When Wal-Mart and the Chinese dormitory labour regime meet: a study of three toy factories in China
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This paper analyses the characteristics of the dormitory labour regime in China’s post-socialist period and the collusion of this regime in the process of the ‘Wal-Martization’ of global toy production. This collusion has shaped labour relations and CSR labour practices in China. This paper focuses on three factories, located in the industrial zone of Shenzhen, South China, that supply toys to Wal-Mart. It begins with an examination of the dormitory labour regime supporting China’s exports and then investigates the ‘Wal-Martization’ of the global toy industry. The effect of Wal-Mart’s bargain-driven business model on the dormitory labour regime has reshaped China as ‘the world’s workshop’ and changed its position in the international division of labour. An analysis of the nature and characteristics of Wal-Mart’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) model, which is based on providing only the ‘legal minimum,’ and its impact on factory labour relations in China will follow.

Keywords: China; corporate social responsibility; dormitory labour regime; Wal-Mart

Introduction
As the workshop for global production, China’s export factories are characterized by sweatshop conditions that can be found in many countries. Unique to China, however, is a dormitory labour regime that controls the lives of many women migrant workers.

The globalization of capital accumulation and transnational production has resulted in a new paradigm of the labour process, which requires an understanding of the spatial politics of production. Wal-Mart represents the largest share of global capital: its bargain-driven business model and limited-time offers have reshaped the international division of labour and existing labour practices. The effects of Wal-Mart’s growth represent the best case study of the new transnational economy of production that creates not only a new scale of the economy but a new economy of scale, in which mass production and spatial politics are extensively reconfigured for capital accumulation on a global scale (Pun and Smith 2007). In this paper we examine the emergence of a new spatial politics of