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Sensational consequences of educational migration: senses, urban landscapes, and ethnic tensions in Kyrgyzstan

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This paper explores the experiences of South Asian medical students in Kyrgyzstan's burgeoning educational market. Using sensory anthropology, I analyze urban domestication in Bishkek and Kant, where economic cooperation coexists with sensory tensions. I argue that perceived differences in taste and smell might have served as catalysts for the May 2024 ethnic riots. This phenomenon is contextualized within post-Soviet transformations and regional migratory reconfigurations resulting from the war in Ukraine.

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