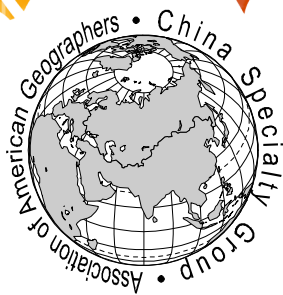


the

Fall 2012 Newsletter

中国地理学组通讯
October, 2012



AAG Meeting 2013

Call for Papers, Sessions & Panels

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China Geographers,

Thanks to all your support and hard work, CGSG sponsored 35 sessions and panels during last year's AAG Meeting in New York City. The 2013 Annual Meeting will be held at The Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles, CA, on April 9-13. We are calling for PAPERS, SESSIONS & PANELS that you are interested in presenting or organizing. The deadline for submitting abstracts to AAG is extended to **November 14, 2012**.

As always, CGSG encourages everyone to start discussing organizing sessions that are either sponsored or co-sponsored by CGSG. The organized sessions usually attract a more targeted audience. At the end of this Call for Papers, you'll find a list of possible session ideas/topics suggested by members at the 2012 Annual Meeting and through more recent e-mails.

If you are interested in joining a session on the topics listed at the end of this CFP, or if you have an idea for a session in addition to those listed below, please contact the CGSG (toakes@colorado.edu) and we will work to arrange your paper in an appropriate session.

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AAG Meeting 2013

Call For Sessions and Papers

A list of session ideas:

- Author meets critics sessions for specific books
- China's global cities
- Chinese housing development
- Green energy development in China
- China's growing role in Africa
- Environmental issues (water, land, air) and natural hazards
- China's transportation revolution
- Heritage protection and development in China
- Migration and the labor market
- Urbanization and land development
- China and critical urban theory
- China and the transformation of mainstream development
- China and natural hazards

CGSG Annual 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.
- Multiple submissions to more than one specialty groups for Student Paper Award is NOT allowed. Papers being considered by other AAG Specialty Group for student Paper Award are not qualified for the CGSG Student Paper Award.
- Participants must have submitted the abstract and appropriate program participation fee to the AAG for participation at the AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, 9-13 April 2013.

Award:

A \$250 prize will be awarded for the best paper, in addition to an award certificate and prepaid lunch at the AAG Awards Banquet. 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 soundness and creativity of the research design and methodology; the validity of conclusions; and quality of the presentation. The award will be announced at the Business Meeting of the China Geography Specialty Group in Los Angeles in April 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 **February 1, 2013**. 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 format, must reach the Chair no later than **March 1, 2013**. Questions? Please contact wei.xu@uleth.ca

Member News

Li An (San Diego State University) has just received funding (\$1.3 million) for research in Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve (FNRR), China from the NSF program "Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems" for 4 years from 2012 to 2016. This project (http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=1212183&WT.z_pims_id=13681) is entitled "CNH: Impacts of Payments for Ecosystem Services in Coupled Natural and Human Systems". The entire research team consists of researchers and students from San Diego State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (see project website <http://goldenmonkey.sdsu.edu/>). The team will investigate the interactions between payments for ecosystem services programs, golden monkey behavior and habitat dynamics, and local livelihoods using a diverse set of approaches including remote sensing, camera trapping, participatory mapping, interviews, and participatory agent-based modeling. Three doctoral students are sought in the following areas: 1) landscape ecology, remote sensing, habitat analysis; 2) GIScience and systems modeling; and 3) human geography and social demography. One MS student is sought in any one or combination of the following fields: 1) habitat modeling, 2) land cover change, 3) participatory mapping, and 4) econometric analysis. More details about these positions are available at <http://complexity.sdsu.edu/News/News.htm>.

Natacha Aveline-Dubach (CEFC, French Center for Research on Contemporary China) has published "Invisible population, the place of the dead in East Asian Cities", Lexington books, 2012. She also received a new grant from the French Research Agency on Expansion of market finance and urban development in Asia, the case of China and India. It covers 3 years of research with 290 000 Euros. Starting in January 2013.

