Abstract

This paper examines how property disputes in China’s Moonshadow Pond community within the Guangdong Province, serve to articulate different ideas about property rights—ideas born of China’s pre-Communist, collective, and reform eras. It finds that by functioning as public forums where prior notions of collective property clash with newer concepts of personal property, these disputes have become powerful instruments in helping Moonshadow residents learn and construct the limits and implications of the new economic regime under which they live.