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A Conceptual Framework of Local Government and Third Sector Responses to Labor Migration in the PRC

Dr Lucy P Jordan 26-27 May 2013

International Conference on Collaboration among Government, Market, and Society: Forging Partnerships and Encouraging Competition, Shanghai, PRC
Social protection & migration

Diagram:

- Civil Society/NPOs
  - Government
  - Industry/Employers
  - Civil Society/NPOs
Population changes

- Increased life expectancy
- Below replacement fertility
- Rising inequality
- Urbanization

(Peng, 2011)
An (im)mobile population

- Migration is one of the important drivers of transformation in economic and social conditions in 21st century China
- Over 260 million Chinese people are migrants living in an area that is different from their Hukou registration
- Disruption of family and local social protection structures
Social protection in China

• The logic of place based protection
  – Hukou
  – Work unit
  – Harmonization?

• Impacts of economic reform

• Local government responsibility
Local variation

• MLSS (Minimum Living Standards Schemes)
  – Experimentation from 1993 to national legislation in 1999 based on ‘best practices’

• Experimentation with migrant populations
  – Including healthcare, pension, unemployment insurance, occupational injury insurance and maternity benefit
  – Wide variation >> economics, inequality (Shi 2012b)
Productivist-developmental state?

• Subordination of social policy to economic policy (Holliday, 2000)
• Reliance on family
• “disappearing of productivist elements and the rapid rising of the universal features of a modern welfare state… [with] … civil society emerging as a strong competitor to the state in determining the path of welfare reform” (author emphasis added) (Kim, 2008:120).
Program rules, availability, accessibility, eligibility, entitlement

Generosity of benefits

Coverage of potential population

(Meyers et al., 2002:96-97)
Regional characteristics, e.g., urban-rural harmonization, poverty threshold, variation in local taxation, intra- and inter-provincial migration, level of industrialization

Type of industry, domestic, foreign investment SO/COE

Population characteristics, e.g., migrant, low-income, age distribution, levels of inequality

Civil Society/NGOs

Municipal Government

Industry/Employers

Civil Society/NGOs

Policy Packages of Support

Commitment

Adequacy

Inclusion