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**Higher Education Equity and Access: The Hong Kong Transformation**

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**Abstract**

Hong Kong can be seen as a natural experiment for the social impact of a supply-directed and state-controlled education policy. This study is based on primary and secondary documents, interviews, and intensive use of 35 years of micro-level Hong Kong census data. As a contribution to demography, the findings illuminate how the unequal distribution of parental investments, between sons and daughters, responded to the deliberate expansion of higher education coverage after 1989. The investigation reveals the changing role of immigration, sibshipsize, and family income on the transmission of opportunity. More broadly, and as a contribution to political sociology, the research shows the changing rationale for education, and the tentative emergence of civil society through a transformed conception of the role of public investment in schooling.