

# Urbanisation and villages-in-the-city in the Zhujiang Delta

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# What is villages-in-the-city?

- The meaning of 'village' in Chinese
- Villages-in-the-city in Southern China
- Settlements with a long history and strong peasant roots
- Developed organically; not the result of town planning
- Getting lost in translation
  - Villages-in-the-city ≠ urban village

# Formation of villages-in-the-city

- What do urban geography textbooks tell us?
  - Village to township/city
  - Farmer to worker
  - Farmland to factory
  - Tradition to modern
- A free flow of production factors
- Invisible walls in China – institutional barriers
- Urban-rural dualism
- Not simply a ‘lagging behind’ in policies, but a structural problem

# Villages-in-the-city as a product of dualism

- A sociospatial-institutional dualism
  - Land ownership
    - State owned vs collective owned
  - Town planning
    - Before 2007, *City Planning Act vs Village and Township Planning and Management Ordinance*
    - Since 2007 – *Urban and Rural Planning Act*
  - Urban management
    - Public utilities did not reach villages
  - Residents' household registration status

# Why villages-in-the-city are prevalent in the Zhujiang Delta?

- local urbanization strategy and local policies
  - Incomplete urbanization – encroached farmland but bypassed residential land
  - In kind compensation
- Power of villagers

# Villages in Guangzhou city

- Three types of villages-in-the-city
  - Villages locating in city core and have their farmland completely lost
  - Villages locating at the suburban area and retaining a certain amount of farmland
  - Villages sitting at the outskirts of a city and still retain a large amount of farmland

- Land use and physical setting
- People and place
- Redevelopment of villages-in-the-city

# Concluding remarks

- Urbanisation is a 'fragment' process in China
- Redevelopment is launched to complete the unfinished business of urbanisation
- Urbanisation with Chinese characteristics