these migrant children. Education has increasing impact on occupational outcomes and chances of mobility in modern China; the findings point out a significant fact that migrant children have less chance to increase their economic and social status. Under the continuous discriminative structure of urban-rural divide, the second generation of rural migrants is likely to remain members of the underclass in cities.