

School/Department:	International Institute of Social Studies
Project Title:	Understanding changing livelihoods and inequality in the context of rapid urbanization in the Tibetan areas of western China
Abstract:	<p>Urbanisation in the Tibetan areas of China are fairly unique in that rural-to-urban migration is contributing to a rapid increase in urbanization in the absence of any significant increases in labour productivity in agriculture, where most of the population was employed at the beginning of their urbanization transitions. This is partly explained by the presence of huge subsidies flowing into the region, which allow for rising incomes, particularly in urban areas where subsidies are concentrated. However, there are no parallel increases in productivity in rural areas, thereby disassociating the classical synergies between rural and urban development. Instead, rapid increase in urbanisation in the 2000s was fuelled by the heavily subsidized rapid growth of Tibetan towns and cities, which stimulated both local Tibetan and interprovincial migration. Moreover, despite this rapid transformation since the early 2000s, a persisting feature of urban employment in Tibetan areas has been the extremely limited supply of non-state (private or corporate) formal employment. As a result, the state-sector has remained as the almost exclusive supply of jobs that are appropriate for university graduates, resulting for an all or nothing prospect for such graduates, with important implications on the rising numbers of Tibetans receiving such levels of education. The persistence of this situation is unique in comparison to all other regions and provinces in China.</p> <p>This research project investigates various aspects of these transitions occurring in Tibetan areas, from both micro and macro perspectives, including livelihood changes in both rural and urban areas, migration flows, education and other aspects of social policy, resettlement policies, land use changes, commodity speculation, or the fundamental role of state policy in determining urbanization dynamics.</p> <p>Of particular interest is how these structural trends since the mid-2000s have been related to emerging patterns of social stratification, inequality, disadvantage and discrimination in the Tibetan urban areas over this period, with a focus on the Tibetan areas of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), Qinghai, Gansu and Sichuan.</p>

	<p>This project proposes two PhD scholarships to research these issues under the supervision of Professor Arjun Bedi, a renowned scholar on human capital, education, and labour markets in development, and Associate Professor Dr Andrew Fischer, an expert on development in western China, particularly with respect to education and employment. Professor Bedi will serve as promoter and Dr Fischer as co-promoter. Applications are invited on any aspect of the research project described above.</p>
<p>Requirements of candidate:</p>	<p>Background: Social Sciences (ideally with background in economics, political economy, politics science, development studies, social policy or related field)</p> <p>Master degree: Yes (in Social Sciences, as specified above)</p> <p>IELTS Grade: 7.0 (<i>minimal 6.0 per component</i>) or TOEFL: 100 (<i>minimal 20 per component</i>) (<i>or exemption if MA degree was in English</i>)</p> <p>Other requirements: experience in western China and knowledge of Tibetan.</p>
<p>Supervisor information:</p>	<p>Promoter:</p> <p>Prof. dr. Arjun Bedi, Professor of Development Economics Email address bedi@iss.nl Personal website: www.iss.nl/bedi</p> <p>Selected Recent publication list, last 5 years (1-2 pages)</p> <p>“Impact of Ethiopia’s Community Based Health Insurance on household economic welfare” (with Zelalem Yilma, Anagaw Mebratie, Robert Sparrow, Marleen Dekker, Getnet Alemu). <i>World Bank Economic Review</i> 29 (Suppl. 1) (2015): S164-S173.</p> <p>“Dropping out of Ethiopia’s Community Based Health Insurance Scheme” (with Anagaw Mebratie, Robert Sparrow, Zelalem Yilma, Getnet Alemu). <i>Health Policy and Planning</i> (2015); doi: 10.1093/heapol/czu142.</p> <p>“Enrolment in Ethiopia’s Community Based Health Insurance Scheme” (with Anagaw Mebratie, Robert Sparrow, Zelalem Yilma, Getnet Alemu). <i>World Development</i> 74 (2015): 58-76.</p> <p>“Sickness and Death: Economic Consequences and Coping Strategies of the Urban Poor in Bangladesh” (with Farid Khan, Robert Sparrow).</p>