

# Guanxi, Social Capital and School Choice in China: The Rise of Ritual Capital (Palgrave Studies on Chinese Education in a Global

## **Perspective**)

Ji Ruan



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This book focuses on the use of *guanxi* (Chinese personal connections) in everyday urban life: in particular, how and why people develop different types of social capital in their *guanxi* networks and the role of *guanxi* in school choice. *Guanxi* takes on a special significance in Chinese societies, and is widely-discussed and intensely-studied phenomenon today. In recent years in China, the phenomenon of parents using *guanxi* to acquire school places for their children has been frequently reported by the media, against the background of the Chinese Communist Party's crackdown on corruption. From a sociological perspective, this book reveals how and why parents manage to do so. Ritual capital refers to an individual's ability to use ritual to benefit and gain resources from *guanxi*.

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