

Chinatown



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Min Zhou examines how an ethnic enclave works to direct its members into American society, while at the same time shielding them from it. Focusing specifically on New York's Chinatown, a community established more than a century ago, Zhou offers a thorough and modern treatment of the enclave as a socioeconomic system, distinct form, but intrinsically linked with, the larger society. Zhou's central theme is that Chinatown does not keep immigrant Chinese from assimilating into mainstream society, but instead provides an alternative means of incorporation into society that does not conflict with cultural distinctiveness. Concentrating on the past two decades, Zhou maintains that community networks and social capital are important resources for reaching socioeconomic goals and social positions in the United States; in Chinatown, ethnic employers use family ties and ethnic resources to advance socially. Relying on her family's networks in New York's Chinatown and her fluency in both Cantonese and Mandarin, the author, who was born in the People's Republic of China, makes extensive use of personal interviews to present a rich picture of the daily work life in the community. She demonstrates that for many immigrants, low-paid menial jobs provide by the enclave are expected as a part of the time-honored path to upward social mobility of the family. Min Zhou is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

作者介绍:

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标签

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评论

其实enclave hypothesis自从Sanders and Nee (1987)年那篇之后我就不是很buy了……文中也透露出了周老师自己心里的不确定，有一种硬要圆回来的感觉。不过数据资料很详实，无论对于学术观众还是大众读者来说，都是一本了解唐人街社会过程的通俗易懂同时又非常重要的作品。

似乎有很多比较随意的推论，难道是经济学看社会学的感觉？

关于1965年前后的对比很有意思，内容很accessible，两小时就可以基本看完。

粗略读了一遍，从Enclave-Economy的角度来审视中国城社会的社会经济结构。整体的论证比较严谨，最大的启发是不要预设单一的移民融入模式。

2018 senior seminar.

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书评

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