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**Sesión plenaria:
Tesis doctorales en curso**

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Título de la tesis: The dream and the reality: the rural-urban immigration to Shanghai (1927-1937)

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1. Research topic

The successful story of the “made in China” is closely linked to the massive internal migration of Chinese workers in the previous decades. During the late 30 years, hundreds of millions of rural labors have migrated to cities to work in export-oriented factories, which became the foundation for the success of China's export industry, producing labor-intensive manufactures. This is not a new phenomenon. More than one hundred years ago, similar cases occurred when China began to develop its early industrial regions. Among which, Shanghai is the most representative. In a few decades it transformed from a small coastal town with a population of less than a quarter of a million into the largest metropolis in China and one of the largest cities in the world. By mid-twentieth century its population reached to more than 5.4 million and was the fifth largest city in the world, only after New York (12 million), London (8.8 million), Tokyo (7 million) and Paris (5.9 million). The huge population expansion of Shanghai was the result of immigration. From the late nineteenth century to the middle twentieth century, Shanghai attracted and absorbed immigrants from every part of the nation, and the majority of the city's population was from outside of Shanghai. According to the statistics in different periods, the non-Shanghai natives consistently made up around 80 percent of the total population (Zou, 1980, 112-117; Luo, 1932, 21-31; Statistics of Shanghai 1933, 19).

Due to lack of data, few previous investigations have been done. The exact numbers, the origin and motivations of this large scale migration seem still a “mystery”. This dissertation focuses on the large internal migration to Shanghai, especially the rural-urban immigration during the Nanjing Government (1927-1937) of Republic of China (1911-1949). The main objectives of the study are:

1) To quantify the population growth of Shanghai city from the First Opium War (1840-1842) to the end of Republic of China (1949), and the immigration to Shanghai during the Nanjing Government Era (1927-1937).

2) To explore the characteristics and the motivations of the immigrants to Shanghai. Especially the attraction factors of Shanghai city in comparison with other big cities in this period are analyzed, such as the large demand of labor force in the export-oriented manufacturing sectors after the Openness, which could be the early form of the China's development model in the last thirty years.

3) To analyze the relationship between labor market segmentation and inequality of the immigrants in Shanghai. Shanghai's labour market was segmented around the native place of

immigrants. We explain this phenomenon, which was not fully explained by the classical labor segmentation theory.

4) To analyze the influence of the Great Depression on Shanghai's economy, labor market and workers' conditions.

2. Methodology and data

The methodological approach is a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, from Demography, Economic History and Labour Economics. The main theoretical bases are the classical Pull-Push Model and the Labor Segmentation Theory, focusing on the case of Shanghai.

To reconstruct the population and immigration growth we use household registrations of the Shanghai government during 1929-1936, where the origin of the residents was recorded. This source allows us to calculate the number of the immigrants and outmigrants to and from Shanghai in each month, the percentage of each origin, and the sex of the immigrants. The archives of the native-place associations (*tong xiang hui*) and other surveys of the Republican period are used to complement the immigrants' characteristics, such as age, sex, marital status and education.

The Pull-push Model is used to analyze both the causes of rural out-migration and the urban in-migration to Shanghai. For the push reasons, we take the rural areas of Subei and Jiangnan as the cases of study and consider as explanatory factors: demographic pressure, standard of living, natural disaster and social conflicts. This analysis is also used to explain the different stratifications of Subei and Jiangnan immigrants. For the pull factors in Shanghai we consider the demand for labor and the income differences.

In the third part, we use the household registration (1929-1936) to resume the regional of the immigrants, and the labour statistics (1930-1939) and native-place associations' archives to analyze the labor market segmentation and inequality of the immigrants in Shanghai. To explain the reasons of such segmentation we improve the pull and push model, to show how these factors in the origin and destination affect the job opportunities, standard of living and social status of the immigrants.

For the analysis of the impact of the Great Depression on Shanghai's economy we use the industrial statistics in the 1930s. Data on unemployment comes from the Pudong native-place association archives and from newspapers announcements. More than 90 volumes of the Records of Unemployed Immigrants and more than 100 journal articles have been collected to analyze this section.

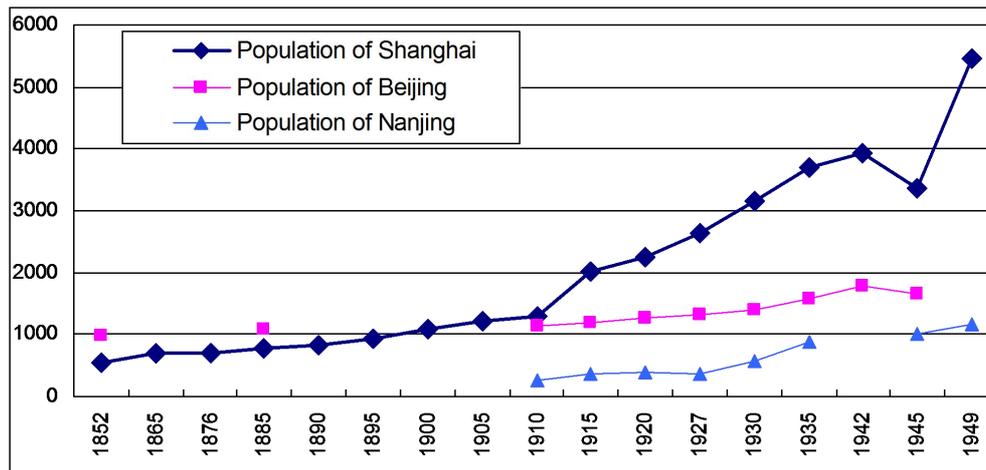
3. Expected contributions

1) The reconstruction of the population and migration growth of Shanghai.

