

Table of Content

Preface | 7

Introduction | 11

1. Interacting with Urban China | 19

1.1 Contemporary Critical Urban Studies | 19

1.2 China's Rapid Urbanization | 23

1.3 Construction – A Process | 26

1.4 Participants – Who is Involved? | 27

2. People in Motion | 31

2.1 Labour Migration | 33

2.2 Labour Migration in China | 35

2.3 The International Business Migrant | 40

2.4 A Peculiarity: the Similarities | 41

3. Urban Nomads – Permanently Temporary | 45

3.1 Emerging Challenges in Migration Studies | 48

3.2 Tailor-Made City Planning and Cocooned Living | 49

4. Shanghai – Head of the Concrete Dragon | 55

4.1 Urban Transformation in Shanghai | 56

4.2 Impacts on the Lived Space | 58

4.3 Construction Sites as Research Field | 60

5. Global Urban Nomads | 63

5.1 Approaching from Within | 63

5.2 The Wide Field of Expatriates | 64

5.3 Bubble Worlds – Spatial Conditions | 70

5.4 Working Challenges | 73

6. Rural Urban Nomads | 81

6.1 Approaching from Outside | 82

6.2 Working Conditions on Site | 83

6.3 Spatial Configurations | 89

6.4 Social Situation | 93

| | |
|---|-----|
| 7. Reflecting on Urban Nomads | 101 |
| 7.1 Reflecting on Global Urban Nomads | 102 |
| 7.2 Reflecting on Rural Urban Nomads | 104 |
| 7.3 Interrelations between Urban Nomads | 105 |
| 7.4 Urban Nomads' Right to Shanghai | 108 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 8. Prospects | 111 |
| 8.1 Fair Building | 111 |
| 8.2 From Idea to Action | 115 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Acknowledgement | 119 |
| Glossary | 121 |
| Bibliography | 123 |
| Table of Figures | 135 |