

## **Sailing/Anchoring: Home-making and Aspirations of Non-Majority Female Migrants in Shenzhen, China**

**Authors :** Meiyun Meng

**Abstract :** Urban China is now undergoing social transformation based on its rapid economic growth, developing its individualism and feminism. This paper approaches emergent relationships between female individuals' everyday lives and urban China through internal migration, home-making practices and life-course perspectives. Focusing on Shenzhen, it explores how ten highly educated female migrants pursue aspirations of accommodating 'non-majority' identities, such as lesbians, divorced, or childless women, in urban China. Based on life stories and home video tours, this paper finds how these women develop non-majority lifestyles to negotiate their aspirations. On the one hand, they 'sail' away from past/present situations where collectivist and hetero-patriarchal norms marginalised their non-majority identities. On the other hand, they 'anchor' in places where 'new' socio-cultural contexts allow female individuals to pursue alternative opportunities and preferential lifestyles. This paper provides fresh insights to interpret the social transformation in urban China, under the collectivist culture and hetero-patriarchal norms, through the lens of individual everyday home-making practices.

**Keywords :** home-making practices, internal migration, highly educated women, shenzhen, transforming urban China

**Conference Title :** ICHGPDS 2023 : International Conference on Human Geography, Planning and Development Studies

**Conference Location :** London, United Kingdom

**Conference Dates :** June 22-23, 2023