

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

WHY FARMERS TRANSFER OUT FARMLAND?

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Abstract

There has been a heated academic debate over whether China should promote large-scale rural land transfer. Proponents contend that the concentration of the scattered small family farms is an inevitable move towards agricultural modernization and urbanization, while opponents contend that the concentration of farmland will result in social differentiation and proletarianization. However, the on-going land transfer practice in China since the mid-2000s seems inconsistent with both sides of the debate. Different from the view of proponents, many migrant laborers to the urban area intend to return to the countryside, due to various social and economic constraints. Different from the view of opponents, most peasant households give consent to transferring out their farmland. In this research, I propose to investigate how three main factors make China's land transfer practice different from the simplistic narratives of land dispossession or modernization. The three factors include collective land ownership, translocal community support, and the social-political considerations of agrarian capital. These factors explain the reason why land transfer has been widely conducted in rural China without salient peasant resistance.

Proceedings

Duration	Session
5 mins	Chair Welcome & Introduction of Panel
30-45mins	Presentation by Student
15 mins	Q&A (by audience – faculty / students)
Break	Audience to leave the meeting
30 mins	Q&A by Panel
15 mins	Chairperson to ask candidate to leave the meeting Private Panel Discussion and Decision on the Examination
15 mins	Candidate invited back by Chairperson Feedback and Outcome of Examination

Monday
13 July 2020

2pm

Venue:
TEAMS Meeting

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