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Rediscovering the 'Gate' Under Market Transition: From Work-unit Compounds to Commodity Housing Enclaves

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Abstract

This paper applies two major explanations in gated community studies, namely the club realm of consumption and the discourse of fear, to examine the changing forms of urban 'gated communities', i.e. the transition from work-unit compounds to gated commodity housing enclaves, in urban China. While the gate has existed in China for a long time in a physical form, it has now been discovered as an instrument for the

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experience of insecurity, which has begun to appear in the discourse of ‘community building’ in urban China.

Keywords: [Gated community](#) [urban China](#) [social inequalities](#) [urban governance](#) [commodity housing](#)

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