

## **Abstract**

Based on household surveys conducted in the City of Guangzhou in 1996 and 2005, this paper examines the changes in the extent and nature of urban housing inequality upon the cessation of the welfare allocation of housing in the southern gateway to China. The result shows that the overall level of housing inequality has remained quite stable. Both continuities and changes are revealed for the factors behind the differences in housing consumption. In particular, household income has assumed much greater importance. However, variables characterizing social and housing stratification in the former socialist planned economy, such as membership in the CCP and hukou status, continue to affect access to housing resource.

**Keywords:** Housing inequality, Guangzhou, welfare allocation of housing, determinants of housing consumption