Kam Wing Chan (University of Washington) is spending a sabbatical semester this fall at the University of Hong Kong, his alma mater. He is also using the opportunity to continue research on China's urbanization and the hukou system, and interacting with colleagues in Hong Kong. He will give talks on his research in the city. Earlier, he wrote an op-ed on hukou reform for The China Daily. His research on urbanization and China's middle class has been highlighted recently in business and economics sites, such as FT.com. Please find them at <http://faculty.washington.edu/kwchan/>.

Afton Clarke-Sather began a new position this fall as an assistant professor in the Geography Department at the University of Delaware. Congrats, Afton!

Former CGSG student representative **Jia Feng** (Michigan State University) received an NSF-DDRI grant and an AAG Dissertation Research Grant to study migrant enclaves and the environmental problems in Beijing (picture taken in October shows him sitting on top of a pile of recycled books in a recycling village run by Henan migrants).



Shenjing He (Sun Yat-Sen University) and **Guo Chen** (Michigan State University). The triple sessions on Right to the Chinese City organized by Chen and He back in the AAG meeting 2010 has now resulted in a theme issue titled "Interrogating unequal rights to the Chinese city" for *Environment and Planning A* (December 2012). This issue features an introduction and five articles by Siming Li, Lanchih Po, Junxi Qian, Shenjing He and Guo Chen. He and Chen also are co-authors of a forthcoming edited volume titled *Locating Right to the City in the Global South* published by Routledge.

Ron Knapp (SUNY New Paltz) is the author of a new book coming out this fall. The *Peranakan Chinese Home: Art and Culture in Daily Life* (Tuttle) explores Peranakan (native-born Chinese of Southeast Asia) aesthetics that are highly sought-after today for their beauty: distinctive furniture and ceramics, textiles and jewelry, and many other art objects. Peranakan Chinese Home displays these extraordinary objects, visible markers of a highly developed culture that is spread throughout Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. The *Peranakan Chinese Home* expands on subjects discussed in his 2010 book *Chinese Houses of Southeast Asia: The Architecture of Sojourners and Settlers*.

Kin Ma (Grand Valley State University Geography and Planning Department) traveled to Taiwan and South Korea to explore changes in these fast growing East Asian economies, and update knowledge for his "Geography of Asia" course. Travels included Taipei, Taichung, and Danshui in Taiwan, and Seoul, Jeju Island, and the DMZ in South Korea.

Darrin Magee, Assistant Professor of Asian Environmental Studies at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. HWS will be one of the venues participating in China Town Hall, organized by the National Committee on US-China Relations. The event will feature a live nationwide webcast by Ambassador Gary Locke, followed by a local discussion of China's energy/environment issues and their implications for US-China relations. Dr.

Magee is the local organizer of the event. Dr. Magee led second "Sustainable China" summer study abroad program for students from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, focusing on water, energy, and waste challenges and innovation in China. Dr. Magee also edited special section of *ASIANetwork Exchange: A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts* (Summer 2012) on Research and Teaching on Asian Environmental Studies in the Liberal Arts Setting. Further special sections in future issues forthcoming. Dr. Magee is selected as Public Intellectuals Program (PIP) Fellow by the National Committee on US-China Relations (2011-2013).

Xuefei Ren (Michigan State University) *Building Globalization: Transnational Architecture Production in Urban China* (2011, the University of Chicago Press) won the Best Book Award from the Political Economy of the World System Section and the Honorable Mention for Park Award of Community and Urban Sociology Section from the American Sociological Association. Congrats, Xuefei!

