

Chinese Migration Dynamics in Brazillian Northeast: Initial Considerations by the Analysis of Chinese Migration Profile in Pernambuco's Cities

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Introduction

The article seeks to ascertain the reasons for the increase in Chinese migration to the state of Pernambuco during the period from 2016 to 2018 and to verify if there is a cooperation net that justifies the attraction of new immigrants to the locality. In a general manner, understanding this phenomenon of Chinese insertion is necessary to identify what are the recent transformations arising from its presence in the Brazilian states. Moreover, in recent years, many studies are being conducted in China, mainly to identify the processes of its economic growth. However, researches aimed at analysing the Chinese migratory flow from China to Brazil are still scarce, even if taking into consideration that it is an occurrence not too recent to the country.

Furthermore, in studies focusing on Chinese migration, there are no gaps that meet the criteria that foster this dynamism of migration. For example, the Chinese immigrants that arrive in Brazil are met with supporting mechanisms that enable a cultural and ethnic organization that allows new immigrants to feel supported in the destination country. The above-mentioned process is very common in the reality of the immigrant, regardless of their nationality, but what is preliminarily searched is to understand how this cooperation network favours the intense migratory flow to the country, more specifically to the state of Pernambuco-PE. Thus, the study investigates the characteristics of the Chinese immigration dynamics for the State of Pernambuco, from 2016 to 2018. The collected data were obtained from the Observatory of International Migration - OBMigra - and are available for consultation at: <https://portaldeimigracao.mj.gov.br/pt/observatorio>. The focus of the study is all Chinese immigrants who legally entered Pernambuco during the mentioned period. Ergo, 248 immigrants were investigated, distributed in 15 municipalities of Pernambuco: Recife, Jaboatão, Olinda, Paulista, Vitória de Santo Antão, Goiana, Ipojuca, Cabo de Santo

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Agostinho, Calves, Caruaru, Santa Cruz do Capibaribe, Belo Jardim, Arcoverde, Serra Talhada and Petrolina.

All information was analysed at the microdata level, which presents a great potential for this study, as the characteristics of each immigrant are obtained individually, allowing cross-analyses between the various variables researched. Regarding these variables, we chose to classify them into two groups, here called Investigative Dimensions (IDs), described as follows:

Investigative Dimension 1 (ID-1): Immigrant Admission. This ID includes variables related to the immigrant's entry in Pernambuco, such as: Pernambuco municipality of destination, Year of Initial Entry into the Country, Month of Registration, State of Entry and Condition of Permanence in the Country.

Investigative Dimension 2 (DI-2): Immigrant Socio-Demographic Characteristics. This ID grouped the variables that will allow us to trace the socio-demographic profile of the Chinese immigrant, analysing: Sex, Age, Marital Status and Occupation.

1- Brief history of the Chinese migratory flow to Brazil

The presence of Chinese immigrants in Brazil is easily noticeable when looking at the centres of large Brazilian cities, but this is not something unfamiliar. The arrival of the Chinese to the country dates back to the 1810s, especially from the Macao region brought by Dom João VI to work on the planting and cultivation of tea in the city of Rio de Janeiro, an area of which was later known by its Botanical Garden. However, the tea cultivation project was not as successful as expected and many of the immigrants returned to their hometown or settled in urban city centres.

By the end of the slave trade in the 1850s, the country faced the difficulty of replacing slave labour, to the point that farmers supported by the interests of the government of the time, began to press and demand immediate solutions for the insertion of a group of workers that were able to continue agricultural production. Attempts have been made to import European labour force during the transitional period, in particular from Italy and Spain, as they are also predominantly Catholic countries, although this has not been proved fruitful. Due to an increasing difficulty in inserting a labour force that meets society's criteria, the

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government began to disclose the project of introducing Asian labour, especially Chinese, according to the speech made at the time by the President of the Council and Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Sinimbu. He states in his campaigns designed to present the benefits of this workforce to society: "Chinese workers, being more sober, receive lower wages and leave the highest value to customers or users who have a service. It is precisely one of the reasons why we should want it for our country" (RÊ, 2018, p. 828). However, strong counter campaigns were intensified, encouraged by the press and intellectuals that fed back the narratives opposed to this situation. In this way, a strong political and social tension broke out, intertwined with xenophobic rhetoric against the presence of Chinese in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The perspective of the ideal future for the forming Brazilian nation was based on a project for the 'whitening' of society, in which, in order to be considered a modern country, it should be concerned with the ethnic, cultural and political characteristics that resembled Europeans'. Accordingly, people of African and Asian origins denoted backward civilizations, hence they should be purged off all matters. Although, a portion of the population favoured the coming of the Chinese and argued that they were docile and skilled people in agricultural activities, so they could easily work in the coffee plantations. Contrary to its position, another group was preferable to the prevalence of black workers over Chinese ones, and thus made the post-abolition transition period even more difficult.

According to Lesser (2001, p.38): "The entry of the Chinese could never be detached from ideas about the future of Brazil." It is against this backdrop of conflicting interests that in 1878 the Agricultural Congress was held in Rio de Janeiro organized by the Minister of Agriculture, which aimed to dialogue with entrepreneurs and intellectuals about the lack of work force. The political, social and economic debate did not generate a consensus between the parties and this period was known in historiography as the "Chinese query", with incoherent and polarized discourses regarding the Chinese's entry and permanence in the country. Thus, the arguments for and against were sharpened not only among parliamentarians, but also in civil society and in the newspapers of the time.¹

¹ If needed more information, consult (CZEPULA, 2016).

