

Genetic Diversity and Economic Development: Evidence from Chinese Provinces*

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Abstract

This paper examines whether the genetic patterns among Chinese provinces are good predictors of provincial prosperity. Asfraf and Galor (2013) found genetic diversity has two offsetting impacts on prosperity. It lowers the interpersonal trust, which weakens collective actions. But it also brings a variety of ideas and ability that are conducive to innovation. Asfraf-Galor found a hump-shaped relationship between genetic diversity and prosperity. Our paper finds genetic diversity has a negative impact not only on trust but also on innovative activities among Chinese provinces. Hence, only part of Ashraf-Galor's predictions is supported. A collectivist culture might explain this difference.

JEL Classification: N35, N55, O1, O3, O4, O53

Keywords: Culture, Genetic Diversity, Prosperity, China

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* We are indebted to comments from an anonymous referee. This paper was presented at the Chu Hai Conference, *Recent Advances in International Trade and Finance*, on December 14-15, 2017 in Hong Kong. The conference was supported by the Hong Kong RGC-IDS project, UGC/IDS13/16. This paper was also presented in seminars at the ISBF, Sun Yatsen University, Zhuhai and at School of Management, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei. We are thankful for comments from the conference and seminar participants, from Xinfei Huang, Fred Kwan, Jennifer Te Lai, Shigang Li and Jiuchang Wei. Research support during Chan's visit as the Visiting Research Professor at the Faculty of Business of the Chu Hai College of Higher Education is gratefully acknowledged.

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