

**Ethnicity and Residential Mobility in Hong Kong:
Analysis of the 2001 Population Census**

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Hong Kong is the most internationalized of Chinese cities. While 95 percent of Hong Kong's population is Chinese, ethnic minorities together number more than 300,000. Moreover, the Chinese population in Hong Kong is not homogenous. Recent in-migrants from the mainland, who are moving to Hong Kong at a rate of 150 per day, are quite different from the locals or those who were born or have spent most of their life in this former British colony and now special administrative region of China. Using a micro-data file derived from the 2001 Population Census, this paper investigates the major determinants of residential mobility among Hong Kong's different ethnic/cultural groups: local Hong Kong Chinese, recent in-migrants from the mainland, and non-Chinese Hong Kong residents. The results show that households comprising recent immigrants from the mainland and those comprising non-Chinese members have much higher mobility propensities than local Hong Kong Chinese. This difference holds after controlling for source of housing provision (private Vs public) and tenure (owned Vs rented). Socio-economic factors such as household income and household size have vastly different effects on different ethnic/cultural groups. For instance, for households living in public housing, income has a positive and statistically significant effect on residential mobility for both locals and non-Chinese households, but its effects on recent mainland migrant households is negative and yet significant. Such differences in mobility behaviour are likely to be institutionally-induced, and reflect the different housing choice sets faced by the different ethnic/cultural groups.