China Geography Specialty Group, AAG
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中国地理学组通讯
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CHAIR'S LETTER

The AAG: We've had a flurry of communications over the past couple months as we prepare for the 2012 Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in New York City, February 24-28. Thank you to all who submitted papers and panels to the specialty group – we are delighted to hear from you and look forward to your presentations in February. The China Specialty Group has directly organized 25 paper sessions and panels, and has sponsored many more. The sessions span a broad range of topics and reflect well upon the continuing relevance of geographical research on China. One panel, for example, has been organized as a response to and critical discussion of issues related to high-speed rail in China in the aftermath of the July 2011 Wenzhou train collision. We are also working on several different options for special speakers at the AAG. In addition, we will again hold a panel discussion on "how to get a job" for graduate students. Students planning to present papers at the AAG should consider submitting their papers to the annual student paper competition (see detail later in this newsletter).

New York: New York is a special place for Chinese studies! Not only does it have historical significance as the site of the largest "Chinatown" in the U.S., but it is also a place where there is a great deal of interest in China and Chinese Culture. I hope that those of you who are going to visit New York for the first time, in particular, will take time to experience some of these resources. To learn more about Chinatown, you might start by looking at this website: http://www.chinatown-online.com/nychinatown/aboutchinatown.shtml. Chinatown is also home to the Museum of Chinese in America (http://www.mocanyc.org) which has free admission on Thursdays (otherwise, $7). For interesting events and exhibitions related to China, take a look at the Asia Society http://asiasociety.org/. The Asia society has a museum of art, and also sponsors many talks and films about Asia, including China. The China Institute (http://www.chinainstitute.org/) is another China-focused New York institution. They will be featuring an exhibit entitled "Theater, Life and the Afterlife: Tomb Décor of the Jin Dynasty

from Shanxi" during the time the AAG is in New York. The Metropolitan Museum of Art (http://www.metmuseum.org/) has an excellent collection of Chinese art. My favorite is the Chinese Garden Court – a reconstruction of a Suzhou-style courtyard house (see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C92bYFQDTzA for an introduction to this space). There will be two China-related special exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum during the AAG: "Red and Black: Chinese Lacquer, 13th-16th Century" and "Tibetan Arms and Armor." Please note that the admission price for this museum is "suggested" – you are welcome to pay less if you cannot afford the high price. There are two other museums in New York City of particular interest to geographers – the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (http://www.nmai.si.edu/) and the American Museum of Natural History (http://www.amnh.org/).

CGSG and Activism: This week the cover of *Time Magazine* caught my eye with its headline: "The China Bubble: We're counting on China's growth to save the world. Unless its economy blows up first." I was immediately reminded of CGSG member Cindy Fan's recent contribution to the *New York Times* opinion pages: "The Upside if the Bubble Bursts" (April 14, 2011). I also read Tim Oakes call (see below) for discussion within the China Specialty Group about increasing the level of activism within our field. This follows upon a similar "call to action" authored by Laurence Ma, a long-standing member of the China Geography Specialty Group, in 2007 ("From Urban Social Space to Social and Environmental Justice" *Eurasian Geography and Economics* v. 48, no. 5). Ma's article encourages China geographers to make more use of "reflexive activism" to generate frameworks for more relevant research. A comment on this call to action was published in the same issue of EGE by Clifton Pannell, who appreciated Ma's general argument but also observed that empirical studies focused on the economic and other progress that has been made in China in recent years should not be overlooked. By the time I had Cindy Fan's very current commentary and Tim Oakes, Laurence Ma's and Clifton Pannell's remarks in my mind, I felt driven to explore the realm of activism within the CGSG. At the same time that it is vital to encourage China geographers to engage in activism, it is also worthwhile to acknowledge the many different contributions that China geographers have made and continue to make beyond the sometimes narrow realm of academia. It is also useful to recognize that there are many ways for academics to be activists.

This engagement with real issues comes in many different forms, but especially in teaching and outreach, consultation as experts and "public intellectuals, and research which directly informs processes of change in and beyond China. I will list a few of those efforts here (and apologize in advance for the many I will miss), and look forward to some of you sending comments to me and the CGSG as a whole which might enable us to document the scope of our "activist" efforts.

