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一个美国终端用户的看法

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# Background 背景

- Disclosure
  - Myself
  - My work
  - No stocks in Google or Microsoft!





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# Misconceptions and Complexities in the Study of China's Cities: Definitions, Statistics, and Implications

Kam Wing Chan<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** A noted American authority on urbanization and the household registration system in China reviews and clarifies factors leading to misunderstanding and misconceptions regarding the number of inhabitants of China's major cities. Principal sources of confusion linked to reliance on official statistical sources are the multi-layered meanings of the term "city" and, consequently, simultaneous publication and use of a multitude of official population statistics for the country's "cities." Other complicating factors analyzed by the author include the effects of the Chinese *hukou* (household registration) system and the rapid rate of urban growth and change over the last three decades. Systematic population and per capita GDP data for the years 2000 and 2005, all based on the multiple boundaries and systems for five major cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen), are collected to illustrate both the countrywide situation and specific cases. Also included is a critique of several studies and popular accounts of Chinese cities to highlight misstatements and areas of misunderstanding based on inappropriate use of statistical data. *Journal of Economic Literature*, Classification Numbers: O18, O53, P20, R12. 2 figures, 6 tables, 130 references. Key words: China, cities, mega-cities, urban population statistics, *hukou* system, household registration, per capita GDP, Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen.

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## INTRODUCTION

Which of China's cities is the largest, how large is its population, and which city has the highest per capita GDP? As simple and elementary as such questions may seem, they underlie the basic, fundamental issue of measuring populations in urban studies of China that use numbers.<sup>2</sup> These studies range from "simple" analyses of urban trends in China (or even in the entire world due to China's heavy weight in the global urban population), or learned

# Overall

- Very powerful databases, one-stop shopping -- a dream library!
- Concepts not new (cf. Amazon.com, Google Scholar, Web of Science by Thomson Scientific)
- Personal digital library is also a good idea

# Big Issues 大问题

- Strategic Point of View
  - Small US market, but big in shaping Western views of China
  - US China scholars play an important role in directly or indirectly generating these views.
  - Do they have good access to the Chinese academic and policy literature? This is crucial in the process of generating understandings or misunderstandings.
- There is also a public/social mission of scholarship (and its distributors, such as libraries) in a market economy

# Medium Issue 中问题

## • Academic assessments – Based on Citations 被引频次

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5	区域“板块”形成演变规律及其动力源探究	姚士谋,王成新,于春,陈金永,刘塔	地域研究与开发	2004-04-10	8	116	0
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7	<a href="#">广东社会科学</a>	广东省社会科学院	0.357	4264	132176	4042
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<input type="checkbox"/> 17	地质学报	中国地质学会	中科双奖期刊;第三届(2005)国家期刊奖获奖期刊;	2.968	19872	80528	3529
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	金融研究	中国金融学会	第三届(2005)国家期刊奖获奖期刊;	2.840	37013	482249	3191
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KW Chan, L Zhang - [China quarterly](#), 1999 - JSTOR

... converted from blue-stamp holders.69 The formalization of the blue-stamp **hukou** was a major step in the legalization of the commodification of **hukou** in **China**. ...

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[The Origins and Social Consequences of China's Hukou System](#) - [all 2 versions »](#)

T Cheng, M Selden - [The China Quarterly](#), 1994 - JSTOR

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[Inequality Change in China and \(Hukou\) Labour Mobility Restrictions](#) - [all 10 versions »](#)

J WHALLEY, S ZHANG - [NBER Working Paper](#), 2004 - [papers.ssrn.com](#)

... which factors. We focus on the system of **Hukou** in **China**, or registered permanent residence, which is location specific. Not having ...

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[Hukou and Non-hukou Migrations in China: Comparisons and Contrasts](#) - [all 5 versions »](#)

KW Chan, T Liu, Y Yang - [Int. J. Popul. Geogr.](#), 1999 - [doi.wiley.com](#)

... The similar fortunes of most non-**hukou** migrants in **China** and Third World immigrants to developed countries (both legal and illegal) further suggest some ...