As a result of the lack of data, hot debates exist among demographers and historians about the population during Republican China. Even the exact population of China in this period is not known. Relying on the official historical statistics published by the Nanjing Government, in the first part of the paper we reconstruct the population and immigration growth in Shanghai with some modifications (Figure 1).

Figure 1: The population of Shanghai, Beijing and Nanjing (1852-1949)

Thousands



Source: Population of Shanghai: Statistics of Shanghai 1933 and 1945; Luo 1932, 20-21; and Zou 1980, 90-91; Zhang, 1989, 28. Population of Nanjing: Nanjing Local Chronicle, 2001, 55-58. Population of Beijing: Han, 1996, 120-134.

2) The labor market segmentation and the immigrants.

Most immigrants to Shanghai were from rural areas around Shanghai, and they were distinguished as immigrants of *Jiangnan* and *Subei* according to their native places (Map 1). Using the Labour Statistics data (1930-1939), we analyze: salary and occupations of the immigrants, standard of living of their places of origin, educational situation, social networks of immigrants, ways to find work, and geographical prejudice.

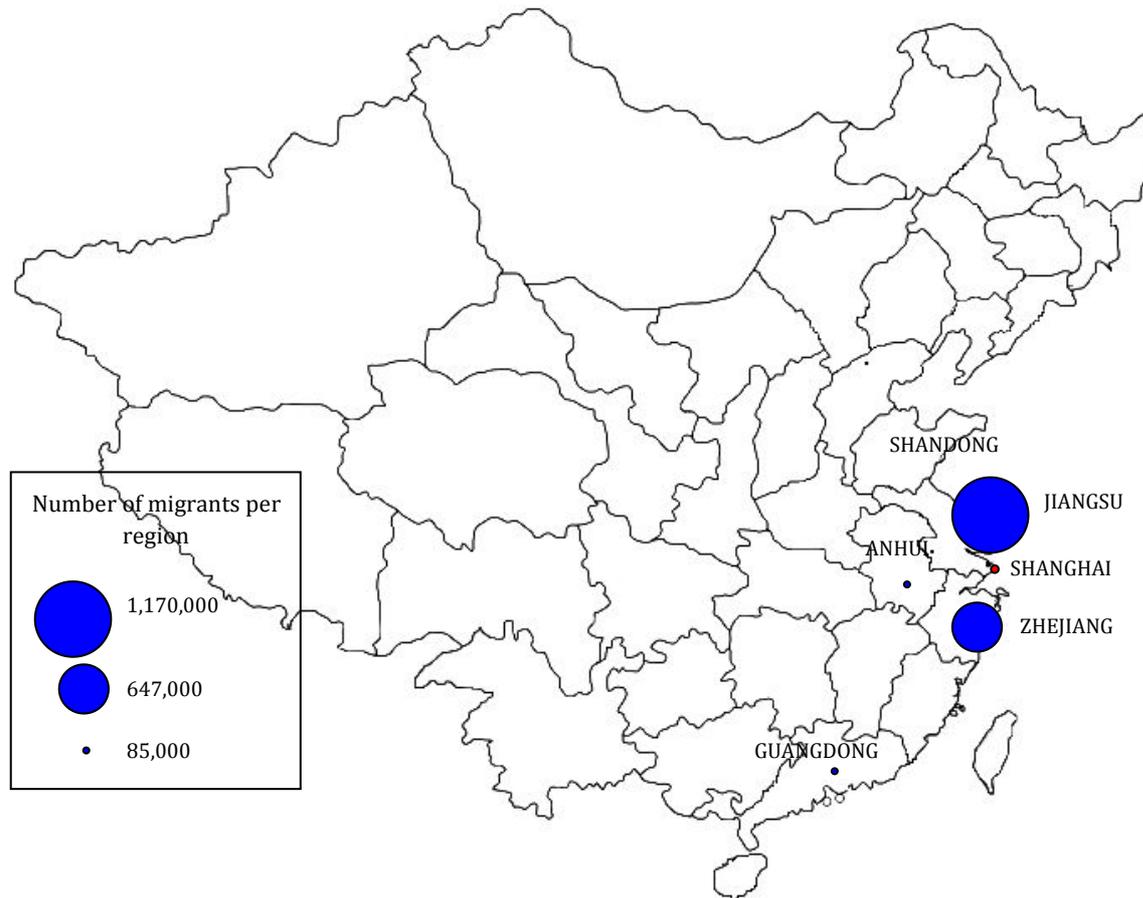
3) The Crisis 1929 and the migration.

The literature on the Great Depression in China has mostly focused on the financial system and the macro economic development while the labor market remains a relatively unworked area.

China was not affected by the Great Depression at the first step of the crisis because of its silver-standard monetary. After 1932 the crisis reached China with the sudden fluctuations of the international price of silver, and the industry, especially the export-oriented sectors like textile was deeply affected and the unemployment was severe among the immigrants. One chapter analyzes the influence of the 1929 Crisis on the immigrants in Shanghai. We can also

learn from the experiences for the crisis of nowadays, which is greatly affecting the export-oriented industries and the rural laborers in the big cities in China.

Map 1: Origin of immigrants to Shanghai (1930)



Sources: Drawn according to Statistics of Shanghai 1933.

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