

Research impact meeting

Enhancing impacts under ESRC/DFID research projects

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Outline

- Brief introduction to two DFID/ESRC projects
- Major findings of these projects
- Impacts originated from research
- The pathway to enhance research impacts
- Future development

ESRC/DFID projects

- Urban poverty and property rights changes in China
- The development of migrant villages under China's rapid urbanization: implications for poverty and slum policies

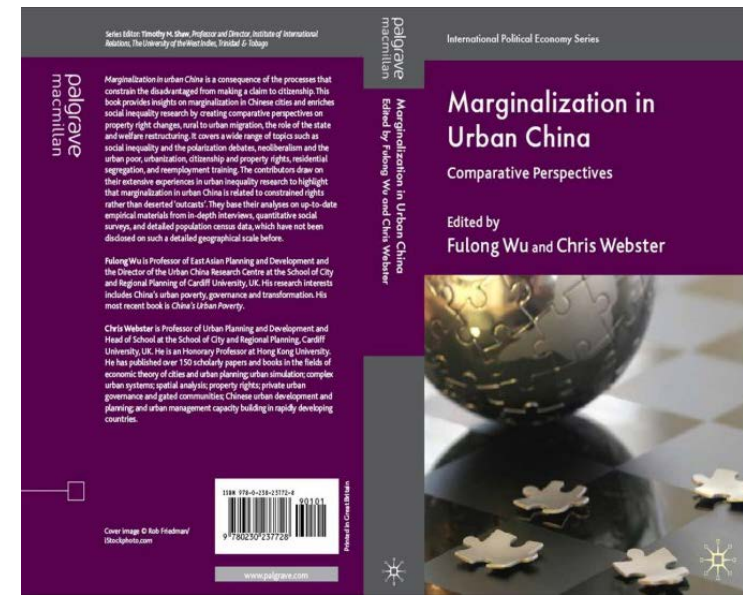
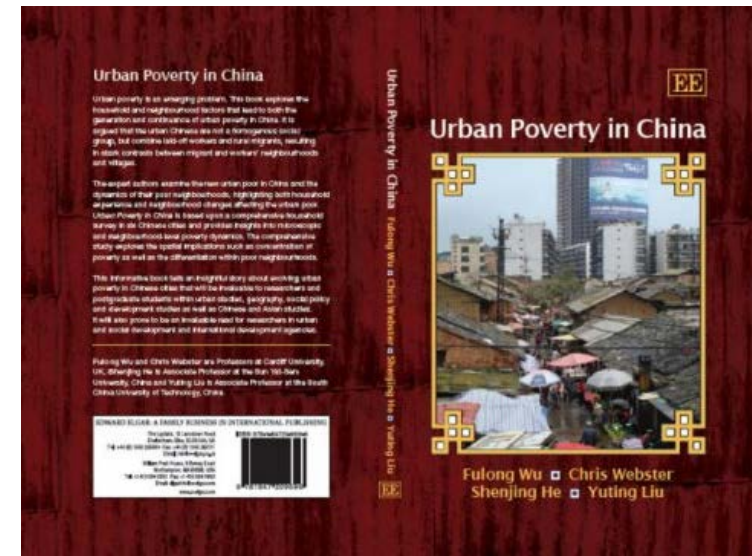
Urban Poverty in China

Spatial concentration of urban poor

A survey of 25 neighbourhoods in six cities

Originality: needs to understand poverty conditions by social groups and localities

They are linked with the particular situation of 'property rights' – leading to marginalisation





The development of migrant villages

A survey of 20 x 3 villages in three cities

In-depth case studies

Migrant villages are not 'slums'

'Residential satisfaction' – affordable housing

Current policies try to demolish them

These villages should not be demolished



Impacts from the originality of research

- Social science evidence-based research
- Surprise but acceptable
- Contradict existing policies
 - The need to target at specific neighbourhoods
 - The need to develop alternative redevelopment policies

Achieving impact through formal and informal engagement with users

- Informal is perhaps very important – beyond formal ‘dissemination’, dialogue with planners and officials
- Follow the users’ needs rather than the need to disseminate findings – training workshop for the directors of planning bureau

Enabling local research capacities – partners

- They are not just helpers for the project
- They are mediators for research impacts – interfacing with the government and local activists
- Helping them to develop their capacities rather than asking them to help the project

Enhancing the impact through ‘debates’

- Four featured articles published and one more to write in newspaper *China Daily*



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Limits of current research

- More originated from our ‘curiosity’
- Less prescriptive – ‘what is’, rather ‘what should’
- The pathway: ‘findings’ → impacts
- Research as a process of creating impacts – it is an activity within which impacts are embedded
- The limits originate from the separation of ‘users’ and ‘researchers’

Future development

Demonstration projects – e.g. a project together with ‘users’ to demonstrate the possibility of urban redevelopment