Yifei Sun, Professor of Geography at California State University Northridge (CSUN), visited China during the summer. He visited East China Normal University, Jilin University, Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, and Nanjing University, among others, while conducting fieldwork on his project on returnees and IC design sector in China. He was invited to give talks to personnel in the Department of Construction in Hainan Provincial on Building High-tech Industries. He was invited to give a presentation on Building Innovative Global Cities at Zhejiang University at Hangzhou. Dr. Sun is in the process of setting up a Center for US-China Business and Policy. This center will undertake joint projects with Chinese Universities in China. The center will pursue research projects, research work by US-Chinese teams, publications, faculty exchanges, faculty visits, student exchanges,

training and professional services to students, faculty, and the community. The discipline scope will be large, and will include but is not limited to strategic management, entrepreneurship, small business management, innovation, marketing, research methodology, public policy formation and implementation, urban studies and planning. Dr. Yifei Sun has also been invited by Slate/New America to speak in Washington DC (Oct. 12). He is also invited to give a presentation on Building Innovative Global Cities at the 2012 Beijing Forum (Nov. 2-4). Meanwhile, he has helped organize a session on Regional Innovation Systems for the 2012 Pujiang Innovation Forum and he will chair the session to which distinguished guests such as Dr. Philip Cooke (Professor at Cardiff University), the Deputy of mayor of City of Turin Italy and the Mayor of City of Sunnyvale (CA, USA) will join to discuss the experiences and practice of developing high-tech industries. He is also organizing a session on "Chinese Ways of Innovation" for the ISMOT conference (Nov. 8-9) hosted by Zhejiang University at Hangzhou. Dr. Sun is trying to organize a mini-conference on Industrial Innovation in China in April 9-10, 2013 in Los Angeles. Distinguished guest such Dr. William Lazonick, Dr. Denis Simon (Vice Provost, Arizona State University), Dr. Lan Xue (Dean of Public Policy Management at Tsinghua University), Professor Xielin Liu (CAS), Dr. Rongping Mu (Director of the Institute of S&T Policy and Management at CAS), among others will attend. We hope to have an interesting discussion of China's unique way of innovation in various industries such as telecom, Cell Phone, High-speed rail, Semiconductor, Machinery, Solar Energy, Wind Energy, among others. We hope such a workshop will deepen our understanding the status of industrial innovation in China.

Stanley Toops (Miami University) is a co-author of The Routledge Atlas of Central Eurasian Affairs. Besides Central Asia, the Atlas provides coverage of Tibet, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Mongolia and the Caucasus. Through maps, we profile each country or province as well as examine the history, environment, population, politics, culture, economics and future of the region. For more information or online ordering, visit www.routledge.com/9780415497527/ and enter **discount code MRJ62** at the checkout to claim your discount (20%). Offer expires 31/12/2012!

Weiping Wu (Tufts University) and **Piper Gaubatz** (UMass Amherst) have a new book to be published in October 2012 by Routledge (<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415575751/>). Titled The Chinese City, the text is anchored in the spatial sciences to offer a comprehensive survey of the evolving urban landscape in China. It is divided into four parts with 13 chapters that can be read together or as stand alone material. Part I sets the context, describing the geographical setting, China's historical urban system, and traditional urban forms. Part II covers the urban system since 1949, the rural-urban divide and migration, and interactions with the global economy. Part III outlines the specific sectors of urban development, including economic restructuring, social-spatial transformation, urban infrastructure, and urban land and housing. Finally, Part IV showcases urbanism through the lens of the urban environment, lifestyle and social change, and urban governance. This comprehensive book contains a wealth of up to date statistical information, case studies, and suggested further reading to demonstrate the diversity of urban life in China.

Certainly a prolific year for our members. Congrats to everyone!

Members' Recent or Forthcoming Publications

Journal articles

Chan, Kam Wing. Migration and Development in China: Trends, Geography and Current Issues, *Migration and Development* (forthcoming).

Chen, Guo. 2012. Housing the poor in urban China: Some empirical evidence from Nanjing. *Cities*, 29(4): 252-263.

Chen, Guo. 2012. State rescaling, contested space, and inequality in the globalizing city-regions of China: Conceptual issues and empirical evidence. *Urban Izziv-Urban Challenge*, 23(supplement 2/special issue): 137-149.

Feng, Zhixin, **Wang, Wenfei Winnie**, Jones, Kelvin, Li, Yaqing. 2012. An Exploratory Multilevel Analysis of Income, Income Inequality and Self-rated Health of the Elderly in China, *Social Science & Medicine*, doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.09.028.

