



NOVISSIMA SINICA #15



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Counterfeiting, Made in China **The World of Shanzhai**

From Luitpold handbags and Caiwen Klain underwear to iPhones and Rolex watches, Chinese-made counterfeits have gained considerable notoriety - and a thriving market - both at home and abroad. Popularly known as '*shanzhai*', counterfeit mobile phones and other products, already seem, from a 2020 vantage point, like a last-century story in China. By contrast, *shanzhai* can still be seen widely across the global south. Precisely because of this perhaps, *shanzhai* is often portrayed as little more than lower-end globalisation, as the straightforward manufacture and circulation of counterfeit goods.

However, as Dr. Xiang argues, there may be more to the *shanzhai* phenomenon than meets the economist's eye. Exploring *shanzhai* not only as a form and product of globalisation, but also as a mode of life- and world-making, he questions boundaries between high- and low-end, decent and indecent, different and indifferent. What is 'real' and what is 'fake', who decides and how?

ONLINE on Wednesday, May 27, 18.15

Register at events.chinacentrum@gmail.com to receive the link!

