CHINESE HOUSING REGISTRATION (HUKOU): BRIDGE OR WALL?

ANDREW KRYSHAK
WHAT IS HUKOU?

- Created in 1958.
- Internal Passport system
- Three main reasons for its creation
  1. Promote Urban Development
  2. Resource Allocation
  3. Control Urban Development
- Assigned at birth
- Benefits
LUO, THE HUKOU SYSTEM IN CHINA

Figure 1: Ranking of Hukou Status and Location
Research Question:

- Does the Chinese housing registration system (Hukou) act as a bridge encouraging socioeconomic growth, or as a wall preventing such growth?

Goal

- If the hukou system is indeed a bridge for an individual’s socioeconomic growth, it could be possible to provide a guideline to help migrants increase their success in receiving an urban hukou.
LITERATURE REVIEW

- **Primary Focus**
  - Internal migration within China.
  - Different ways of obtaining an urban hukou.
  - Who converts?
  - Difference between Provinces.
- History of the hukou system.
- Different provinces use different methods.

- Who is most likely to convert their hukou.
- Challenges converters face.
HYPOTHESES

- **Hypothesis I**
  - Men are more likely than women to obtain an urban hukou through means other than buying a hukou.

- **Hypothesis II**
  - Those who are members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) are more likely to obtain an urban hukou through means other than buying a hukou.

- **Hypothesis III**
  - Those who are college educated are more likely to obtain an urban hukou through school rather than other means.
DATA AND VARIABLES

- **Data**
  - Chinese Household Income Project, 2002

- **Independent Variable**
  - Year someone obtained their urban hukou

- **Dependent Variable**
  - How someone obtained their urban hukou

- **Control Variables**
  - Gender
  - Party Membership
  - Education
How Someone Obtained Their Hukou

Chi-Square = 548.384
P = .000
Cramer’s V = .187
Chi-Square: 351.055
P = .000
Cramer’s V = .207
Chi-Square=149.48
P=.000
Cramer’s V=.142
Chi-Square=212.293
P=.000
Cramer’s V=.153
Chi-Square=166.729
P=.000
Cramer’s V=.178
GOING TO COLLEGE
BECOMING OFFICIAL
JOINING THE ARMY
LAND OCCUPIED BY THE GOVERNMENT
BUYING A HOUSE IN THE CITY
BUYING A HUKOU

Chi-Square=245.599
P=.000
Cramer’s V=.247

LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL

1950-1957 (Rise of Mao)
1958-1965 (Five Year Plan)
1966-1975 (Cultural Revolution)
1976-1985 (Gang of Four)
1986-2002 (Modernization)
Chi-Square=205.7
P=.000
Cramer’s V=.204
GOING TO COLLEGE BECOMING OFFICIAL JOINING THE ARMY LAND OCCUPIED BY THE GOVERNMENT BUYING A HOUSE IN THE CITY BUYING A HUKOU


Chi-Square=145.423
P=.000
Cramer’s V=.185
FINDINGS

- Social mobilization varies across different political regimes throughout Chinese history.
- Men were more likely to obtain a hukou through means other than buying a hukou.
- Being a member of the Communist Party makes other methods of receiving an urban hukou more accessible.
- Those with a Jr. College or University level of education are more likely to have obtained their urban hukou through attending college than other means.