

Working Paper 2016–6

## **Regulating “Illegal Work” in China**

*Mimi Zou*

Addressing Multiple Forms of Migrant Precarity:  
Beyond “Management” of Migration to an Integrated  
Rights-Based Approach

June 2016



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## **Addressing Multiple Forms of Migrant Precarity: Beyond “Management” of Migration to an Integrated Rights-Based Approach**

This paper is part of a Working Paper series that synthesizes research that was presented at a workshop convened by UNRISD and members of the World Universities Network (WUN) in Geneva in September 2015.

At the workshop, researchers from an international consortium presented new empirical research findings from Asia, Africa and America from a recently concluded study of migrant precarity. The research project focused on intraregional migration, looking in particular at the linkages between migration and social protection from a rights perspective. It considered policies and practice related to three key groups of migrants: unaccompanied children, refugees and labour migrants.

For further information on the workshop visit <http://www.unrisd.org/migrant-precarity-workshop>.

The main workshop discussions were summarized in an UNRISD Event Brief, which is available at [www.unrisd.org/eb3](http://www.unrisd.org/eb3).

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## Acronyms

<b>EEAL</b>	Exit and Entry Administration Law 2013
<b>MFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MHRSS</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
<b>MPS</b>	Ministry for Public Security

## Acknowledgements

I would like to warmly thank Professor Mark Freedland FBA QC (Hon), Professor Alan Bogg, and members of the Labour Law and Migration Law Discussion Groups at the University of Oxford for their thoughtful comments on this working paper. The idea for paper was inspired by my DPhil research, which was supervised by Professor Freedland and Professor Cathryn Costello.

## **Abstract**

The Exit and Entry Administration Law 2013 (EEAL) in China has been widely considered to be a major step forward in developing a more comprehensive legal regulatory regime for dealing with the rising inflow of foreigners to the country in recent decades. Situated in a policy discourse aimed at combating the so-called “three illegalities” (sanfei) of illegal entry, residence, and work, the EEAL introduces a range of restrictions on the admission of foreign migrants, controls over their employment and residence, as well as enforcement mechanisms that involve employers and members of the general public. This paper examines the ways in which China’s immigration law regime regulates “illegal work” and thereby constructs precarious statuses that shape migrants’ vulnerability to precariousness in their employment relations.

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