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The surprising connection between single women and gentrification

单身女性和中产阶级化之间惊人的联系

Gentrification is reshaping urban areas all around the world, displacing large segments of the population and making cities increasingly unaffordable.

中产阶级化正在重塑世界各地的城市地区, 导致大量人口被迫迁居, 城市生活成本也越来越难以负担。

We recently examined two decades of cultural transitions in Hong Kong with a focus on how the changing status of women and attitudes toward marriage have altered the real estate market.

最近, 我们研究了香港 20 年来的文化变迁。重点关注的是, 女性地位及她们婚姻观念的转变, 是如何改变房地产市场的。

What we found is that single women in Hong Kong have played a surprising and little-

studied role in gentrification.

我们发现，虽然对此的研究很少，但是香港的单身女性在中产阶级化中扮演了出人意料的角色。

Marrying later

结婚更晚

From 1950 to 1990, the number of young single women across Asia increased almost fourfold, from 22 million to 82 million.

从 1950 年到 1990 年，亚洲年轻单身女性的数量增加了近三倍，从 2200 万增加到 8200 万。

This trend has produced a ripple effect throughout the economy, including the property market and local redevelopment, as the increased number of single women—who are also attaining higher-paid job—boosts demand for housing.

这一趋势在整个经济领域产生了连锁反应，受影响的领域包括房地产市场和地方重建，因为单身女性越来越多，她们找到的工作报酬也越来越高，从而增加了对住房的需求。

Gentrifying neighborhoods

居住环境日趋中产阶级化

A telltale sign of gentrification is the shift from rentals to owner-occupied housing. The share of units with owners living in them climbed from 45.5% in 1986 to 64.2% two decades later.

中产阶级化的一个明显迹象，体现在住房从租赁到自住的转变上。1986年，房主自住类住宅的占比是 45.5%，20年后（2006 年）上升到了 64.2%。

The share of households led by single women, whether never-married or divorced, jumped to 47.1% in 2006 from just 25.8% two decades earlier.

2006 年，户主是单身女性（包括未婚和离异）的房产所占的比例跃升到了 47.1%。20 年之前（1986 年），这个数字只有 25.8%。

Global trends

全球趋势

Overall, not only are single women emerging as a growing and critical aspect of Hong Kong's economy, they are also driving the city's increasingly unaffordable real estate market.

总体而言，单身女性不仅仅正在成为香港经济当中日益壮大和举足轻重的一部分，同时，她们也刺激着这座城市越发高不可攀的房地产市场。

This is not to say that we should blame women for gentrification. We believe their growing representation and success in the workforce in Hong Kong and elsewhere is something to be celebrated. And women at the other end of the income spectrum, particularly single mothers, bear the brunt of gentrification.

这并不是说我们该把中产阶级化怪到女性头上。我们相信，不论在香港或是其他各处，女性在劳动力大军当中日益提升的代表性和接连不断的成功，是值得庆祝的。与此同时，在中产阶级化的浪潮中，处于收入阶层另一端的低收入女性（尤其单亲妈妈们）却首当其冲，受到压力。

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重点词汇

gentrification /dʒentrɪfɪ'keɪʃn/

n. 中产阶级化

相关词汇：gentry (n. 上流社会人士，绅士阶层)

词性拓展：gentrify (v. 使贵族化)

英文释义：a process by which middle-class people take up residence in a traditionally working-class area of a city, changing the character of the area

例句：This area is undergoing gentrification.

displace /dɪs'pleɪs/

v. 迫使...离开常居地；取代

词根词缀：dis- (分开，分离)

segment /'segmənt/

n. 部分；段，片

近义词：part

搭配短语：a segment of an orange

搭配短语：market segment

real estate

房地产，不动产

英文释义：property in the form of land or buildings

搭配短语：real estate bubble

相关短语：property bubble

fourfold /'fɔːrfəʊld/

adv. 四倍地

英文释义：four times as big or as much

搭配短语：a fourfold increase (adj.)

相关词汇：fivefold, sixfold

ripple effect

连锁反应；涟漪作用

相关词汇：ripple (n. 涟漪)

英文释义：a situation in which one event produces effects which spread and produce further effects

相关短语：butterfly effect

相关短语：domino effect

attain/ə'teɪn/

v. 得到，获得；达到

搭配短语：attain high grades

搭配短语：attain independence

telltale/'telteɪl/

adj. 能说明问题的；暴露实情的

搭配短语：telltale clues

搭配短语：a telltale sign of sth.

owner-occupied/ˌoʊnər 'ɑ:kjupaɪd/

adj. (房子等) 业主居住的；自己使用的

相关词汇：owner (n. 主人)

相关词汇：occupied (adj. 被使用的；已占用的)

share/ʃer/

n. 份，份额

搭配短语：the share of sth.

households led by single women

户主为单身女性的住户

近义词：households headed by single women

相关短语：a household led/headed by men

相关短语：a male-led household/a male-headed household

workforce/'wɜ:kfɔ:rs/

n. 劳动力，(国家、地区、行业) 全体从业人员

例句：The company is cutting its workforce.

spectrum/'spektrəm/

n. 频谱；范围

搭配短语：social spectrum

搭配短语：a broad spectrum of interests

brunt/brʌnt/

n. 主要压力；影响最大的部分

英文释义：the chief impact of a specified action

搭配短语：bear/take the (full) brunt of sth.