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Sino-Mauritian Engagement
An Overview and Examination of Leading Scholarship

This bibliography (organized chronologically) outlines the foremost research that has been conducted regarding the relationship between China and Mauritius. Just as most of the contemporary coverage of China-Africa relations focuses on economic ties, most of the existing literature on the topic of Sino-Mauritian relations focuses on the economic impact of Chinese investment in Mauritius. This bibliography provides that background through scholarship on the channels of direct trade, special economic zones (SEZs), and foreign direct investment (FDI), but also highlights articles examining the cultural and demographic impact of Sino-Mauritian engagement. While many of the following works don't focus exclusively on Sino-Mauritian relations, their examination of Mauritius and China's relationship in the context of African and Chinese relations more broadly, is equally illuminating.

Bilateral engagement is significant in the following areas:

Culture

Giles Mohan and May Tan-Mullins (2009) explore the impact of historical Chinese migration on the African Continent with a special focus on Mauritius, where these ties have been historically robust. Since the 1980s, the depth and breadth of the relationship has only expanded with a Confucius Institute operating out of the University of Mauritius, direct flight routes between the Mauritian capital Port Louis and Chinese cities, and perhaps most significantly, national recognition of the Chinese Spring Festival new year holiday in Mauritius. Recent scholarship has also focused on how this cultural integration, coupled with stable and transparent governmental institutions has allowed Chinese economic engagement to be more effective than in other African countries that lack these socio-demographic factors.

Economic Ties

As has been previously articulated, most of the existing scholarship focuses on economic ties. The China Global Investment tracker provides a list of Chinese investments into Mauritius and The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is the official Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs source for China-Africa issues and agreements. Searching "Mauritius" using the site's search bar brings up press briefs and understandings signed between the two countries. While these sources provide evidence of the magnitude of economic ties such as the Ramgoolam International Airport and Bagatelle Dam, Vinaye Ancharaz, a leading economist at the African Development Bank has authored several papers illustrating the complexity of the relationship. His work along with that of Deborah Bräutigam of the China Africa Research Initiative first identifies the Mauritian economy as open with a liberalized trade regime with primary findings that Chinese investment has led to more diversification in the Mauritian economy and increased global competitiveness in Mauritius's export sector. The impact of the Chinese built JinFei

Special Economic Zone in particular is examined through Ana Cristina Alves from the China in Africa Project and Bräutigam. Alves and Brautigam demonstrate how alongside economic

benefits, the JinFei zone has the potential to make Mauritius a key financial hub and bridge between Asia and Africa.

Frictions

The impact of increased Sino-Mauritian relations has created tensions primarily in two areas: 1) the forcible relocation of 120 local planters for the JinFei SEZ and 2) labor competition with Chinese migrants. These tensions have caused protests from the local Mauritian community and bias against Chinese diaspora. However, due to a well-integrated Sino-Mauritian population and stable institutions, these tensions have been more tempered than in other African countries. Although claims that Chinese migrants have taken the jobs of Mauritians are unsubstantiated, increased migration has led to depressed wages.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

1. Brautigam, D. "Close Encounters: Chinese Business Networks as Industrial Catalysts in Sub-Saharan Africa." *African Affairs*, 102. 408 (Jan. 2003): 447 - 467. doi:10.1093/oxfordjournals.afraf.a138824.

This article explores the contrasting case studies of Nigeria and Mauritius to illustrate that with the right foundation, Chinese business networks can act as a key catalyst of local industrialization. In a country like Nigeria, with an unfriendly policy environment and only a small Chinese diaspora, there have been few tangible benefits. However, in Mauritius, with transparent institutions along with a sizable and integrated overseas Chinese population, Chinese investment has been central to the development of joint ventures and successful export-oriented industrialization.

2. Wong, M. "Chinese workers in the garment industry in Africa: Implications of the contract labour dispatch system on the international labour movement", *Labour, Capital and Society*, 39.1 (2006): 69-111.

This article examines Chinese workers employed in the garment industry in two African countries - Mauritius and Namibia. It highlights China's system of labor dispatching and discusses how increased organization and unionization of workers is needed to prevent exploitation and labor rights violations.

3. Lincoln, D. (2006) 'Beyond the plantation: Mauritius in the global division of labour', *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 44.1 (2006): 59-78.

Since Mauritius gained independence from Britain in 1968, the economy of the country has transformed from being an agricultural plantation-based economy to more service oriented. This paper examines this transition and how Mauritius's stable institutions and favorable socio

historical conditions helped pave the way for this markedly successful evolution.

4. Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. "Nationalism, Mauritian Style: Cultural Unity and Ethnic Diversity." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 36. 03 (2009): 549 , doi:10.1017/s001041750001923x.

In this paper, the topic of nationalism is explored. Through the Mauritian context, it is argued that different nationalisms exist (not just the European definition). It uses the ethnic heterogeneity of the Mauritian country to suggest that ethnic homogeneity is not a prerequisite for the development of a national identity.

5. Ancharaz, Vinaye. "David V. Goliath: Mauritius Facing Up to China." *The European Journal of Development Research*, 21.4, (2009): 622–643., doi:10.1057/ejdr.2009.26.

6. Ancharaz, Vinaye D, and Baboo M Nowbutsing. "Impact of China - Africa investment relations: An in-depth case study of Mauritius." *African Economic Research Consortium*, May 2010, aercafria.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/china13.pdf.

These papers seek to build on the existing literature and contribute a new perspective that due to factors such as export market diversification, a more service oriented economy, and structural upgrades in the clothing industry, Chinese economic engagement in Mauritius has had a positive impact on the economy primarily via improving the global competitiveness of the Mauritian export sector via SEZ's. Papers also illustrate that Chinese migrant laborers haven't displaced local workers.

