Portfolio Proposal

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Introduction of Topic

The topic that I am planning to look at is China's internal migrants, or floating population as it is called in official discourse now. This is not a new topic, but as long as Hukou (household registration) system exists, internal migrants are de facto illegal aliens - making them "citizens in the second class". Therefore, I would like to focus more on describing their lives, because I think only through understanding their experiences and living/working conditions can we identify the real problems they are facing.

Datasets Available

- 1. China's census 2010 and maybe the ones before (This one provides aggregated data by province.)
- 2. Survey on migrant workers (2006, 2008 and 2009) (This survey targets on migrants workers with no more than high school education in Guangdong province, which is the province with the largest number of internal migrants I think. The results of the survey provide individual-level data.)
- 3. China General Social Survey (2012) (This survey is nation-wide, and interviews both migrants and locals. Therefore, it could potentially provide some comparison between migrants and locals.)

Graph Ideas

- 1. Line graph: change in the population/percentage of internal migrants
- 2. Chord diagram/Flow map: direction of migration
- 3. Choropleth map: number of migrants as percentage of total population in each province
- 4. Connection map: connections between migrants and their "left-behind" family members
- 5. Population pyramid: demographic characteristics of internal migrants
- 6. Radar chart: comparison between migrants and locals on a certain set of values or social inclusion level
- 7. Bar chart: absolute number of internal migrants in each province
- 8. Stacked bar graph: percentages of migrants with different levels of education in each province