



MODELLING  
THE HOUSING MARKET  
AND  
HOUSING SATISFACTION  
IN URBAN CHINA

中国房地产市场和住房满意度  
建模研究

英文版

张方 著



上海交通大学出版社  
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## 内容提要

本书主要对 1998 年后完全实现商业住房体系的中国房地产市场进行了探究。首先,开创性地利用 system GMM 模型发现影响中国房价上升的主要因素,并分析这些因素是如何影响房价的;其次,运用一系列统计检验和计量模型探究中国区域房价的收敛性和聚合效应;最后,利用有序概率模型对 2006 年中国综合社会调查数据进行建模分析,探究城镇居民生活幸福感和住房满意度与住房条件等房屋属性的关系,并研究住房条件对不同群体居民的不同影响。

本书适合相关领域的学生、研究人员阅读和参考。

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# Preface

The past three decades have witnessed the rapid development of the Chinese housing market<sup>①</sup>, which is considered as a barometer of and an extremely crucial component of the whole Chinese economic system. Although some important findings have been obtained by previous research, many conclusions have been controversial and a comprehensive understanding of the mechanism and behaviour of the Chinese housing system is a worthwhile endeavour.

The existing studies about the Chinese housing market are mostly confined to qualitative analysis, lacking the support of a theoretical basis and empirical research. This book aims to employ more recent econometrical methodologies, from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, to systematically analyse several prevalent issues of the Chinese housing market. More specifically, this book is going to explore the main determinants of house prices, the convergence and ripple effects of regional house prices, and the interactive relationship between housing conditions and individual's subjective well-being.

Some empirical findings can be drawn from this book: 1) by using the system GMM dynamic panel data models, the results indicate that Chinese house prices are mainly affected by factors related to government policies and speculative demand rather than the urbanization process, which is

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① “The Chinese housing market” in this book refers to the housing market in urban China, because the rural area of China has still implement the homestead system, which is completely different to the common concept of “housing market” system across the world. Generally, the homestead system in rural China aims to allocate homestead land to rural individuals by the village committees based on the average principal.



understandable in a non-fully market-oriented status quo; 2) there is evidence of very limited convergence of regional house prices by employing unit root tests,  $\sigma$ -convergence and  $\beta$ -convergence approaches; however, the alternative methods, such as panel regression models, Engle-Granger/Johansen cointegration tests and Granger Causality tests, imply that house prices can ripple out from some core cities to other cities; 3) the results of the Ordered Probit Models suggest that the housing conditions in urban areas play a significant role in peoples' subjective well-being in respect of housing satisfaction and overall happiness; additionally, the effects of housing factors impact on different groups of residents in different ways.

Due to the limitations of data sources in the early days, this book is the first to combine such a wide panel data series, on both the time dimension and geographic dimension, to study the Chinese Housing Market. Also, when analysing the convergence and ripple effects models, this book transfers the original link indexes used by previous scholars into modified constant growth indexes, which improves the efficiency of empirical models to a greater extent. In addition, approaches using the system GMM method,  $\sigma$ - and  $\beta$ -convergence analysis, Engle-Granger/Johansen cointegration tests and Granger Causality tests are first introduced into the study of the Chinese housing market, generally achieving good results especially in the determinants of house prices and the ripple effects of regional house prices. Moreover, except for the commonly used method of the Ordered Probit Model for the questionnaire survey research, this book produces the predicted value of housing satisfaction by using two-stage estimations, to investigate the effects of housing conditions and housing satisfaction on people's overall happiness. Meanwhile, the approach of "money equivalent effects" is also a new perspective in detecting the effects of housing conditions on overall happiness.

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# Glossary

- [ 1 ] **The reform and opening up:** this policy was carried out by Chairman Deng in 1978, which marked the date that the Chinese economy started to transform from the centrally planned economy to the market economy.
- [ 2 ] **Shi Ye Dan Wei:** quasi-government organizations.
- [ 3 ] **Zhu Fang Gong Ji Jin:** the Housing Provident Fund program.
- [ 4 ] **Quanqian:** refers to the property developers using many different ways to get financing from the market, especially the stock market and bond financing.
- [ 5 ] **Quandi:** buying and holding land in hand as much as possible.
- [ 6 ] **Wudi:** enterprises hold the land without selling or constructing any buildings
- [ 7 ] **Wupan:** property hoarding, means enterprises delaying selling their dwellings in order to get more profits from house price increases.
- [ 8 ] **NBSC:** National Bureau of Statistics of China.
- [ 9 ] **Tube-shaped apartments:** a typical housing style in China, which is a product of the Chinese state-owned enterprises welfare housing system in the 1970s and 1980s. These buildings are dormitories with a long corridor, shared toilets & kitchens, and the same size individual rooms, usually less than 20 m<sup>2</sup> for each room.
- [10] **An Ju Gong Cheng:** the largest affordable/low-renting housing project supported by the governments.
- [11] **“90 – 70” Policy:** in 2006, the central government issued a declaration that real estate developers are obligated to allocate 70% of the total area in each of their new housing projects to “affordable housing”, i. e. , smaller than 90 m<sup>2</sup> per unit.
- [12] **Diwang:** the highest records of land transfer fees.
- [13] **Wenzhou Real Estate Corporation:** speculators from Wenzhou, a rich and developed area in Zhejiang province, that build up groups to acquire buildings for speculation in big cities, such as Beijing and Shanghai.
- [14] **Hukou:** a unique Household Registration System in China with two types: official migration with Hukou transfer (or permanent migration), and unofficial migration without Hukou transfer (or temporary migration).

