Economy of Scale, Division of Labour and Deskilling in a Creative Industry: The Transformation of Labour Process in Xianyou Traditional Furniture Cluster, China

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This paper attempts to bring back an old labour process question within the new context of a creative industry cluster. From a labour process point of view, recent discourse on the creative class and creative clusters is, in many ways, a continuation of various new capitalism discourses. Most of these concepts assume a linear evolution of economy from that of alienated, deskilled labour to that of creative labour. Using the case study of the Xianyou traditional furniture cluster, we show that transitions between skilled labour and unskilled labour are not linear but contingent upon market structure.

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