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**Working Title: Reproductive Labor and Home Support in Rural-Urban Migration**

In 2016, 280 million rural adults migrated to fuel China’s burgeoning economic growth, accounting for one-third of the country’s working population. While many studies examine how urban migrants support family members in rural communities, this study looks at household life in the villages these migrant workers leave behind. Many such villages become far more connected and integrated into the cities because of tourism, cash crop production, and improved basic infrastructure, altering these rural communities’ dependence on remittances from migrant family members. By focusing on *Qiang* communities in Sichuan Province next to Tibet, the research lays bare the relationships between migrant workers and their rural family members, between urban centers and rural hinterlands.

This study inverses the dominant migration narratives that portray women as passively left behind through the following research questions: 1) How do the economic changes influence resource transfers between rural family members and urban workers? 2) What are the labor demands on family members who remain in the village, especially on women who engage in subsistence agriculture, commercialized cash crop production, birthing and raising children, and other types of care work? 3) How are gender relations in the households affected? These questions related to resource transfers, labor demands on women, and gender relations in migrant-origin households will be examined through ethnographic fieldwork, oral-history and key-informant interviews, and archival research. This study can contribute to emerging theories on the (re)organization of social reproduction and gender relations in places that experience large scale rural-to-urban migrations such as the ones witnessed in China. More immediately, study findings can inform best-practices in designing and implementing development initiatives for migrant communities in rural and urban spaces for best possible socio-economic outcomes.