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## **Residential Mobility and Social Capital in Urban Shanghai**

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### *Abstract*

The present study investigates how residential moves are related to the contextual constraints, availability, and mobilization of social capital for expressive actions. Social capital at three settings will be measured, including family, neighborhood, and community. Data were collected from a household survey conducted at the end of year 2000 and early 2001. A total of 1200 Chinese adults were randomly drawn from 12 urban districts of Shanghai and an interview schedule was administered to the selected respondents. Preliminary findings show that one-quarter of our respondents have moved at least once since 1996. Compared to non-movers, movers tend to be younger, non-married, better educated, and employed. Moreover, movers are relatively disadvantaged in terms of resource contexts and the availability of strong social ties for expressive actions. However, movers and non-movers have similar extent of reachability to individuals who would offer emotional support. Further, movers and non-movers differ in the characteristics of activated social ties for emotional support. The most important confidant of movers tends to be younger, better-educated, employed, and non-kin-related than that of non-movers.