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TOWARDS A SPATIALISED AND CIRCULATORY ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL
STRUCTURE

**THE “STRATIFIED FLOW VELOCITY” EFFECT OF SOCIAL STRUCTURAL
CHANGE AND PATHWAYS OF INNOVATION IN INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: EVIDENCE FROM RURAL TANZANIA**

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This paper examines uneven social structural change in rural Tanzania through the lens of stratified social change, focusing on how different layers of social structure respond at different speeds to international development interventions. Drawing on qualitative case studies of Chinese–Tanzanian cooperation, the study shows that high-level institutions and policies adapt relatively quickly, while deeply embedded rural social structures change more slowly due to institutional stickiness and power inertia. By comparing large-scale infrastructure projects with small-scale agricultural cooperation initiatives, the paper highlights the importance of intermediate actors and localized knowledge transfer in bridging

these layers. The findings contribute to debates on rural social structure and international development cooperation, and offer insights into the distinctive features of South–South cooperation in the Tanzanian context.

Palavras-chave: stratified social change; rural social structure; international development cooperation; south-south cooperation; tanzania village.