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The idea of consolidating Brazil's image as a white and civilized nation dominated the speeches given at the 1878 Agricultural Congress. A series of printouts took care of documenting the different sides for and against the Chinese and in favour of adopting a selective immigration policy. It was under this bias that a racial, economic and political debate was set up that became known as "the Chinese query" (1879). Pamphleteer speeches put on the positive qualities of European white as opposed to the negative profiles of Chinese and black people. To the abolitionists, the Chinese were worse than the African-Brazilians were: "greedy, addicted to gambling and opium, infanticide by conviction and thief by instinct" (CARNEIRO, 2003)

During various attempts and trade agreements that veiled Brazil's real interest in the Chinese government, the need for labour, the country continued to persist in ways that could be advantageous to both sides. Marquis Tseng's fear was that his fellow citizens would replace black workers in Brazil and that the right to come and go of immigrants would be compromised, thus becoming slaves (RÊ, 2018). Faced with all these highlighted difficulties, the Brazilian government was still able to import Chinese work force, though, the Brazilian businesspersons themselves would be the ones who should guarantee adequate conditions during the transfer, besides the freedom for the immigrant. However, with strong pressure, especially from the British Empire, this strategy was extinguished.

Only with the proclamation of the Republic, a Decree No. 528 was promulgated in the middle of 1890 that stipulated a regulation to control the immigration process in Brazil, especially when it came to people from the African or Asian continent. According to Carneiro (2003) this measure is only modified in 1892, in which a Law no.97 allowed the entry of Asian immigrants in Brazil, although some restrictions on the profile of these immigrants, which could not be: "paupers, beggars, pirates, or subject to criminal prosecution in their countries" (Ibid, p.2).

After the tireless decades of discussion in the 19th century about these workers settling in Brazil, the city of São Paulo started to receive the first Chinese legal immigrants in the 1900s, being agricultural professionals, artisans and carpenters to work through execution of contract. (VÉRAS, 2008) and after this period, the migratory flow to the country was intensified, especially since 1949, after the insertion of the Communist Party in China, where citizens opposed to the regime emigrate to various destinations of the world.

In Brazil, the years 1979 and 1980 are distinctive by Chinese immigration to Paraguay, *Cuidad del Este*, mostly from Taiwan who settled in this city because of its commercial

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dynamism and easy distribution of goods, since it was located near to Brazil and Argentina. After entering Paraguay and seeing the opportunities created by merchants in Brazil, the Chinese were no longer just distributors when sending their goods to Brazilian merchants, but also became retailers and wholesalers by moving to the local southeast region, which was characterized by thriving popular commerce (PINHEIRO MACHADO, 2009).

It is from this period, and heightened in the 1990s, that the commercial dynamism starts to influence and characterize the migratory flow in Brazil and at the same time, it is a transforming agent of the urban space. The Chinese commerce is quickly inserted in large commercial neighbourhoods of São Paulo being the most sought at the beginning of this migration process the Brás, Santa Ifigênia and 25 de Março streets. At the same time, the city is now structured according to the demands of this new type of immigrant, being adapted to receive Chinese, as is the case of the São Bento College, which, through an agreement with the school and the Chinese Association of Brazil, started to receive these students (SILVA, 2018). In addition, the Liberdade district, well known for being a haven for Japanese immigrants in the twentieth century, began to display Chinese cultural influences to the point of noticing Mandarin advertisements in local restaurants and shops.

In Rio de Janeiro something very similar happened, but quite optimized with the process of commercial decentralisation. With the migratory expansion to the central region of the city, the Chinese began to territorialize, for example, in SAARA, an area known for the presence of other ethnic groups, such as Lebanese, Jews, Arabs, was relinquished and the Sino-Brazilian presence was intensified. According to Araújo (2010), it is possible to verify three commercial spheres of immigrants in Rio de Janeiro, namely: party supply stores, pastry shops and small goods street vendors.

Upon analysing Chinese immigration, a problem that necessarily moves towards questioning what are the reasons that drives their immigration to Brazil came up. It is quite complex to disconnect the commercial activities from the migratory process, as they are not independent between them. Even taking into account that it was a dispersed migration, but it is linked to the transnational process of goods, that is, this is not an isolated phenomenon. In this way, it was avoided restricting this relationship, which is paradoxically correlated and which directly implies the way in which the “Chinese way of life” develops with local and international commerce to the point of consolidating its ethnic presence in other countries.

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In consideration of what has been said above, the state of São Paulo is still the main state of contingent of Chinese immigrants, although an increase in interstate migrations has been observed. Chinese citizens residing in São Paulo will move to other states of the federation in search of better jobs and income opportunities. From the financial crisis of 2008, there has been a growth of their presence in the northeast region, no longer concentrated in the major capitals and, although their participation is still large, there is a process of decentralisation within the region itself. It is estimated that 5% of Chinese who came to Brazil settled in the Northeast, which still shows a relatively low percentage compared to the Southeast, although potentially presenting a growth trend given the ease of commercially exploiting new spaces and consumers.

In parallel to this, the way of their inclusion in these new spaces presents very similar patterns in these locations, prioritizing the central regions of cities, characterized by the presence of popular markets. It is precisely in these spaces that there is a greater incidence of trades occupied by Chinese. In empirical observations, it is too common to witness local residents reporting in their speeches the massive growth of Chinese immigrants, emphasizing the transformations of the cultural reality of these cities. Coming across signs in Mandarin or even hearing the language while walking the streets has become less atypical and easily noticeable on a short commute to these historic shopping centres.