Teaching: Most of us are engaged in teaching college students who will graduate to become community leaders and voting citizens outside the academic world. Our direct contact with those students on a daily basis can be transformative in their understanding of China and the broader implications of China's engagement with the world. Teaching is an excellent way to counter stereotypical impressions of China, to encourage our educated citizenry to understand the sometimes widening gaps between China's "haves" and "have nots," and to both take a critical view and to appreciate what is good in China's complex and ongoing transitions. While teaching about China in China-centered classes is important, in some ways it is even more important to bring intelligent and critical comment on China to more general classes where students who do not already have an interest in China can learn the most. For example, China's overwhelming environmental challenges have become a component of more general courses on environmental issues. CGSG member Greg Veeck teaches "World Ecological Problems" at Western Michigan University; CGSG member Darrin McGee teaches "Geography of Garbage" at Hobart and William Smith College, CGSG member Alana Boland teaches "Environment and Development" at the University of Toronto, and I teach "Urban Environmental Issues" at the University of Massachusetts.

"Public Intellectuals:" In recent years, many CGSG members have been called upon to serve as "experts" on China, or have contributed to the public discourse about China. Tim Oakes (University of Colorado), Yu Zhou (Vassar College) and Emily Yeh (University of Colorado) have all made contributions to the China Beat(http://www.thechinabeat.org), a blog which seeks to bring expert opinion, debate and critique on China to a broad audience. Cindy Fan (UCLA) has contributed commentaries to the *The New York Times*, has appeared on the Tavis Smiley show, and has been interviewed by diverse media outlets such as China Radio International, National Public Radio, and the South China Morning Post. Kam-wing Chan (University of Washington) has contributed articles to *The Guardian, The New York Times,* and *The Straits Times*, and has been interviewed on the PBS Newshour, the BBC World Service, and the Voice of America. Yu Zhou (Vassar College) has been interviewed for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*; Cindy Fan (UCLA) and I (University of Massachusetts) have been interviewed for the *Atlantic.*

Research: There is, of course, great value in the research that many of us do to inform and support those who take an activist stance. Whether documenting regional economic inequalities, developing a better understanding of the complex and changing power relationships in the construction of space or analyzing changing environmental indicators, geographers play a vital role in building the knowledge base which is essential to China's continuing transformation. I won't list any names here, as there are too many by far for this short newsletter.

Please read Tim Oakes' invitation to activism below, and send us your comments, which we may excerpt for the next CGSG newsletter.

2011-2011 OFFICERS

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2011 AAG CGSG Business Meeting Minutes

Seattle, WA, Thursday 14 April, 2011

1. Welcome by CGSG Chair Qihao Weng

2. Approval of 2010 Business Meeting Minutes

3. Update on membership and activities

Specialty group membership has grown, particularly foreign membership, as seen in this table, presented at the meeting:

	Total	Students	Non-students	Foreign
2011 (April 10th)	246	95	151	71
2010	244	87	157	59
2009	230	87	143	51

Sponsored and co-sponsored sessions has also grown:
2011: 37
2010: 35
2009: 29

4. Financial report

Information on specialty group finances was presented. The group has a balance of $1,928.81 as of 7 April, 2011.
Dues collected since 31 August, 2010 totaled $558
Student paper and travel awards totaled $450

5. Awards presentations

The outstanding service award was presented to **Yehua Dennis Wei**, University of Utah
The best student paper award was presented to **Hao Huang**, University of Utah
The travel awards were presented to **Yueming Zhang**, University of Hong Kong, and **Huimin Du**, Hong Kong Baptist University

6. Election of new officers

Tim Oakes was nominated for CGSG Secretary. There were no other nominations. Tim Oakes was elected CGSG Secretary for 2011-2012.
Two students – Lei Yongdeng and Jia Feng – volunteered for Student Representative. The group decided to elect both Lei and Jia as student representatives.

7. Call for session themes for 2012 AAG meeting

Several themes were suggested by members:
China's global hegemony
China's economic restructuring
China's outward FDI
Urbanization, Land Use, Regional Development
Author meets critic (no book suggested)
Critical theory in China/of China
Space-Time Analysis
Water resources quality, quantity, scarcity
Energy geography of china
study of china in NYC (or greater region) (panel)
Natural hazards
China and Africa
Career panels on publishing, job searches, and geography pedagogy

2011 China Geography Outstanding Service Award

This year's CGSG Outstanding Service Award was presented to Professor **Yehua Dennis Wei**, University of Utah. Over the years, as a CGSG Chair and active member, Dennis has organized numerous AAG sessions and served on countless panels, which have helped to develop CGSG into the dynamic specialty group that it has become. His services for China Geography, the World Bank, CPGIS, and various top-ranked journals have advanced our field within and beyond the geography discipline. Through his positions as Asian Geography Specialty Group (AGSG) Chair and Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group (RDPSG) Chair, he has promoted the community of China geographers and strengthened the ties between CGSG and AGSG/RDPSG via joint sessions and other means. In addition, his prolific research, outreach, and fieldwork in various locations in China have promoted the visibility of CGSG outside the United States, and have contributed to enhance the academic exchanges between the two countries. Congratulations Dennis!

