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Uncertain Routes, Uncertain Futures: Undocumented communities in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's economic ascent to the ranks of a global city, that it occupies today, began with the influx immigrants from China a century and a half ago. British colonialism brought with it other categories of immigrants from administrative and professional classes as well as unskilled immigrant workers. Official treatment of these categories have depended on the political implications of immigration policy as well as their perceived economic value to Hong Kong with some immigrants being granted permanent rights of residence while, on the other extreme, others are permanently denied. This presentation makes the case, using Hong Kong as a case study, that a global city is by no means a global village for all, especially among differently placed immigrants.

The evidence will be drawn from ongoing research among undocumented communities of immigrants from Mainland China, South Asia and Southeast Asia living in Hong Kong.