2- Late Chinese migratory dynamics in Pernambuco

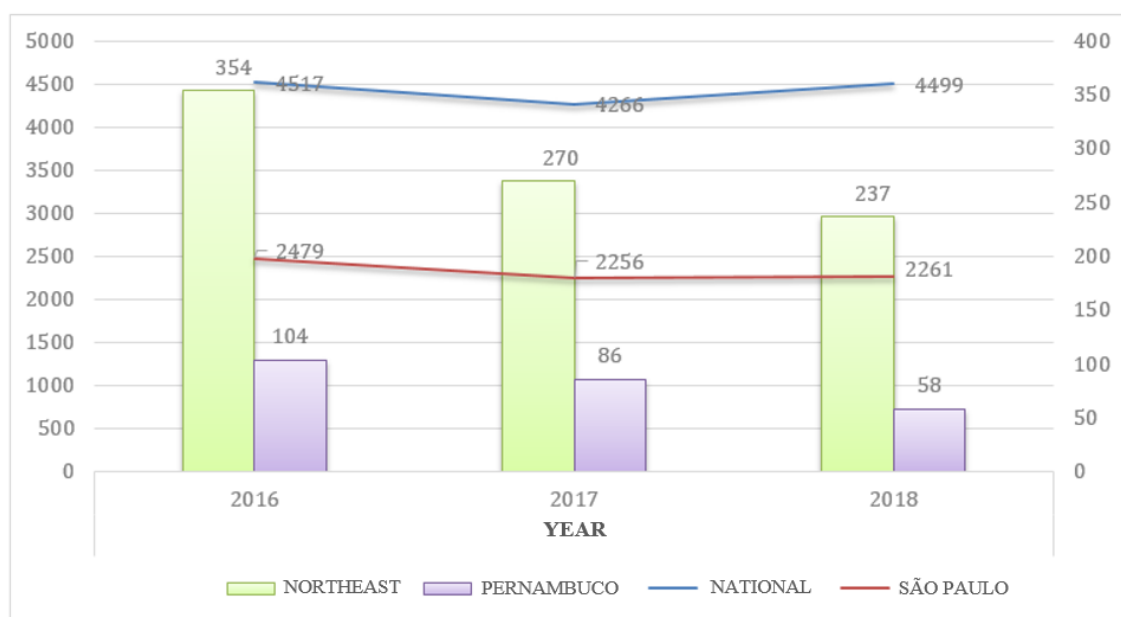
Preliminarily, it is considered important to present the general data on Chinese immigration to Brazil during the research period. Thus, it is noteworthy that the total number of Chinese immigrants decreased by 6% between 2016 and 2017, from 4,517 to 4,266; however, in 2018, there was an increase of 5.2% compared to 2017. The State of São Paulo is the one that concentrated the largest number of immigrants among all Federative Units, concentrating in the period an average 53% of the national total. The Northeast region, on the other hand, has a tendency to a decreasing in Chinese immigration flow. In 2016, the region accounted for 7.8% of the Brazilian immigrant flow; fell to 6.32% in 2017 and, in 2018, participation was just over 5% (5.2%). Finally, the State of Pernambuco, despite representing, on average, less than 2% of the national total of immigrants, has a significant participation

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within the context of the Northeast region, establishing itself as the main north-eastern destination of the Chinese. Despite the downward trend observed for the State, similar to that observed for the Northeast, its average participation in the period is almost 30% (28.56%) in the region. Absolute data for the different geographic ranges is reported as follows:

Graph 1 – Absolute Quantitative Distribution of Chinese Immigrants by Geographic Coverage in 2016-2018.



Source: Authors' own elaboration from OBMigra data.

Starting from the analysis of the variables on Immigrant Admission in Pernambuco (ID-1), it is noted a relative concentration of the Chinese immigration destination to the city of Recife (capital of Pernambuco State), which accounted for 70% of the state's total amount. Nonetheless, in 2017, there was a significant reduction of this percentage to 58% and a slight resumption of the flow in 2018 (60%). The municipality of Caruaru was the main responsible for the fall in the flow to Recife in 2017, given that during that period, the municipality obtained a 171% increase in the inflow of Chinese, compared to the year 2016, becoming the second destination that most attracted these immigrants, having 22% of the total for the entire state. However, the following year, there was a sharp drop of 50%, but still Caruaru remained

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the second main municipal destination, representing 15.5% of the immigration flow to Pernambuco.

Finally, fifteen Pernambuco municipalities served as destinations for Chinese immigrants throughout the analysed period and, in this context, nine municipalities appear in at least two different years, revealing a strong immigration concentration. In addition, it should be noted that Pernambuco has 187 municipalities, meaning that the Chinese presence in the analysed period is restricted to only 8% of this total. Maps 1, 2 and 3, presented below, detail the distribution of the quantity of Chinese immigrants in all Pernambuco municipalities, in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

It is observed that in 2016, there was a scattering within the state itself, in which the Chinese presence is quite intensified in the coastal region, especially in the municipalities of Recife, Jaboatão dos Guararapes and Goiana, while the municipalities of Ipojuca and Cabo de St. Augustine has a lower intensity in number of immigrants. In the municipality of Caruaru there is a popular bazaar well known in the region which strongly attracts the presence of Chinese (SILVA, 2008).²