2011 CGSG Student Awards

This year's CGSG Best Student Paper Award was presented to **Hao HUANG**, for her paper titled, "Inter-city Competition for Foreign Direct Investment: Dynamic Effects of Agglomeration and Institutional Reforms in Urban China." Congratulations Hao!

This year's Travel Awards went to **Yueming ZHANG** (University of Hong Kong), for her paper titled, "Emerging Geography of Land-driven Urbanization in China: A Study of Land Development and Local Economic Growth in Prefecture-level Cities, 2002-2008" and **Huimin DU** (Hong Kong Baptist University), for her paper titled, "Is It Really Just a Rational Choice? The Contribution of Emotional Attachment to Temporary Migrants' Intention to Stay in the Host City in Guangzhou." Congratulations Yueming and Huimin!

AAG 2012 CGSG Student Paper competition: Call for Submission

The China Geography Specialty Group sponsors an annual award to recognize distinguished student research and paper presentation in a CGSG-sponsored session at the annual AAG conference.

Eligibility:

- Student members of the CGSG at all academic levels (undergraduates or graduate students) are qualified.
- The student must be the sole author and presenter of the paper.
- Participants must have submitted the abstract and appropriate program participation fee to the AAG for participation at the AAG Annual Meeting in New York City, New York, 24-28 February, 2012.
- Papers being considered by other AAG Specialty Group for student Paper Award are not qualified for this award.

A $250 cash prize will be awarded for the best paper. This includes $50 ticket for joining our annual CGSG dinner. Two Travel Awards of $100 each will go to the First and Second Runner-up. A committee of faculty from the China Geography Specialty Group will evaluate the papers. Evaluation criteria for the award include the originality of the research, the quality of the paper's presentation and argument, the soundness and creativity of the research design and methodology, and the validity of conclusions. The award will be announced at the Business Meeting of the China Geography Specialty Group in New York in February 2012, and published in the CGSG and AAG newsletters.

Guidelines for Submission:
To be considered for the competition, authors should e-mail a copy of the paper's title and abstract to the CGSG Chair by ***December 1st, 2011***. Please include author's name, academic level (undergraduate, master's or doctoral), academic institution, department or program, current address, phone number, and E-MAIL. An electronic version of the paper, in Word or PDF format, must reach the Chair no later than ***January 15th, 2012***.

If you have any questions, please contact CGSG Chair: Piper Gaubatz (gaubatz@geo.umass)

MEMBER'S NEWS

Alana Boland (University of Toronto) headed to Chengdu soon after the AAG's in Seattle to meet with a group of U of T undergraduate students from Geography and Asia-Pacific Studies for a 10-day study trip. Jessica Wilczak, who is doing her doctoral

research in Chengdu, helped organize a field school there around the theme of urbanization and sustainable development. This included site visits, meetings with local NGO's, and trips to outlying areas to see first-hand the post-quake reconstruction process. In the spring, Alana also worked with Kam Wing Chan on the East Asia chapter for *Cities of the World.* And this summer, she put the finishing touches on a co-authored paper (with Zhu Jiangang) about China's urban green communities that has been published in *Geoforum*.

Kam Wing Chan (U of Washington) was one of two speakers at a business forum on "China's Changing Labor Market" in New York in October. The event was co-organized by Gerson Lehrman Group and National Committee on US-China Relations, as part of the Committee's 45th anniversary activity. He also did an online webcast on China's urbanization" on G+ Forum in early October. He wrote several op-eds for the media; two of the most read are now on *China-US Focus*. In addition, he was interviewed for articles about China's migrant workers and the high-speed trains in *The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Straits Times* and *China Economic Review* in the last three months. Details at http://faculty.washington.edu/kwchan/**.**

Cindy Fan (UCLA) has been awarded the 2010-2011 C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA. This year, she has published papers in *China Review*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, and *The Professional Geographer*. She has given invited talks in Singapore and the UK and a keynote speech at the University of Utah. In 2011 Cindy has written three commentaries for the *New York Times* and has been a guest on China Radio International and the PBS Tavis Smiley Show. The Travel Study Program in Beijing and Hong Kong that she teaches in the summer has attracted students from UCLA and six other universities. As Associate Dean of Social Sciences, Cindy oversees educational and outreach initiatives including a high-school program in Nanjing, whose first cohort of 50 students are now all enrolled in US universities.