Huang, Youqin. 2012. Low-income Housing in Chinese Cities: Policies and Practices, *The China Quarterly*, 212.

Li, Peng-Fei. Horizontal versus Vertical Learning: Divergence and Diversification of Lead Firms in the Hangji Toothbrush Cluster, China, *Regional Studies*, DOI:10.1080/00343404.2012.709610 (<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00343404.2012.709610>)

Ren, Xuefei. 2012. "Green" as Spectacle in China, *Journal of International Affairs*, SIPA (School of International and Public Affairs), Columbia University, Issue 65, Spring/Summer, p.19-30.

Ren, Xuefei and Meng Sun. 2012. Artistic Urbanization: Creative Industries and Creative Control in Beijing, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, vo.36, no.3, p.504-521.

Su, Xiaobo, 2012. Transnational regionalization and the rescaling of the Chinese state, *Environment and Planning A*, 44: 1327-1347.

Su, Xiaobo, 2012. Rescaling the Chinese state and regionalization in the Greater Mekong Subregion, *Review of International Political Economy*, 19(3): 501-527.

Journal Special Issues

- "Interrogating Unequal Rights to the Chinese City," edited by **Shenjing He** and **Guo Chen**, *Environment and Planning A*, December 2012.

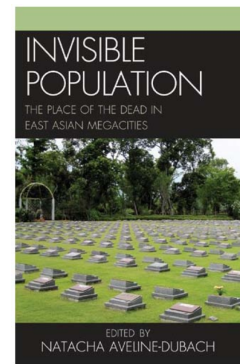
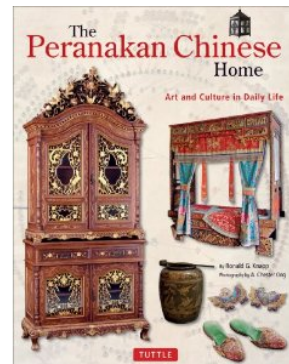
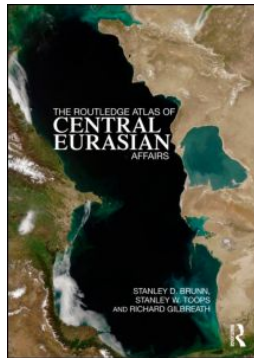
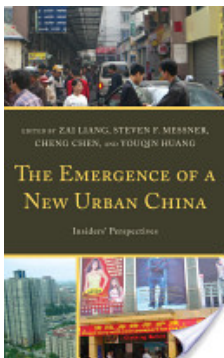
-**He, Shengjing** and **Guo Chen**. "Interrogating Unequal Rights to the Chinese City"

-**Qian, Junxi** and **Shenjing He**. "Rethinking social power and the right to the city"

- He, Shenjing**. “Two waves of gentrification and emerging rights issues in Guangzhou, China” (Shenjing He)
- Li, Si-ming**. “Housing Inequalities under Market Deepening: The Case of Guangzhou, China”
- Po, Lanchih**. -“Footing the Bill: Public Finance Deprivation in China's Urban Villages”
- Chen, Guo**. “Structural Evaluation of Institutional Bias in China’s Urban Housing: The Case of Guangzhou”

- “The Creative Underclass: Culture, Subculture and Urban Renewal,” co-edited by George Morgan and **Xuefei Ren**, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, vo.34, no.2.

Books



Natacha Aveline-Dubach et al. (eds.), 2012. *Invisible population, the place of the dead in East Asian Cities*. Lexington books.

Brunn, Stanley D., Toops, Stanley W., and Richard Gilbreath, 2012. *The Routledge Atlas of Central Eurasian Affairs*. Routledge.

Knapp, Ronald, 2013. *The Peranakan Chinese Home: Art and Culture in Daily Life*. Tuttle.

Liang, Zai, Messner, Steve, Chen, Cheng and Youqin Huang (eds.), 2012. *The Emergence of a New Urban China: Insiders' Perspectives*. New York: Lexington Books.

