

Chen Ajiang, Cheng Pengli, and Luo Yajuan
Translated by Jennifer Holdaway, Qi Di and Wei Han

Chinese "Cancer Villages"

Rural Development, Environmental Change and Public Health

The phenomenon of "cancer villages" has emerged in many parts of rural China, drawing media attention and becoming a fact of social life. However, the relationship between pollution and disease is often hard to discern. Through sociological analysis of several villages with different social and economic structures, the authors offer a comprehensive, historically grounded analysis of the coexistence between the incidence of cancer, environmental pollution and villagers' lifestyles, as well as the perceptions, claims and responses of different actors. They situate the appearance of "cancer villages" in the context of social, economic and cultural change in China, tracing the evolution of the issue over two decades, and providing deep insights into the complex interactions and trade-offs between economic growth, environmental change and public health.

"Impeccably researched and carefully crafted, this work offers a timely and sobering inquiry into collective claims of victimization associated with polluted water and air in rural China."

Jing Jun, Tsinghua University

"Chinese "Cancer Villages" is a meticulously researched and emotionally charged book that makes important advances in the fields of China studies, environmental health, rural sociology and anthropology."

Bryan Tilt, Oregon State University



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