**Occupying Coffee Bars: Spatial Politics of Chinese Entrepreneurship in Bologna, Italy**

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This dissertation project studies the swift expansion of Chinese entrepreneurship in the coffee bar sector in Bologna, Italy since the economic recession in 2008. Coffee bars are a critical public space in Italians’ everyday life, and this ethnographic study investigates the spatial politics of Chinese entrepreneurship within an economic sector that is commonly tied to urban Italian cultures and identities. Based on 14-months of ethnographic fieldwork, this project sheds light on why and how these Chinese petty entrepreneurs, mainly from Wenzhou, a region on the east coast of China, cross social and cultural boundaries. In doing so it spans a wide range of dimensions of Chinese petty entrepreneurship in the Italian urban space, such as family organization, spatial practice, gender politics, ethnic sociability, cultural performance, identity formation and modernity. It argues that the Chinese sociability, guided by the pragmatic philosophy, is a cultural strategy employed by Wenzhou Chinese entrepreneurs to compensate for their lack of cultural competence in Italian business performance and social politics. By examining these Chinese immigrants’ business practices and leisure lives, this research reveals the ways in which they are pursuing their own urban modernity in Italy, which merges the physical spatiality of the Italian city, cultural spatiality of Wenzhou ethnicity, and virtual spatiality of an imagined China within the global market. The dissertation concludes that the invisible cultural disjunctures embedded in the global cultural economy overshadow the visible economic connections and social interactions between immigrants and host societies.