City Hukou Barriers and Intermarriages in China

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The social significance of nativity in the marriage markets is institutional bounded, as criterion of admission as well as social benefits associated with nativity vary significantly across institutional settings. In China, household registration system (hukou thereafter) is such institutional force that block migrant integration and since the 1990s, welfare benefits and social services associated with hukou vary greatly across cities. In this study, we explore the hukou influence on intermarriage between locals and migrants. Specifically, we explore the pattern of intermarriage between locals and immigrants is spatially varied, and if so, how it varies by the level of city hukou barriers. We find a higher hukou barrier strengthens the boundary between residents and migrants, and thus lowers the probability of intermarriage between residents and migrants.

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