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Research Motivations and Contributions

As we know, China has become one of the fastest developing countries in the world. Even during the Asian and the Global Financial Crises, the Chinese economy has still maintained a very high-speed of growth. As we can see from Figure 1.1, China's GDP growth rates have only dropped slightly after the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and 2007 Global Financial Crisis. Even

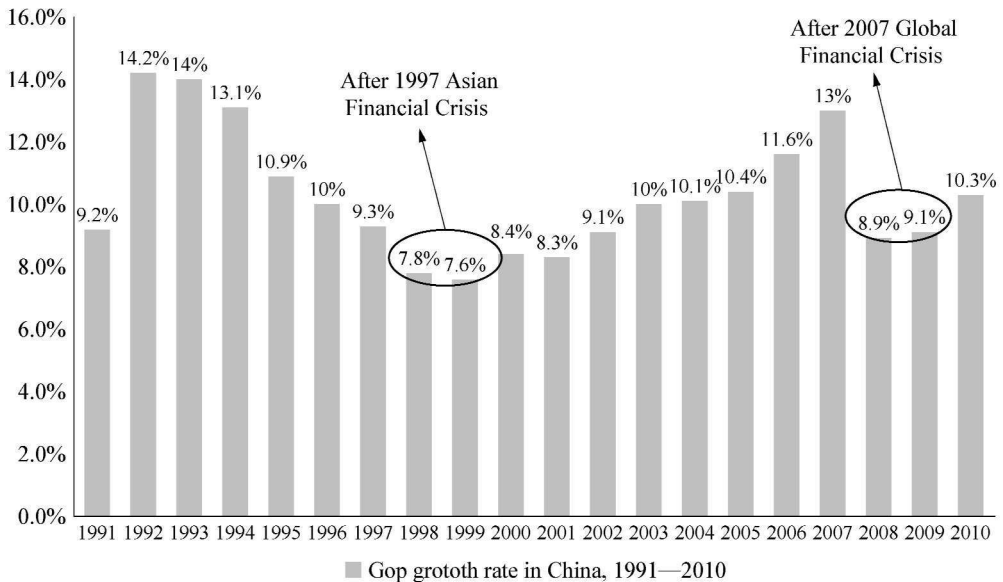


Figure 1.1 GDP Growth Rate of China: 1991 – 2010

Data Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China <http://www.stats.gov.cn/>.





during the crisis, the growth rates have stayed around 8%, which is still very impressive. Afterwards, China's economy has recovered very quickly from the financial crisis.

The housing market relates to a significant industry for the whole economic system and has always been a barometer of the economy. Since the welfare housing system<sup>①</sup> has been gradually phased out in the 1990s, the Chinese housing market has been through a rapid development over last two decades. In recent years, the fast urbanization has provided another favourable opportunity for the real estate market. Meanwhile, benefitting from land policy, financial support and local government policies, the high rate of return of the housing industry has attracted huge amounts of investments, to the extent that the Chinese housing market has sustained an increasing growth trend over recent times.

Real estate wealth has become one of the major factors promoting economic growth in China. It reflects not only the tendency for economic development but also the speed of economic development. Since the reform and opening-up<sup>②</sup>, marked changes have occurred within the Chinese housing market and the behaviour of the housing market in China has had a significant impact on the aggregate economy. Housing accounts for a significant proportion of the wealth of the personal sector<sup>③</sup>. Over the last 30 years in China, both the super-fast economic growth and the rapid increase of personal disposable income have stimulated the demand for owner-occupied dwellings, and thereby there has been a dramatic increase in house prices and house purchases. During the global financial crisis periods, most countries' housing markets have been through an unprecedented rough time; while the Chinese housing market has sustained growth rather than a depression, and Chinese house prices have kept an upward trend since the reform and opening-up in 1978 (see Figure 1.2).

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① Under the welfare housing system, all land and housing resources were entirely owned, built and delivered by the state or state agents, such as local public entities and work units.

② The reform and opening-up policy was carried out by Chairman Deng in 1978, which marked that Chinese economy started to transform from central planning economy to market economy.

③ A similar situation exists in the UK (Holly and Jones, 1997) and US (Poterba, 1991).