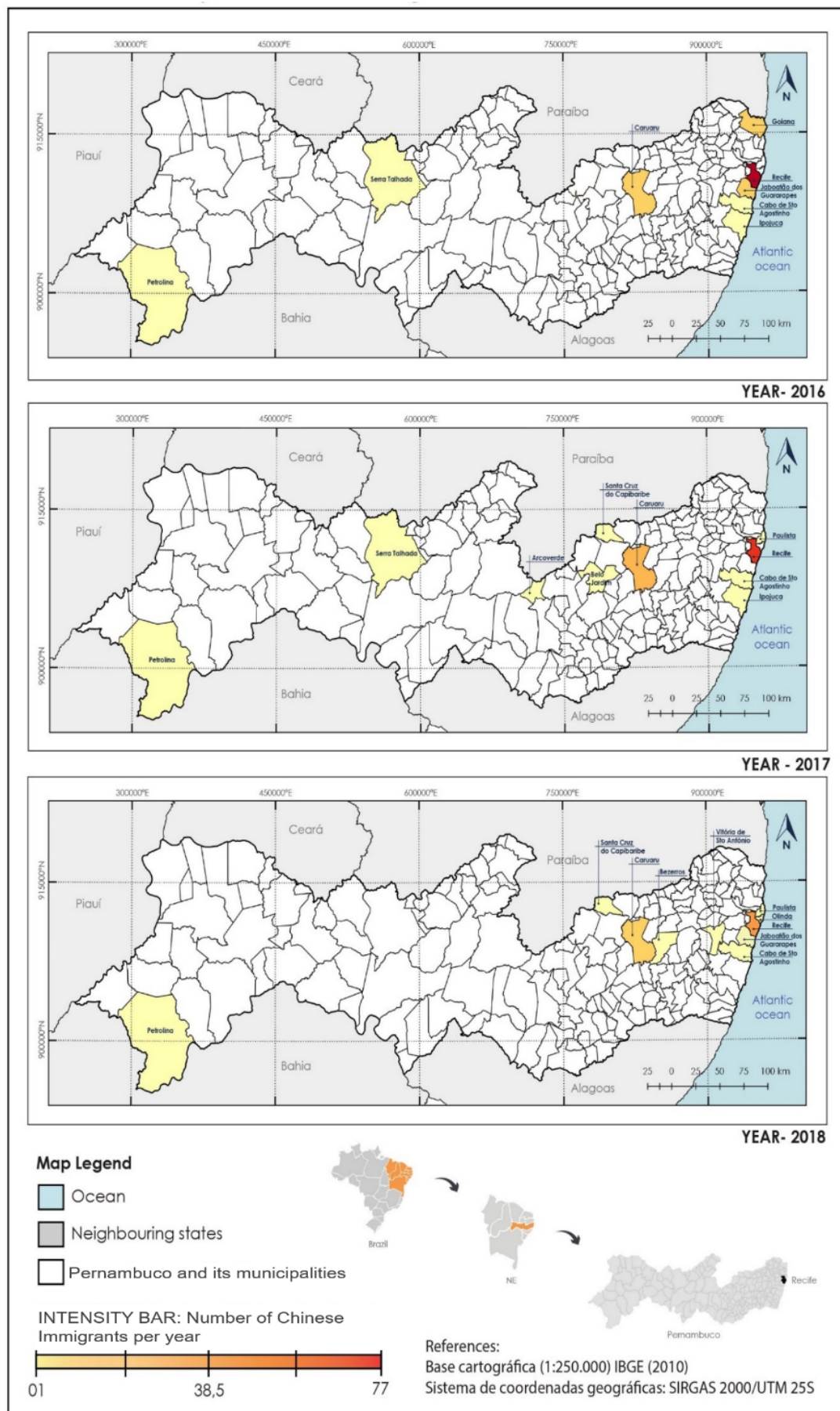
The municipalities of Serra Talhada and Petrolina denote the dispersal of immigrants to the interior of the state. In 2017, the municipalities of Arcoverde, Belo Jardim and Santa Cruz do Capibaribe were part of the Chinese migratory dynamism towards the Sertão Pernambucano region. In 2018, the municipalities of Bezerros and Vitória de Santo Antão also attracted these immigrants, although with a lower presence, as shown in the following maps:

² Silva (2008) conducted an anthropological study about the Chinese migratory process to the city of Recife and Caruaru. He noted in the 2000s the transformations of the Caruaru Bazaar arising from the arrival of Chinese immigrants to the region.

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Distribution map of the Chinese Immigrants in Pernambucan municipalities 2016 to 2018



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Another important issue addressed in ID-1 is the immigrant's year of entry into the country, which differs from the year of bureau registration. This means that the fact that immigration was registered in a given year does not indicate that the immigrant is actually entering the country for the first time in that particular year. It is not possible to know the exact initial destination of the immigrant, so it is not possible to identify the state or municipality of destination. Moreover, it is only possible to identify the initial destination of immigrants who, in fact, entered for the first time in the years of analysis: 2016, 2017 or 2018. From this, it was observed that the entry of new immigrants in Pernambuco in 2016, represented 58% of total immigrants, remaining virtually stable in 2017 (59%).

However, by 2018, only 40% of registered immigrants were entering the country for the first time, representing a significant decline in the number of new Chinese immigrants in the state of Pernambuco. Data on the number of immigrants, by initial period of entry to the country, are presented in Table 1, in which the values for new immigrants were shaded each year.

Table 1 - Absolute Distribution and Percentage of Chinese Immigrants by Initial Entry Period in Brazil, by Year of Registration

Year	Inicial Entry Period in Brazil						
	Before 1990	1990 to 2000	2001 to 2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
2016	1 (1%)	4 (4%)	39 (37%)	60 (58%)	—	—	104
2017	—	—	21 (25%)	14 (16%)	51 (59%)	—	86
2018	—	—	15 (26%)	3 (4%)	17 (30%)	23 (40%)	58

Source: Authors' own elaboration from OBMigra data.

Regarding a municipal segment, it was noted that in 2016, in most municipalities in Pernambuco, all immigrants were entering the country for the first time, which signals a movement of new Chinese immigrants to move inland of State. Among the eight municipalities, which served as the Chinese migratory destination that year, only Recife and Caruaru did not obtain new immigrants, with 50% and 29%, respectively. In 2017, only two

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municipalities had brand new immigrants: Petrolina and Belo Jardim. In 2018, three municipalities had only new immigrants: Cabo de Santo Agostinho, Bezerros and Olinda, the last two being exclusive to 2018. Finally, the state capital of Recife obtained 76% of new immigrants in 2017. However, in 2018, the capital had only 42% of Chinese entering the state for the first time.

The outlined picture may suggest evidence of changes in the Chinese immigration route to Pernambuco, with increased attraction in the interior region and loss of attractiveness in Recife (state capital). The data presented is organized in Table 2, which shows the municipalities and their respective percentages of new immigrants each year. It is noteworthy that the municipalities that were not part of the immigration route, in a given year, were shaded with grey colour.