7. Alves, Ana Cristina. "Chinese Economic and Trade Co-Operation Zones in Africa: The Case of Mauritius." *China in Africa Project*, 12 Jan. 2011, pp. 1–15., www.saiia.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/saia_sop_74_alves_20110131.pdf.

This paper gives a background on Chinese engagement with Mauritius via the JinFei Special Economic zone. It details how the benefits extend beyond the promise of economic benefits (investment, economic spillover to the domestic economy and diversifying economic partnerships) and offer the chance to make Mauritius a key financial hub and bridge between Asia and Africa.

8. Ancharaz, Vinaye, and Verena Tandrayen-Ragoobur. "Red Dragon China and Small Mauritius Trade Links: an in-Depth Analysis." *Journal of Chinese Economic and Foreign Trade Studies*, 6.3 (2013):119–144., doi:10.1108/jcefts-10-2012-0018.

This is the first paper looking directly at the trade relationship between Mauritius and China. The evidence that this paper puts forward conveys a lopsided trade relationship unlikely to improve because of the difficulty Mauritian exporters face cracking the Chinese market. Factors contributing to this difficulty include lack of trade complementarity, lack of export competitiveness, along with fears of conducting business in China. Because these factors are systemic, the trade balance is unlikely to improve in the near term.

9. Madhoo, Yeti Nisha, and Shyam Nath. "Ethnic Diversity, Development and Social Policy in Small States: The Case of Mauritius." *UN Research Institute for Social Development*, May 2013.

This paper looks at the factors, namely small country size and diasporic links that have provided fertile ground for more integrated ethnic groups in Mauritius than other African countries. Although particularly early in their development there was considerable ethnic fragmentation, colonial links with France and England along with diasporic links with India and China have been conducive to economic and social development.

10. Bräutigam, Deborah, and Xiaoyang Tang. "'Going Global in Groups': Structural Transformation and China's Special Economic Zones Overseas." *World Development* 63 (2014): 78–91., doi:10.1016/j.worlddev.2013.10.010.

This paper evaluates the potential of Chinese Special Economic Zones for fostering structural transformation in Africa examining six African countries with SEZ's including Mauritius. It finds that while there has so far been limited economic spillovers, the primary benefit is offering both sides more insight into how trans-national investment works in practice.

11. Mohan, Giles, and May Tan-Mullins. "Chinese Migrants in Africa as New Agents of Development? An Analytical Framework." *The Power of the Chinese Dragon*, May 2016, pp. 174–198., doi:10.1007/978-1-137-57449-7_8.

This paper explores the intensifying migration from China to Africa. It discusses the economic incentives of migration to Africa and how historical integration between Chinese and African populations on the continent has been limited although Chinese migrants have integrated well into Mauritian society and how there is now a significant Sino-Mauritian minority in Mauritius.

Working Papers

12. Makanza, T., and T. Kondo, editors. "A Pro-Poor Alternative Development Strategy For Mauritians." ANSA Initiative, June 2013.

This series of working papers provides insight into how the multi-ethnic social fabric of Mauritian society along with government intervention specifically in job training and education has strengthened human capital on the island and facilitated economic transformation.

13. Schiere, Richard. "China and Africa: An Emerging Partnership for Development? – An Overview of Issues ." African Development Bank Group, May 2011.

This working paper seeks to improve the benefits of Sino-African engagement principally through increased technology transfers, backwards and forwards linkages, Chinese investment coordination, and enhanced multilateral cooperation. It uses the Special Economic Zones located in Zambia and Mauritius as an example of how to enhance export diversification and the African

Development Bank along with the Chinese government as key stakeholders.

Books and Book Chapters

14. Carter, Marina, and James Ng Foong Kwong. *Abacus and Mah Jong: Sino-Mauritian Settlement and Economic Consolidation*. 2009.

This book uses the case study of historic Chinese migration to Mauritius to examine the factors contributing to how ethnic groups integrate specifically the importance of family networks and economic opportunity and also examines the movement of people in a colonial context. It also looks at how ethnic and national identity of Sino-Mauritians has been shaped by this colonial legacy.

15. Mohan, Giles. "Migrants as Agents of South–South Cooperation: The Case of Chinese in Africa." *The Rise of the Global South*, 2013, pp. 283–322., doi:10.1142/9789814397810_0010.

This source provides background on Chinese diaspora in Africa and how the recent acceleration in migration will impact local communities primarily in South Africa, Mauritius and Madagascar. It finds that increased migration has resulted in labor tensions along with depressed wages for Mauritian workers however not significantly fewer job opportunities.

Additional Resources

Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China. <http://www.focac.org/eng/>

China Africa Research Initiative (CARI). John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. <http://www.sais-cari.org/publications/>

"Chinese Investment Dataset - China Global Investment Tracker."
AEI, www.aei.org/china-global-investment-tracker/.

University of Mauritius Research Journal, University of Mauritius,
vcampus.uom.ac.mu/rci/resjournal/index.php.

<https://www.amrita.edu/system/files/publications/ethnic-diversity-development-and-social-policy-small-states.pdf>

Brautigam, D. 'African Shenzhen: China's Special Economic Zones in Africa', *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 49. 1 (2011): 27-54. Available at: <http://www.afriquechine.net/en/>

Farole, T. and G. Akinci (eds.) *Special Economic Zones: Progress, Emerging Challenges and Future Directions*. The World Bank. 2011. Available at:
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/2341> (Accessed 16 March 2013).

Bunwaree, S. "Economics, Conflict and Multiculturality in a Small Island State: The Case of Mauritius", *Polis / R.C.S.P. / C.P.S.R.*, 9 (Special Issue). 2002.

Available at: <http://www.polis.sciencespobordeaux.fr/vol10ns/bunwaree.pdf> (Accessed 13 May 2013)