Methodology report-China (CFPS)

Dataset:

- For this research, China Family Panel Studies (CFPS) is employed, which is a general-purpose, nationally representative, longitudinal survey of Chinese society. Launched in 2010, it was designed by an interdisciplinary group of scholars and collect individual-, family-, and community-level longitudinal data, covering about 95% of the total population (Xie and Hu, 2014). Since the baseline survey conducted in 2010, four waves of the CFPS (2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014) have been carried out so far by the Institute of Social Science Survey (ISSS) at Peking University. As the 2010 and 2012 surveys were missing key variables to identify non-stable workers, this article uses data for 2014, 2016 and 2018 for analysis.

Variables:

- Based on Rodgers and Rodgers (1989) and Olsthoorn (2013), We define precarious work is a situation in which, among other characteristics, employment does not provide employees with the security of a minimum standard of decent living. We include those (i) 'employed', (ii) 'without a written contract', as well as those who are (iii) 'self-employed' and 'the number of employees in the enterprise is less than 10'. We exclude those who work in agriculture. Some frequency tables are provided below.

- Firstly, in the selection of the age range, we exclude children under working age and determine the age range of 15 to 35. Secondly, in the selection of the employment sector, we excluded agricultural workers. Finally, in the identification of precarious work, we believe that if workers lack formal employment relations and labour contracts, they will thus lack the stable expectations, income growth and social security of the vassals on top of the labour contract relationship, in an insecure state. Therefore, this group should belong to the precarious work.

Variables and Frequency tables from 2014 to 2018 (age 16-35)

	"employed" AND "without a written contract"	"self-employed" AND "the number of employees in the enterprise is less than 10"
Precarious workers	1767	717
Non-precarious workers	2536	89
Sum	4303	806

WAVE	2014	2016	2018
Precarious workers	3144	2744	2484
Non-precarious workers	2402	3046	2625
unemployed	196	389	242

Controlled variables:

We also control other demography and family variables such as age, gender, party-member, Hukou (household registration, rural/urban), ethnicity, religion, education, mother's education, and father's education.

- Results:

- We categorise transitions as below:

- (1) positive transition: moving from precarious work to a stable job

- (2) negative transition: moving from precarious work to unemployment

- (3) no transition: remains in precarious work.

- Table 1 shows the transitions between previous and current period.

- Table 2 shows the Probit Regression Results of the transition determinants analyzation.

Table 1: Employment transitions between t and t-1

Employment Status (t-1)	Employment Status (t)		
	Stable Work	Unemployed	Precarious Work
Stable Work	44.59	1.28	54.13
Unemployed	33.33	11.33	55.33
Precarious Work	27.53	2.09	70.39

Table 2: Probit Regression Results

	Employment transitions (base= Negative Transition)	
	Positive Transition	No Transition
Gender(female=0)		
Male	0.845*	0.971
	(0.0571)	(0.0416)
Age (15-24 =0)		
25-34	0.461***	0.902
	(0.0544)	(0.0889)
35+	0.247***	0.672***
	(0.0289)	(0.0645)
Party (No=0)		
Yes	1.579	0.743
	(0.455)	(0.188)
Hukou (farm=0)		
City	1.288**	1.590***
	(0.101)	(0.0773)
Region (western=0)		
Middle	1.086	0.911
	(0.103)	(0.0549)
East	1.094	1.285***
	(0.0976)	(0.0702)
Ethnicity (Minority=0)		
Majority	1.350	1.053
	(0.210)	(0.0937)
Education years (<6=0)		
6-9	1.088	1.345***
	(0.107)	(0.0775)
9-12	1.486***	2.151***
	(0.161)	(0.144)
12-14	2.131***	3.812***
	(0.272)	(0.311)
15+	1.977***	4.462***
	(0.288)	(0.404)
Mother's education (No=0)		
Non higher education	0.891	0.947
	(0.0656)	(0.0427)
Higher education	0.624	0.786
	(0.243)	(0.202)
Father's education (No=0)		
Non higher education	1.149	0.982
	(0.111)	(0.0553)
Higher education	1.307	1.276
	(0.320)	(0.204)
Constant	0.316***	0.570***
	(0.0632)	(0.0787)
Log-likelihood	-6318.4453	
Chi-squared	1271.60	
Observations	8,201	

Note: Robust Standard Errors reported. Panel Weights applied. ***p<0.01, ** p<0.5, *p<0.1