Table 2 – Percentage points of new immigrants by municipalities, 2016 to 2018

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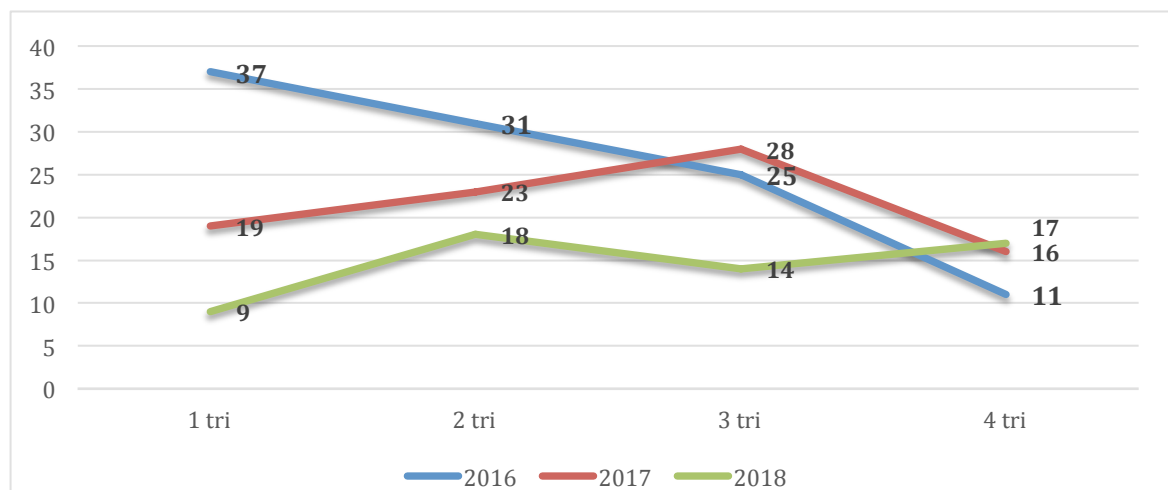
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Municipality	2016	2017	2018
Arcoverde		0%	
Belo Jardim		100%	
Bezerros			100%
Cabo de St Agostinho	100%	0%	
Caruaru	29%	26%	22%
Goiana	100%		
Ipojuca	100%	0%	
Jaboatão	100%		
Serra Talhada	100%	0%	
Santa Cruz do Capibaribe		0%	0%
Paulista		66%	0%
Petrolina	0%	100%	0%
Recife	50%	76%	42%
Vitória			33%

Source: Authors' own elaboration from OBMigra data.

Still concerning ID-1, it was sought to investigate whether there would be any immigrant entry patterns in relation to the month of registration in each year investigated. Thus, in 2016, it was found that the immigration flow was decreasing over the trimesters, with most of the registrations made until the end of the second trimester. Nonetheless, there was a turnabout in 2017 of what was seen happened in 2016: the flow had a growth trajectory until the end of the third trimester, declining only in the last one. Finally, in 2018, there was no continuous pattern in the flow, alternating growth and decrease movements. The historical series with Chinese immigration flows to the state is as follows:

Graph 2- Number of immigrants related to the month of registration in the years 2016-



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2018Source:

Authors' own elaboration from OBMigra data.

ID-1 also investigates the immigrant's condition regarding legal protection, which relates to the immigrant's permanence condition (Temporary, Permanent or Resident) and the justification for entering the country: temporary work, permanent work, volunteer work, productive enterprise (Chinese entrepreneur opening business in Brazil with own resources), cultural trip or study mission and condition of teacher, technician or scientist in the service of the Brazilian government. Along these lines, based on the immigration flow in the municipalities of Pernambuco, in 2016, two large groups were formed: one composed exclusively of permanent immigrants (whose entry was justified by family reunion), and the other exclusively of Chinese with temporary permanence, who obtained entry based on the condition of being teachers, scientists or technicians at the service of the Brazilian government.

The first group consisted of the municipalities of Cabo de Santo Agostinho, Caruaru, Petrolina and Serra Talhada. It is noteworthy that in the municipality of Cabo de Santo Agostinho, despite having 100% of permanent immigrants, the basis of entry was divided between starting a company (50%) and family reunion (50%). The second one was composed by Goiana, Ipojuca and Jaboatão dos Guararapes. In Recife's instance, there was a less homogeneous behaviour: 80% of the immigrants were permanent and 20% temporary. Considering the group of permanent immigrants, 90% were legally backed with the family reunion criteria. On the other hand, 50% were supported by cultural travel motivation or study mission and 44% corresponded to the condition of professor, technician or scientist at the service of the Brazilian government.

In 2017, most of the municipalities (60%) exclusively had a hike in number of permanent Chinese immigrants, with family reunion motivation. There was still predominance of this type of immigrant in two municipalities (20%), but without exclusivity: Paulista (66%) and Caruaru (77%). Regarding Caruaru, the remaining 23% corresponded to permanent immigrants with the intention of opening their own business in the municipality. Subsequently, in 2017, the capital of Pernambuco behaved differently from what was observed in 2016, as 48% of immigrants became permanent for family reunion, 2% as a resident with employment and 50% as temporary. In this last group, it is conspicuous that

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52% of the cases are classified as teachers, technicians or scientists at the service of the Brazilian government.

Also, regarding the immigrant's entry status, during the year 2018, among the 10 municipalities that were part of the destination of Chinese immigrants, 70% received immigrants as family reunion residents, except Caruaru (90%) and Recife (74%). In the case of Recife, it is pronounced that the capital continued to be an important centre for attracting professionals in the field of education and research, given that 17% of Chinese entered the city in this condition.

Thus, upon realisation that the highest percentage amongst the three years analysed is related to the visa with family justification and then, the motivation is the opening of commercial or trade business, it appears that the two claims are not independent and are possibly correlated. First, a portion of the family “leaves” China, and after some time, the ones who had stayed follow them to the same migration destination. Therefore, it is common in these typical Chinese stores for employees to be family members and to work for families. This family esteem is rooted in the Confucius Analects, where philosophy, politics, and education are the basis for the “Chinese way of life,” and implicitly the family is built on these three axes. What strengthens it: “a person who wants to establish a company must have started a family first”, denotes the fundamental role of family agents in business (ARAÚJO, 2010).

