The emerging cultural economy in Chinese cities: early dynamics

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Abstract

In recent years, Chinese national and municipal governments have emphasised growth of the urban cultural economy, aiming to achieve 15–20% economic output share in the largest metropolitan regions by 2020. There is wide variation in policy and physical approaches to growing the urban cultural economy, explored in Beijing, Shanghai and Foshan. Differing physical models of cultural economic development are explored: formal arts facilities, cultural preservation based redevelopment, high-tech creative zones and bottom-up clusters. Key drivers are discussed and tensions are explored – between production and consumption spaces, top-down and bottom-up approaches and between authenticity and gentrification. The authors conclude the sector is becoming a major shaper of physical form, affirm the key role the private sector has played and assert that bottom-up districts, driven by the producers themselves, have been among the most successful. Spatial dynamism is emphasised, particularly the emergence of new cultural production spaces on the urban periphery, and the evolution in the urban core of former production spaces into new cultural consumption environments.

References


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The dynamics of production, distribution and location of major cultural products industries are also examined. Current Chinese city-building processes can be viewed from a land efficiency perspective and through the prism of the key actors, particularly (1) local governments (municipal, urban district, county), (2) the national government, which has become increasingly interventionist in response to energy efficiency, agricultural land protection, and housing-affordability issues, (3) developers (ranging from small-scale, local to large-scale, international). The reform of Chinese public cultural institutions (shiye) revolves around one core issue – how to transform state-owned cultural industry sectors to enable them to facilitate the development of the cultural economy in China. Chinese President Xi Jinping speaks at the Forum on China-Africa cooperation in December 2015. (Credit: GovernmentZA/GCIS, ‘Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), 3 to 5 Dec 2015’/Flickr licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0) (via: bit.ly). Economics. Expert comments, Asia&Africa. In its early years, the People’s Republic of China copied the planned economy model of the former Soviet Union, which led to increases in productivity but also concomitant problems. Increasing integration with the world economy in this decade turned out to boost rather than impair the international competitiveness of Chinese manufacturing. Hu Biliang. Professor of Economics and Dean of the Emerging Markets Institute at Beijing Normal University. 2/3 - This report examines the Chinese economic model, the potential for future Chinese growth, and the implications for Australia. An examination of factors that have contributed to the rise of the modern Chinese economy including demographic factors and... This influx of FDI and receptiveness to external practices has also led to an increase of multifactor productivity in China, though estimates vary regarding the degree of improvement. On one hand, Du & Yue, 2009 estimated a productivity improvement of 21% on a wage increase of 9.8% per annum from 2000 to 2007.