

Making Economic Policy for the Development of Minority Regions: Localization and Contribution of Economic Anthropology in China

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ABSTRACT After the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese government had organized a series of large-scale economic and social surveys in the minority regions to promote comprehensive social and economic development of ethnic minority regions which also built a solid foundation for the development of economic anthropology in China. It is in the late 1970s that the scholars formally started to localize the economic anthropology, marked by the research on the development of western regions in China and the recognition of minority economics as a formal subject in economics. During the process of localization, the Chinese economic anthropologists made a rational rethinking on the modernization process and claimed that the economic interests of minorities are relatively independent. They further refined and developed their views into a theory called "inter-phase operation" which is a significant contribution to the localization of economic anthropology and its theoretical development in China.