From this family structure, there is a formation of a network of associations among the co-ethnic people that are based on the relationships of kinship or affection between them. This means that the pillars of loyalty and trustworthiness are also Confucian values and this formation is built on a Chinese business network or small groups that communicate with each other.

In this way, these networks of transnational cooperation are forming ‘tentacles’ capable of helping the arrival of new immigrants and this aid is combined with the financial care as well, which becomes a form of attraction of loyal labour. Using these advantages, a group member can acquire financial resources through low interest loans and uncomplicated employment of labour. The possibility of using economic resources from the cooperation network strengthens their ties and makes the immigrant less dependent on financial transactions in a foreign country (GASPAR, 2015). Specifically, in the commercial sector in

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the state of Pernambuco, it was observed that the Chinese immigrants occupying management positions in stores, above all, are responsible for the operation of cashiers and the receipt of goods. These are specific and trustworthy functions that are intended only for compatriots and are based on a culturally identifiable ethnic background, although the coming of this workforce reflects low-cost hiring with an intense workday.

Engaged in this business logic, some Chinese over time cease to be employees and become entrepreneurs. Feeding back on the cycle of recruiting new compatriot labour and importing goods directly from China³. According to the author Oliveira (2004), networks are ethnic strategies that drive reciprocities and opportunities among ethnic groups, capable of intensifying relations of financial, cultural, political and human resources in destination countries. Nevertheless, the creation of 'social tentacles' as precursors in the creation of the new networks are not restricted in their basis solely to commercial criteria, but are embedded in intercultural relations, bonds of trust and bilateral solidarity. They strengthen these reciprocities as a way of approaching each other, their stories, affective memories, hence, strengthening the group socially and economically.

3 - Characterization of Chinese immigrants in Pernambucan municipalities

The study presents the **Investigative Dimension 2 (ID-2): Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Immigrant** in order to examine the sociodemographic profile of the Chinese community located in Pernambuco-PE. As shown below in Chart 3, the presence of male Chinese immigrants is constituted the majority in all three analysed periods. In 2016, there were 59 men, the following year, 53 and in 2018 there were 35 men, showing a reduction of around 40%, comprising 147 male Chinese immigrants in the state of Pernambuco. In this regard, it is quite common for a man to emigrate first in order to stabilize himself, to earn an income, and soon after to come with his wife, if they happen to have one, to reunite in the country of destination.

Concerning women, there was a reduction of 49%, they have their largest arrival in 2016 with the presence of 45, then with 33 and 23 women, totalling the presence of 101 Chinese women in the three years. The Chinese community in the region is not balanced,

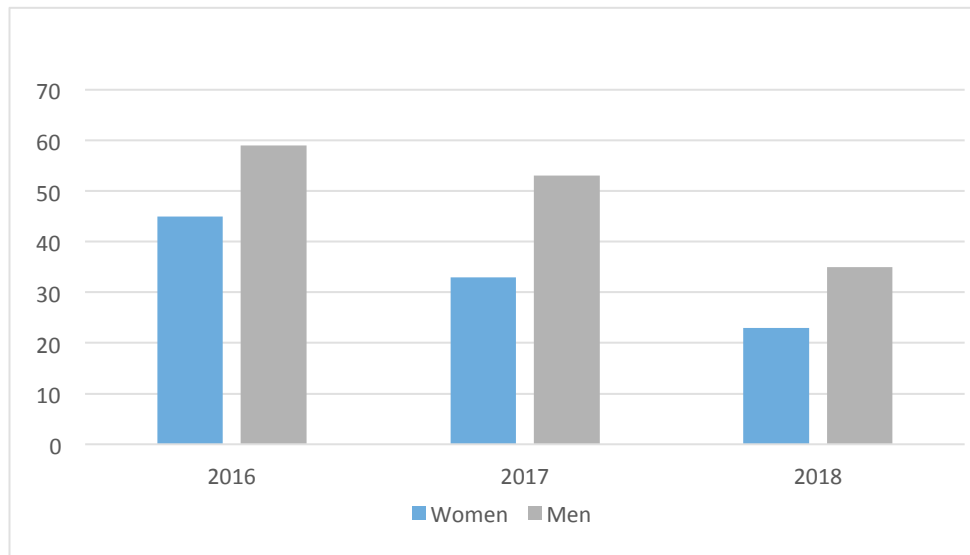
³ Góis., Et al (2005), identified that this phenomenon is quite common in Portugal, as well as the issue of housing being generally directed to collective apartments or installed in the stores themselves.

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according to Obmigra data, as the men hold the largest number of the Chinese immigrants are welcomed (AMORIM et al. 2017).