Philippe Forêt (University of Stockholm) is spending the 2011-2012 academic year at the Institute of Advanced Studies of Nantes where he is writing a book on the discovery of climate change in Chinese Central Asia. Brill AP has reedited his *The Journey of Maps and Images on the Silk Road*.

Ron Knapp (SUNY New Paltz) – Ron's most recent book *Things Chinese: Antiques, Crafts, Collectibles* (Tuttle, 2011) was just published. In early October, he gave two lectures related to his 2010 book *Chinese Houses of Southeast Asia: The Eclectic Architecture of Sojourners and Settlers* to the Royal Geographical Society, Hong Kong and the Department of Architecture, Chinese University of Hong Kong. He contributed the curricular materials that accompanies the video *The Lessons of the Loess Plateau* for **Digital Asia: Bringing Asia into the Classroom** http://www.digitalasia.illinois.edu/

Weifeng Li has started his new position as an assistant professor in the Department of Urban Planning and Design at the University of Hong Kong.

Tim Oakes (University of Colorado, Boulder) was promoted to Professor. His co-edited volume *Real Tourism* is due out November 28th. Last year, he and Donald Sutton (Carnegie Mellon University) co-edited *Faiths On Display: Religion, Tourism, and the*

State in China. He and Carolyn Cartier (UTS) are currently working on a book project tentatively titled *Vast Land of Borders*, focusing on peripheral state territoriality in China. Recently he's been enjoying some time in the Netherlands as a visiting professor at Wageningen University. He also continues his appointment as visiting professor at Guizhou Nationalities University.

Yu (Aloe) Luo Rioux is teaching "World Geography" at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and "Chinese I and Culture" at UMass Lowell (UML) for the Fall 2011 semester. Having taught the "History of Modern Asia" at Nashua Community College, she is developing an Honor's course "Introduction to Chinese Culture and Society" for the upcoming Spring semester. In addition, Rioux is helping build up the Chinese and Asian Studies curriculum for the Department of Cultural Studies at UML, offering "Business Chinese" and "Chinese Literature" in the near future. Rioux has been active in guest lecturing, professional development, and conferences presentation. Her most recent guest lecture entitled "SARS and Crisis Management with Chinese Characteristics" on October 18 was for Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth, and she will be presenting a paper at the NEAAS annual meeting at Wellesley. In July, Rioux attended a week-long "Advanced Study and Training Program on Pedagogy and Chinese Teaching Materials" sponsored by Hanban/Confucius Institute in China, and presented a paper *Feeling Well? Chinese Experience of Health Care in the United States* at the ENCSS 2011 Annual Meeting in New York City this past August.

Yehua Dennis Wei (University of Utah) has been busy with books, special issues, and conferences. He recently co-edited two special issues: Globalization, Innovation and Regional Development in China, *Environment and Planning A* 43(4), 781-849, 2011 (with Yu Zhou), and Foreign Direct Investment, Innovation and Regional Economic Development in China, *Erdkunde* 65(1), 3-83, 2011 (with Ingo Liefner). A Special Issue on Globalization, Industrial Restructuring, and Regional Development in China (with Ingo Liefner) will be published in *Applied Geography* 32(1), 102-184, 2012. A special issue on Globalization, Regional Development and Public Policy in Asia (with Xinyue Ye) for *Regional Science and Practice* is under review. He is currently working on a special issue on Urbanization, Land Use and Sustainable Development in China (with Xinyue Ye) for *Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment*, and an edited book on *Innovation and Regional Development in China* (with Ingo Liefner). He successfully organized an interdisciplinary, international conference on urbanization and development in China in late August at University of Utah.

Xinyue YE (Bowling Green State University) was appointed to be Associate Editor of Stochastic Environmental Research & Risk Assessment (SCI Journal). At the same time, he becomes the editorial board member of International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research and Journal of Ecosystem & Ecography. He continues to hold the position of Publication Chair of International Conference of Geoinformatics 2012 in Hong Kong, which is technically sponsored by IEEE. He is co-PI on a two-year one-million funding from Department of Energy working on economic scenario toolbox on alternative energy. He has 16 recent publications (2011) on space time analysis, regional development, economic modeling, crime analysis, geoscience, and public policy on journals such as Computers & Geosciences, International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research, Annals of Regional Science, Regional Science Policy and Practice, Applied Geography and Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency.

RECENT OR FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS BY CGSG MEMBERS

Boland A. and Zhu, J. 2012. Public participation in China's green communities: Mobilizing memories and structuring incentives, *Geoforum* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2011.07.010

Cartier, C. and T. Oakes. 2010. Vast land of borders. *China Heritage Quarterly* 24 (December), http://www.chinaheritagequarterly.org/tien-hsia.php?searchterm=024_cartier.inc&issue=024

Chan, K. W. 2011. Urban Myth, *South China Morning Post*, August 24, A13.

