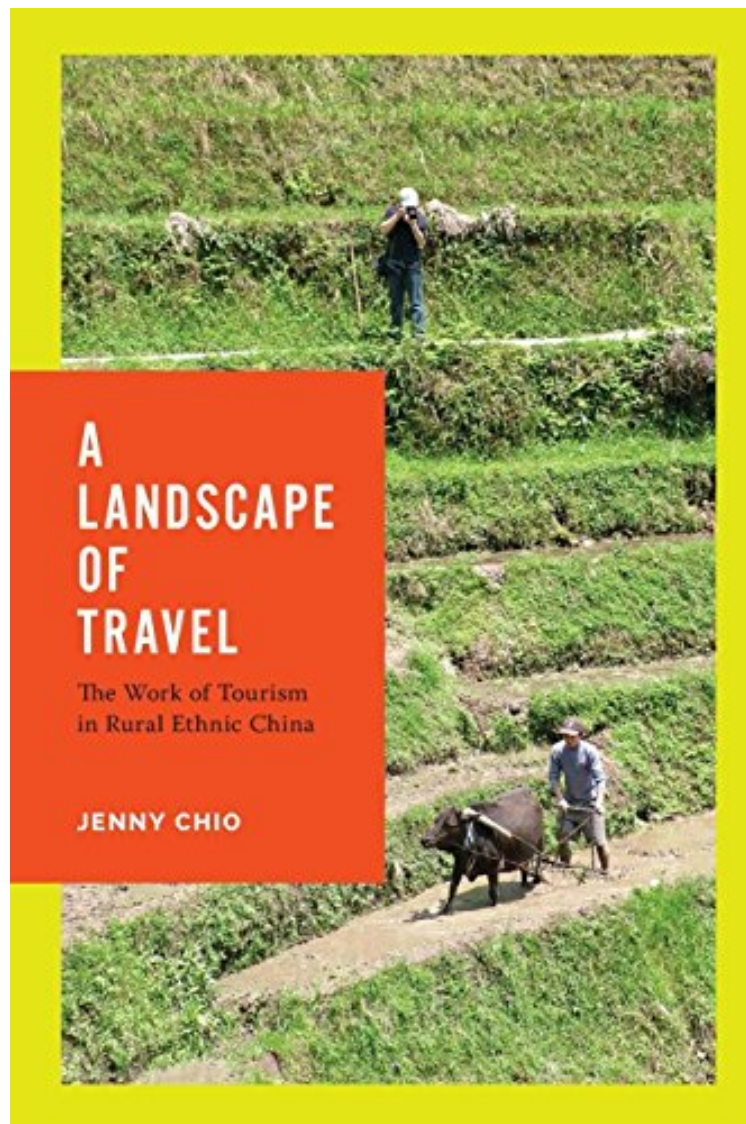


(Mobile ebook) A Landscape of Travel: The Work of Tourism in Rural Ethnic China (Studies on Ethnic Groups in China)

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Jenny T. Chio

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Jenny T. Chio : A Landscape of Travel: The Work of Tourism in Rural Ethnic China (Studies on Ethnic Groups in China) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Landscape of Travel: The Work of Tourism in Rural Ethnic China (Studies on Ethnic Groups in China):

While the number of domestic leisure travelers has increased dramatically in reform-era China, the persistent gap between urban and rural living standards attests to ongoing social, economic, and political inequalities. The state has widely touted tourism for its potential to bring wealth and modernity to rural ethnic minority communities, but the policies underlying the development of tourism obscure some complicated realities. In tourism, after all, one person's leisure is another person's labor. *A Landscape of Travel* investigates the contested meanings and unintended consequences of tourism for those people whose lives and livelihoods are most at stake in China's rural ethnic tourism industry: the residents of village destinations. Drawing on ethnographic research conducted in Ping'an (a Zhuang village in Guangxi) and Upper Jidao (a Miao village in Guizhou), Jenny Chio analyzes the myriad challenges and possibilities confronted by villagers who are called upon to do the work of tourism. She addresses the shifting significance of migration and rural mobility, the visual politics of tourist photography, and the effects of touristic desires for "exotic difference" on village social relations. In this way, Chio illuminates the contemporary regimes of labor and leisure and the changing imagination of what it means to be rural, ethnic, and modern in China today.

"*A Landscape of Travel* documents the transformation of terraced rice paddies from food production to scenery for tourist photography; the arrival of migrant workers to play the part of local ethnic minorities; the shedding of traditional attire for store bought costumes designed to look generically ethnic; the appliqueacute; of wood bark to the outside of cinderblock homes to make them appear more rustic. This is a superb account of the day-to-day workings of collectivist capitalism in rural China." -Dean MacCannell, University of California, Davis "Ethnographically rich and theoretically engaging, *A Landscape of Travel* is a remarkable and timely study of how rural, ethnic people 'do tourism' in a rapidly transforming and globalizing China. Focusing on the centrality of visibility and mobility in tourist destination communities, Chio's refreshing account of a landscape of travel provides a unique and incisive analysis of the changing and intertwining regimes of labor, power, identity, leisure, and cultural sensibilities in the broader context of China's rural development and pursuit of modernity. A major contribution to tourism studies and China studies!" -Li Zhang, author of *Strangers in the City* and *In Search of Paradise* "A Landscape of Travel is about China becoming a nation that travels, and one way of traveling is to be a tourist. . . . Tourism is of course only one mode through which China's mobility expresses itself, and we must remember that most villages have no tourists at all. But if we want to understand why tourists see and experience what they do . . . and how this reflects China as a nation that travels, [this book] is both delightful and essential." Stevan Harrell, From the foreword "This book explores how 'travels' can be a useful framework with which to better understand how rural China is changing. While it has not been uncommon to view rural China as an increasingly 'mobilized' landscape of excess labor seeking better livelihoods in the cities, Chio's study approaches mobility in both more abstract and broad-ranging terms. Her work offers an important contribution. Anyone interested in ethnography, ethnicity in China, and anthropologies of tourism will find *A Landscape of Travel* interesting." Tim Oakes, University of Colorado at Boulder About the Author Jenny Chio is assistant professor of anthropology and associated faculty in film and media studies at Emory University. For more information on her research and publications, visit jennychio.com