

Mobility regimes and transnational capital: The post-graduation plans of African student migrants

Abstract

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Employing a theoretical framework that draws on the concept of global regimes of mobility and Bourdieu's theory of practice, this paper seeks to analyse how African student migrants in China navigate global structural inequalities in planning for post-graduation mobility, while strategising to overcome barriers to mobility and capital accumulation. It argues that China's position within the contemporary global political economy is reflected in the ways these student migrants navigate intersecting global mobility regimes. Moving beyond the 'stay/return' binary common in student mobility research, the paper delineates three post-study trajectories: returnees, deterred by structural barriers from staying in the host country; those who stay in China, overcoming these barriers by opening businesses, with plans to return home later; and those who plan to accumulate capital in China to meet the requirements of more stringent mobility regimes in the Global North.

Author Bio

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