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[Chinese Rural Migrants in Urban Enterprises: Three Perspectives](#) - [all 7 versions »](#)

J KNIGHT, L SONG, J HUAIBIN - [The Workers' State Meets the Market: Labour in China's ...](#), 1999 - [books.google.com](#)

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Z Liu - *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2005 - Elsevier

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[CITATION] Migration, **hukou** and resistance in reform **China**

H Mallee - *Chinese Society: Change, Conflict and Resistance* (London: ...

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[Inside China's cities: Institutional barriers and opportunities for urban migrants - all 2 versions »](#)

F Wang, X Zuo - *American Economic Review*, 1999 - JSTOR

... The dual **hukou** system, which underwent some drastic changes in the past decade, has not lost its importance in **Chinese** cities. A ...

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[Reformed Migration Control and New Targeted People: China's Hukou System in the 2000s](#)

FL Wang - *The China Quarterly*, 2004 - Cambridge Univ Press

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**China's Hukou** System in the 2000s\* Fei-Ling Wang A ...

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# Small Issues 小问题

- Interface – too complicated; also needs some English
- Compatibility with English Windows OS
- English titles, key words and abstracts
- Bibliography in pinyin format
- User friendliness to non-Chinese users
- Statistical data (in Yearbook Database) need excel format
- Classification of disciplines

participation rate in these schemes is low, and coverage is still very partial, far less than similar schemes for urban workers.<sup>89</sup> About 14 million out of more than 100 million rural migrant workers had also joined some form of pension scheme by the end of 2005.<sup>90</sup> There are, however, serious questions about the usefulness, or even ethics, of selling pension schemes to migrants because all the schemes require significant contribution by the workers and are not portable:

- 83 “Guowuyuan guanyu jichu jiaoyu gaige yu fazhan de jue ding” (“State Council’s decisions on reforms and development of basic education”), 29 May 2001, at <http://www.moe.edu.cn/edoas/website18/info3313.htm>, accessed 25 August 2007.
- 84 See, for example, *Xinhua News*, 20 December 2004 about Beijing’s migrant schools, at <http://www.china.org.cn/english/culture/115453.htm>, accessed 7 January 2005. The figures cited are reported by an organization of migrants’ schools in Beijing: see “Beijing daguimo qudi zhenggai mingong zidi xuexiao” (“Beijing launches large-scale campaign to close down migrants’ schools”), *Xinjing bao* (*New Beijing Post*), 28 August 2006, at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/edu/2006-08/28/content\\_5015898.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/edu/2006-08/28/content_5015898.htm), accessed 18 August 2007.
- 85 “Beijing closes schools for migrant children in pre-Olympic clean-up,” 26 September 2006, <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/09/26/china14263.htm>, accessed 26 January 2007.
- 86 Zai Liang, “Internal migration: policy changes, recent trends, and new challenges,” in Zhao and Guo, *Transition and Challenge*, p. 208.
- 87 “Shanghai school for migrants shut down,” ABC News International, 11 January 2007, <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=2781935>, accessed 12 January 2007.
- 88 National Bureau of Statistics, “Nongmingong shenghuo zhiliang diaocha zhiyi: laodong jiuye he shehui baozhang” (“Quality of life survey of rural migrant labour 1: employment and social security”), [http://www.cpirc.org.cn/tjsj/tjsj\\_cy\\_detail.asp?id=7485](http://www.cpirc.org.cn/tjsj/tjsj_cy_detail.asp?id=7485), accessed 21 August 2007.
- 89 Du Yang and Gao Wenshu, “Zhongguo li yiyuan shehui baozhang tixi you duoyuan” (“How far away is China from an integrated social security system”), *Zhongguo laodong jingjixue* (*China Labour Economics*), Vol. 2, No. 2 (2007), pp. 45–59.
- 90 “2006 niandu laodong he shehui baozhang shiye fazhan tongji gongbao” (“The 2006 report of development and statistics of labour and social security”), at [http://www.molss.gov.cn/gb/news/2007-05/18/content\\_178167.htm](http://www.molss.gov.cn/gb/news/2007-05/18/content_178167.htm), accessed 14 August 2007.

# Concluding Remarks 小结

- Digital is the way to go; it has enormous potential
- Cannot do everything, not in US or China
  - Market Niche 市场定位?
  - Functionalities 功能定位?



Thank you!