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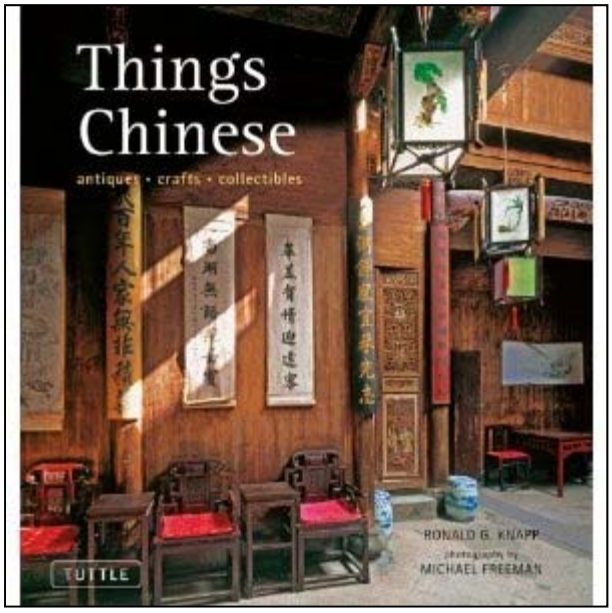
Chan, K.W. and A. Boland. In press. Cities of East Asia. In Stanley Brunn, Maureen Hays-Mitchell, and Donald Zeigler (eds.), *Cities of the World: World Regional Urban Development*, 5th ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield).

陈金永. 2011. 中国户籍制度的历史、功能及近态, 《神州交流》, 第 八 卷 第 一 期，第 33 至 41 页.

Clarke-Sather, A., J. S. Qu, Q. Wang, J.J. Zeng, and Y. Li. 2011. "Carbon Inequality at the Sub-National Scale: A Case Study of Provincial-Level Inequality in CO2 Emissions in China 1997-2007". *Energy Policy* 39 (9) pp. 5420-5428.

Hao, H. and Y.H.D. Wei. 2011. Location and Determinants of Foreign Investment in China. *Erdkunde* 65(1): 7-23.



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Klingberg, T. and T. Oakes. In press 2011. Producing exemplary consumers: tourism and leisure culture in China's nation-building project. In L. Jensen and T. Weston (eds.) *China In and Beyond the Headlines* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield).

Knapp, R. 2011. *Things Chinese: Antiques, Crafts, Collectibles* (Tuttle).

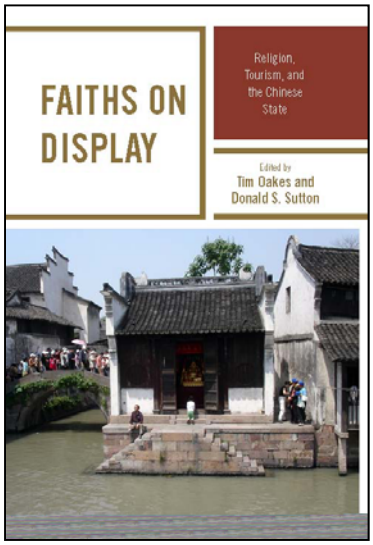
Li, P., H. Bathelt, and J. Wang. 2011. Network dynamics and cluster evolution:

changing trajectories of the aluminium extrusion industry in Dali, China. *Journal of Economic Geography* 11: doi: 10.1093/jeg/lbr024

Liefner, I. and **Y.H.D. Wei**. 2011. Geography and the Research on Contemporary China. *Erdkunde* 65(1): 3-5.

Minca, C. and **T. Oakes** (eds.). 2011. *Real Tourism: Practice, Care, and Politics in Contemporary Travel Culture* (London & New York: Routledge).

Oakes, T. In press 2011. Making an empty show of strength: media and the politics of discernment in China's place branding projects. In W. Sun and J. Chio (eds.) *Mapping Media in China: Region, Province, Locality* (London & New York: Routledge).



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Oakes, T. and D. Sutton (eds.). 2010. *Faiths on Display: Religion, Tourism, and the Chinese State* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield).

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Wuttke, C. 2011. From Industrial Enclaves to Prototypes of the Modern Chinese City. Development Zones in Guangdong. *Local Economy* 26(5): 363–372.

Zhou, Y. and Y.H.D. Wei. 2011. Globalization, Innovation, and Regional Development in China. *Environment and Planning A* 43: 781-785.

OTHER PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Philippe Forêt's *The Journey of Maps and Images on the Silk Road*, has been re-edited by Brill AP.