

of living. The many results show, for example, that multidimensional poverty has decreased over the time studied, and that rural households are poorer than urban households.

Chapter six compares the multidimensional poverty of migrants with that of rural and urban groups, using data from the Rural Urban Migration in China (RUMiC) and the China Household Income Project (CHIP) surveys for 2002, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Income per capita, highest level of education, health status and health insurance as well as entitlement to pension insurance are the dimensions of poverty used. The migrant group stands out as extremely vulnerable, largely because most members in the group lack health insurance as well as pension insurance.

It is notable that few previous studies of multidimensional poverty have included access to social security as a dimension of poverty. However, I missed a discussion in the book motivating the decision to include access to social security in the poverty assessment. For example, why not relate it to studies that have investigated dynamic aspects of income/consumption poverty in China?

A second point to note is that the exercises reported in chapters four to six are to a large extent influenced by the available data. One might have expected the authors to provide some recommendations for future data collections to improve the understanding of multidimensional poverty in China. For example, a vital limitation in much of the analysis presented in the book is that the statistical information relates to households as a unit, while to make the most sense, poverty assessments (multidimensional or not) should relate to individuals.

A further concern is how to update criteria for poverty assessment in a rapidly growing economy. Many observers in the developed world have argued that criteria for defining a household and its members as poor have to change when the society in which they live becomes richer. Similarly, the official definition of poverty in rural China (which is based on household income) has become more demanding as China's average income has grown. Why should a similar view not be taken when assessing multidimensional poverty?

To conclude, the earlier chapters of the book can be recommended to those interested in what is meant by multidimensional poverty with respect to contemporary social problems in China. The rest of the book is for a narrow readership.

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Back from the Dead: Wrongful Convictions and Criminal Justice in China

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The repetition of extraordinary events may be dismissed as nothing more than coincidence or it may call for deeper reflection and a more rigorous explanation. The exposure of certain miscarriage of justice cases in China, such as those involving She Xianglin, Zhao Zuohai and Teng Xingshan are a case in point.

Following the disappearance of She's wife, Zhang Zaiyu, the discovery of a woman's body in a pond in the local township in Hubei Province led to the prosecution and conviction of She for her murder, aided in substantial measure by the

defendant's "confession." The calamitous error came to light when, 11 years later, Zhang reappeared having moved to Shandong Province and re-married in the intervening years. In bizarrely similar circumstances, Zhao Zuohai was convicted of the murder of a fellow peasant who had disappeared following their violent argument. The conviction, based on the later discovery of a headless corpse in a nearby well and the defendant's "confession" was ultimately declared erroneous when the "victim" turned up alive in their home village 11 years later. While the convicted "murderer" had avoided execution in both cases, luck was not on the side of Teng Xingshan. Teng Xingshan, who was said to have "confessed" on his own initiative, was executed with a bullet to the head for the murder of his "lover," after the dismembered body of a young woman was found floating in the Mayang river. When the alleged victim re-appeared alive and well six years later, it emerged that not only were the two not lovers, they had not been acquainted at all.

It is with these and similar miscarriage of justice cases that He Jiahong's book is concerned. This is not, however, an ordinary "academic" treatment of the subject. As the author of well-known novels such as *Hanging Devils* and *Black Holes*, He has set himself the task of writing "an academic book with the flavour of a novel." Accordingly, although his account is largely descriptive, drawing heavily on these cases which form the spine of the three parts of the book, the discussion is more wide-ranging with some excursions into history, reference to other miscarriages in China, limited empirical data, and discursive engagement with recent changes to China's criminal justice system through the new Criminal Procedure Law (2012).

Adopting an accessible, conversational style, He focuses on a number of factors which have contributed to the selected cases and other miscarriages of justice in China. These include: the setting of inappropriately tight deadlines for the solving of serious criminal cases; the holding of suspects in custody for extended and, often, unlawful periods (with suspects detained for up to five years pre-trial); the one-sided nature of evidence collection (with evidence collection designed only to reinforce the prosecution case and little or no defence activity); the undue emphasis placed upon confession evidence and the consequent resort by the police to the use of torture; the lack of external supervision of police investigations; the institutional alignment of police and prosecuting authorities; the vulnerability of state criminal justice institutions to "public opinion"; and the undercutting of formal laws by counter-incentives including an embedded system of *guanxi*.

The proposals for reform which flow from the weaknesses identified are both modest and, in the Chinese context, aspirational. These centre on moving the system and those who operate it away from undue emphasis on fighting crime and more towards protecting the rights of the accused, establishing a unified and clear standard of proof, and placing less emphasis upon "substantive justice" and more upon "procedural justice." At a time when there is a crackdown on defence lawyers and open violation of law by state officials, the drivers for beneficial change seem detached from these ambitions. More generally, standard reform proposals can gain little foothold in a party-state where there is no system autonomy or independence for those who operate within criminal justice and where, accordingly, its legitimacy is heavily dependent upon "confessions" which ensure verdicts that accord with public opinion (itself subject to official manipulation) and Party interest.

The book demonstrates what a formidable task He Jiahong set himself, and any assessment must acknowledge that the approach adopted renders conventional evaluation difficult. While there is little here for the academic professional in terms of original research, criminal justice theory, re-assessment of a growing and already voluminous specialist literature or deep engagement with ongoing debates, the

book is an easy read and will no doubt secure the wider general readership to which it is directed.

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Dams, Migrants and Authoritarianism in China: The Local State in Yunnan

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Sabrina Habich's book examines local implementation of dam-induced resettlement policies in response to the Nuozhadu dam in Yunnan. Nuozhadu is one of a cascade of dams being built on the Lancang river; approximately 46,000 people were resettled as a result of its construction. The book focuses on the resettlement process in Pu'er county where, between 2005 and 2012, households were resettled from one mountain village on the Lancang river to two existing villages 200 kilometres away on the plains near the urban centre of Pu'er. The author uses a case study approach, drawing on substantial fieldwork during which 90 semi-structured interviews with resettled households, local officials and other actors were conducted. This primary data is supplemented by secondary data on resettlement policies and local statistics.

The author uses this case study of resettlement policy implementation as a lens to consider changes in state–society relations, particularly the relations between local communities and the local state. She argues that bureaucratic structures, power relations and changes to resettlement policy severely limit the agency of the local state and result in new forms of state–society relations. As such, existing conceptual frameworks such as selective or effective policy implementation cannot really explain local government behaviour: in dam-induced resettlement the local state has little room to manoeuvre (resettlement plans are fixed at the provincial level), but at the same time must respond to the growing agency of local communities and the risk of social unrest. This is described by the author as fragmented mediation under hierarchy.

The book is particularly valuable in its examination of the structure of China's resettlement bureaucracy, the types of actors involved and the reforms to dam-induced resettlement policy and regulations. It outlines the introduction of more socially-oriented resettlement policies in 2006, partly influenced by the World Bank, and considers the respective roles of each level of government in the resettlement process. Of particular interest is the growing role of large semi-state hydropower corporations and their subsidiaries, which have become deeply embedded in the planning and supervision of dam-related resettlement.

A further strength of the book is the author's willingness to delve into how and why outcomes differ for different groups of resettlers. Lengthy bargaining efforts, including carefully staged protests, and increased access to information resulted in significant gains for some households, while others were less successful. This is a much more nuanced approach to the "society" in state–society relations than is typical of studies of land acquisition and resettlement. Further, by not simply focusing on the question of how local government implementation differs from central government policy intentions, the reader gets a much more detailed understanding of how the local state functions, and how it interacts with and is shaped by those affected by resettlement policies and procedures.