People’s Republic of Bolzano

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ANNÉE 2016
EN LIGNE
http://visu.sciences-du-design.org/17.html
Combining a statistics-based investigation and a series of qualitative interviews, the People’s Republic of Bolzano project aimed at inviting citizens to discover who the members of the Chinese community living and working in the city are, what they think of Italy, its local culture and society. Contrary to the common belief – propagated by local media – that Chinese people are «invading» the city, the project helped reveal that, while we have and are witnessing a small-scale migration of Chinese people to Bolzano, they are not creating a ghetto in the city. Rather, they are integrating within it. This project, is the result of a web based long-term journalistic enquiry. It features animated and interactive infographics, maps, and a series of qualitative interviews, which help reshape the identity of the local Chinese community through digital media, in order to contrast with the dominant and misleading narrative by the local media. Through a design project based on more transparent and balanced information, thereby allowing a broader audience to inform itself on such a complex and multifaceted issue, the project opened a local debate about the integration of the Chinese people in the city, that led the local media purveyor of the «invasion» theory to reverse its narrative.

People’s Republic of Bolzano has awarded with the Data Journalism Award 2015 (best data visualization of the year, small newsroom) and the European Design Award 2016 (Bronze, digital infographics).

You can read the whole publication below
(extract from the book Data journalism: inside the global future, isbn: 1845496639)
https://tinyurl.com/lb87nbu
People’s Republic of Bolzano

0.6%

Speaking freely 隨心所欲

The Westernisation of the parents

Wang Hong was born from a family of farmers and her family all lived in the country side. Her parents taught her to do chores and to be a hard-working, disciplined person. In her view, she was always happy to see her children grow up and get educated.

Wang’s husband, a local farmer, was very proud of his children's achievements. He was always happy to help them, and he always encouraged them to work hard.

Their eldest son, Wang Li, completed his secondary education in the countryside and then went on to study in the city. He studied business and economics at the university.

Wang Li then started his own business and became a successful entrepreneur. He opened a small factory and employed several workers. He became rich and successful.

Wang Li returned to his hometown to build a new house for his parents and to give them a better life. He also donated money to the local government to build a new school.

Wang Li’s parents were very proud of him and they were always happy to see him come back and help the community.

Wang Li’s wife, a local teacher, was also very happy to see her husband become so successful. She was always there to support him and to help him with his business.

Wang Li’s children were also very happy to see their father become a successful entrepreneur. They learned from him and they all became successful in their own fields.

Wang Li’s parents were very happy to see their children succeed and they were always there to support them.

Wang Li and his wife returned to their hometown to spend their retirement years. They built a new house and they were always happy to see their children come back and visit them.

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Restaurants

11.8%

Out of 100 local restaurants, only 32 are Chinese, i.e. 11.8%. Compared with other far larger communities, the Chinese run retail businesses meaning they are more visible than, for example, the Romanian and Albanian slabs that work on workshops or farms.

Where and when

The interactive map shows that there is no Chinese neighbourhood: their businesses, and therefore also their homes, of which we know little, are distributed across the city in a uniform and fragmented way.