



The Center for Iberian & Latin American Studies, UCSD

Urbanization and Inequalities What can China learn from Latin America?

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Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD**

The urbanization level of Latin America might be the highest in the developing world. At the same time, the inequalities (economic, social, and political) are serious issues for the region. Scholars from around the world, agree that these inequalities have constituted bottle necks for the further development of Latin America. Some scholars, especially in China, identify the phenomenon of Latin American inequalities as the “Latin American Trap” of development. Urbanization is an irreversible process in China. From the 1980’s to the present, the urbanization rate (the weight of the urban population in total) has doubled, from less than 25% to more than 50%. At the same time, income inequality in China is becoming more and more serious. The GINI index was only just over 0.20 at the beginning of 1980’s, but currently it is about 0.50. China is trying to avoid the “Latin American Trap” while promoting urbanization as a strategic engine for further development. In this presentation, I will examine what urbanization and inequalities mean for China’s new dream and what can China learn from Latin America.



Xie Wenzhe received his BA in history from Qufu Normal University in Shandong Province, an MA in history from Nankai University in Tianjin City, and his Ph.D. in World Economy from the Graduate School of China Academy of Social Science in Beijing. He is a Chinese economist who began his formal research on Latin American economy in 1995. His research has included the study of industrial structure, industrialization, cities and national development, urban development, rural development, income distribution, and public policies for sustainable development. In March of 2004 through March of 2005, he studied in the Institute of Economic Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) as a Visiting Scholar. He is currently a Visiting Scholar at CILAS, UCSD.

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