Graph 3 - Gender analysis of Chinese immigrants in Pernambuco-PE



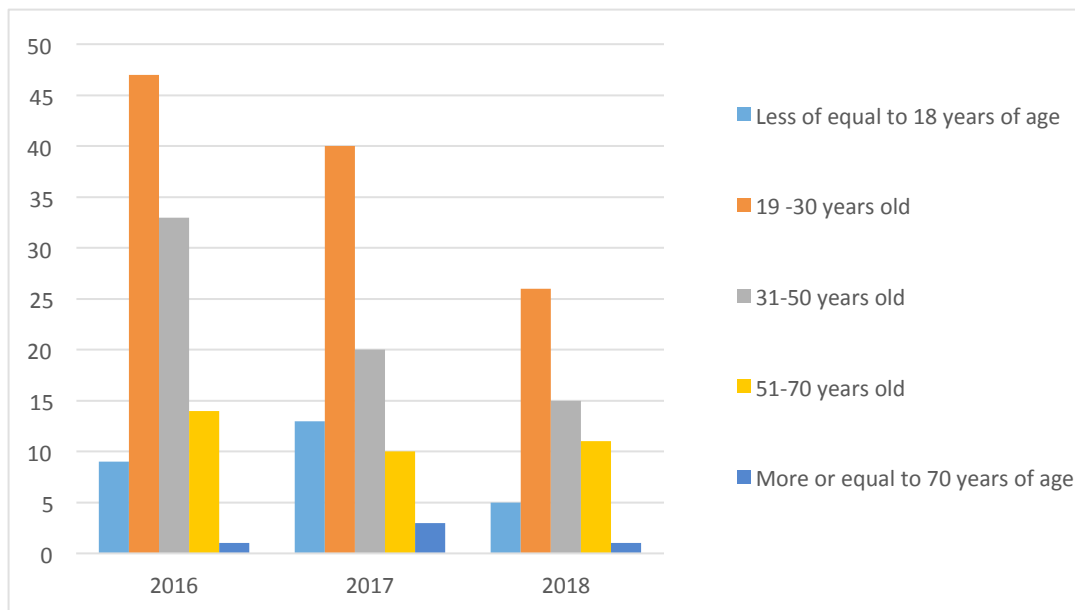
Source: Authors' own elaboration from OBMigra data.

Regarding the age group of immigrants, below in **Graph 4**, it is discernible that the Chinese community in Pernambuco has a higher concentration of people from 19 to 30 years of age, which denotes a very young attribution to the group. The Chinese immigrants display a similar pattern to what happens with Pernambucans who are verified to have around 20 to 24 years, according to the last census. (UNDP, 2010). The age groups of 19 to 30 years and 31 to 50 years, tended to decrease as observed in 2018, being 44% and 54% respectively. In the matter of the age range of 18 years or less, there was a 44% increase from 2016 to 2017. In 2018, this last group had its lowest representation among Chinese immigrants. However, the age range that remains virtually stable over the three years is 51 to 70 years old. Regarding the most advanced age groups of 70 years or older, an increase was observed only in 2017, in the other years, followed the same variation.

Graph 4- Chinese Immigrants' Age Groups

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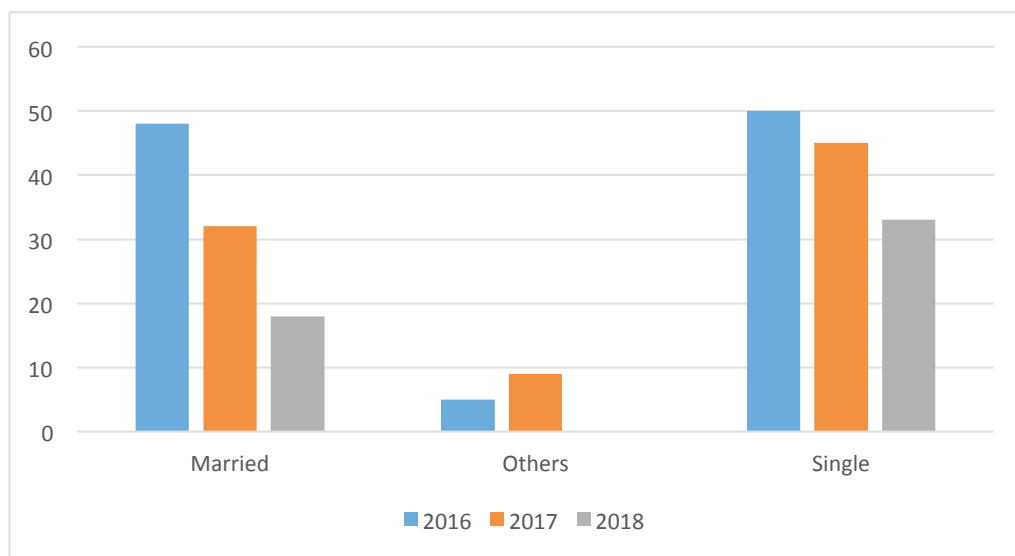


Source:
Authors'

own elaboration from OBMigra data

Upon analysis on marital status, it is noted a high concentration of single Chinese immigrants, showing a reduction of 34% in the year 2018. There were also verified a second group, which was married, being more prominent in 2016, but also indicates a reduction of 62, 5% this past year. The classification “other situations” increased by 80% in 2017, although this variable has not been registered in 2018.

Graph 5 - Marital status of Chinese immigrants



Source:
Authors'

own elaboration from OBMigra data

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A relevant aspect to the professional characteristics of the Chinese in the state⁴ presented below in **Chart 6**, is that there is a predominance of activities related to the commercial sector which, specifically in 2016, was composed of 19 commercial businesspeople working in this sector. In 2018, the presence of 21 Chinese immigrants related to the occupation of tradesperson and street vendor is evident. Also referring to the occupations that allude to a low-skilled immigrant profile, there were four mechanics in both 2016 and 2018, one house cleaner in 2018 and four agricultural workers in 2018 alone.

