

## **Research on the spatial perception and preferences of traditional villages from the perspective of local gaze: a case study of Hongkeng Village, China**

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As one of the World Cultural Heritage Sites, Hongkeng Village in China is a typical representative of the traditional Hakka villages. With the advent of the era of mass tourism, it is important to understand the perception, preference and identity of local people towards the village space from the perspective of local gaze, in order to maintain the characteristics of the village and perpetuate its vitality.

This study investigates the spatial distribution of local residents' daily behaviour, activity paths, preference for village space, and identification with the formerly staged space through in-depth interviews, non-participant observation, questionnaires and spatial cognitive maps.

The results of the study show that the indigenous people have the highest sense of attachment to "home", and that there are boundaries between high-frequency activity areas and activity paths, and that their hotspots show a spread from the residential areas to the periphery, with gradually decreasing density levels. In terms of spatial preference, there is a high preference for traditional ritual spaces, neighbourhood activity spaces and cultural memory spaces, indicating that local residents have a high sense of local identity. And, there is generally a high cognitive latitude and a low emotional dimension for the pre-staged spaces for tourists.

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