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Everyday Life of Suburbanized Labor Forces in Shanghai

In the past decade, a remarkable spatial and demographic redistribution has emerged in Shanghai. We could find a process of an unregulated real estate development which not only boosted the housing price in downtown areas, but also led to the suburbanization in Shanghai. This suburbanization process, in which the suburban residential population has dramatically increased while the downtown area still keeps its economically dominant position, could not be accomplished without the development of the subway network (currently 8 lines). Subway has become a “taken-for-granted” way of connecting home and working place for its speed and stability. The purpose of the paper is to examine how the everyday life of those who live in suburban areas is arranged, and therefore to answer the following question, “how can the subway become a tool of labor supply?”