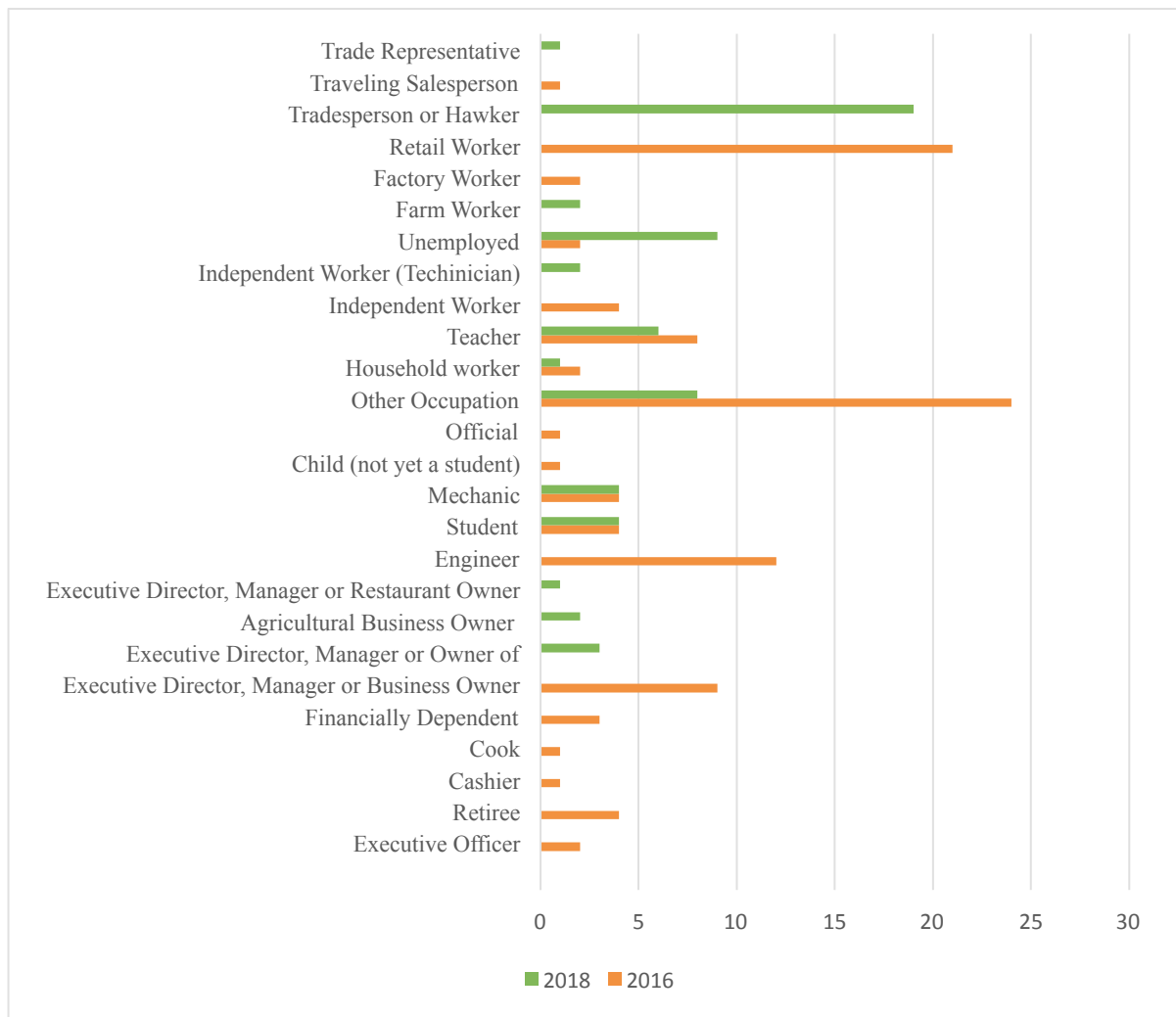
Students, teachers, engineers and executive professionals characterize the most educated professionals. The number of Chinese students is four in the two years, while the teaching profession has decreased by 25% in the year 2018. Concerning the engineers and the executive professionals, there were no registry of entry of these workers at the same year.

In 2016, the combined information is listed about the occupation of executive director, manager or owner, which totals the presence of nine Chinese linked to these activities. In 2018, this data specifies the profile by new characteristics of executive director, commercial manager or owner, namely: in restaurant business, with only one Chinese immigrant, in the agricultural sphere there were two professionals and three towards the trade area of work.

⁴ The research restricted itself to only analysing two years, 2016 and 2018, as there was no available data for 2017 on the Obmigra portal on occupational profile.

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Graph 6 – Occupational profiles of Chinese immigrants



Source: Authors' own elaboration from OBMigra data.

Other occupations such as cashier, cook and retiree are only corroborated in the year 2016. Immigrants who declared no occupation had a 350% increase and those in other occupations showed a 66% reduction for the year 2018.

Final considerations

The study sought to analyse the dynamism of Chinese immigration to the state of Pernambuco from 2016 to 2018, so the research was divided into two scopes of analysis, the first related to the immigrant's entry into the state and the second the sociodemographic

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profile. It was found that there was a reduction in the arrival of immigrants in the year 2018 to the region, when compared to the average entry in the Northeast and nationally. The grounds for their arrival were based mainly on the criteria of family reunion, except in 2016 that both business opening and family approach motivated the entry.

The spreading of immigrants to the interior of the state was observed during these three years, although their presence is still quite intensified in the coastal region, specifically in the city of Recife. Another municipality that stands out is Caruaru and is not yet located in the coastal area, has a dizzying growth of the same ethnic group.

Considering the second scope, it was distinguishable a higher concentration of, mostly young adults, male and single among the Chinese immigrants. Regarding the professional profile, it was possible to verify that the Chinese presence is strongly correlated with commercial activities such as imported goods stores, costume jewellery and restaurants.

It has been confirmed that Chinese migration permeates other criteria capable of easing their travel to the world. The transnational cooperation network encourages both the recruitment of new fellow citizens and the economic development of those who are already established in the country. In this way, the network is undoubtedly a mechanism of mutual solidarity between compatriots that strengthens the migratory dynamism. The way in which the cooperation network is spatialized within the state of Pernambuco and, consequently, the formation of new 'tentacles', which make it increasingly possible to move migratory flows inland, is the object of analysis addressed in another research still in progress.

The study on this issue of Chinese migration is still underdeveloped in Brazil and, although the expansion of this immigration to the country is not something recent, over the years it has been increasingly present in the reality of cities. In future studies, it is suggested to follow this Chinese migratory dynamism over the country, mainly from the possibility recently announced by the Brazilian government of visa exemption for the entry of these immigrants to Brazil.

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