In China, the “tidal wave” of rural migrant workers since the early 1980s has given rise to immense challenges for the government, one being the provision of compulsory education to the children of these workers in cities. Despite central policies emphasizing the primary responsibility of receiving public schools in providing education for these children since the early 2000s, many migrant children in Beijing continue to attend privately-run, often unlicensed migrant schools. This seminar explores the state of knowledge about migrant children’s education in the capital city and the importance of examining policy implementation at the local levels. The discussion sheds light on the complex, political nature of the policy area and the implications for the future of migrant children’s education in the city and longer-term trends in social stratification.

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