

City University of Hong Kong

Department of Public Policy

Research Student Seminar

**Typology of Spatial Small Towns at a
Regional Scale: Boundary, Network
and Mobility**

by

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Abstract:

Currently, trans-regional processes are having an increasingly important influence on the evolution of our living spaces worldwide. Economic activities, transportation services, information development have far-reaching implications for international and national networks. Thus, spaces are no longer isolated. Similarly, there is a new rural-urban interface and the growing interpenetration of Chinese rural and urban life. Resource flows of people, capital, goods, information and technology, and regional interdependencies are reshaping the fortunes of urban and rural areas alike. Thus, the classification of a region should be made in terms of the resource flows that dynamically reveal the intertwined development of urban and rural areas. In this view, I emphasize

changing symbolic and social boundaries- the population mobility and social activity and the processes by which boundaries are engaged. The population mobility among rural areas, small towns and cities are conceptualized as crossing spatial boundaries; new technology and information in the new era of urbanization process influence the boundary work by enhancing the flow of capital, migrants, and social networks among places. This research is new sociology of space that identifies both social activities of daily basis among rural areas, small towns and cities applied big data and recognize spatial spaces from spatial and social perspectives.

This research unfolds as follows. In chapter 1, the research background and the research aim are put forward. In chapter 2, a brief introduction to the background of small towns in China is presented. In Chapter 3, a comprehensive literature review is conducted, and research questions were raised. In Chapter 4, a theoretical framework is conducted based on a theoretical basis. In Chapter 5, an introduction to the methodology of the study is summarized. Worth mentioning is the steps of conducting the proposed research in the future. In Chapter 6, the research significance is summarized. Expected research difficulties and suggestions for contingencies are represented in Chapter 7. The last chapter is a succinct summary of the overall writing plans and research timeline.

Keywords: small towns; typology; population mobility; boundaries; network