Wu, Weiping and Piper Gaubatz, 2012. *The Chinese City*. Routledge.

Samara, Tony, He, Shenjing and Guo Chen (eds.), 2013. *Locating Right to the City in the Global South: Transnational Urban Governance and Socio-spatial Transformations*. Routledge.

Not Quite There Yet

Chasing China's middle class shoppers has been American business' "China dream" for decades. In a recent Wall Street Journal article titled "Chasing China's Shoppers" (June 15, 2012, B1), the journalists attributed the lack of success of some American businesses in China to their misjudgment of its middle-class shoppers' preferences. For example, in explaining the closures of the Barbie stores in China, the authors said, "Chinese parents wanted their girls to model themselves after studious children, not flirts." While the accuracy of that remark is debatable, the authors have committed a more vital error by using estimates that overstate the size of China's middle class. The figures they cited, provided by Brookings Institution economist Homi Kharas, claim that the size of China's middle class is about 247 million today and that it will rise to 607 million by 2020. The numbers look dubious and quite implausible, especially the one for 2020 (a jump of 360 million in eight years?).

A closer examination would reveal that China's "middle class" is actually much poorer than the writers suggest. The median urban household income (\$13,400 in 2010) is only one quarter the comparable US figure; besides, the overall spending power of China's middle class is also just about a mere one quarter of the US's (and this is despite that the US middle class is smaller than 247 million). In broad terms, that \$13,400 median household income (even adding another 30% hidden "gray incomes") suggests nothing close to a typical middle-class family's purchasing power (note too that this sum lies well below the US poverty line, which is \$23,000 for a family of four).

An income at this level could not really support a middle-class lifestyle, unless major-emblem items consumed by this group, such as apartments, cars, electronic gadgets, and P&G products (and add in real Barbie dolls) – were woefully cheaper in China than in the US. But

we know that those items of the same quality (not fakes) are seldom cheaper in China today. This means that a significant portion of the 247 million alleged "middle class" in China does not qualify as members of that stratum, as it is understood in America. They may have the name – whatever you'd like to call them – but many are still far from sporting middle-class consuming power and living like middle class.

Contributing authors: Kam Wing Chan (University of Washington) and Dorothy Solinger (University of California, Irvine)

For Kam Wing's recent commentaries, please visit <http://faculty.washington.edu/kwchan/>



This section for the CGSG Newsletter features commentary by CGSG members. The views expressed here are those of individual members and do not necessarily reflect those of the Specialty Group as a whole, or of the Specialty Group leadership. We welcome your comments and reactions to this section, and suggest using the group listserv for posting follow-up comments (cgsg-l@uleth.ca). We hope that this forum will spur conversations among members on issues relevant to China, geography, and scholarship more generally. Submissions, or ideas for submissions, for the Spring 2013 Newsletter may be sent Guo Chen (guochen@msu.edu).

Forthcoming conferences and meetings

- **International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China 13-14 December 2012**, Hong Kong, <http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~curs/2012conference/index.html>.
- The Department of Geography, University of Oregon, is organizing a conference titled “**China and the Restructuring of International Political Economy.**” We plan to invite prestigious economic and political geographers, as well as established scholars in political science, international relations, history, and other related disciplines, to share their knowledge of the implications of a rising China for international political economy. We encourage submissions that engage with the following themes:
 - China’s transnational regionalization;
 - The geographical expansion of Renminbi and Chinese labor;
 - Theorizing China’s rise and its influence;
 - Chinese culture and its global spread;
 - Foreign relations (conflicts and collaboration) between China and other countries;
 - China’s overseas aid programs;
 - China, sustainability, and global environmental change;
 - China’s changing geopolitical role in international political economy;
 - Supranational organizations and China

Conference sessions will take place from **14 to 15 April 2013** on the campus of the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. The conference will consist of keynote addresses, paper presentation, and general discussion.

Presentation proposals should be 250 words long. Please send your submission to xiaobo@uoregon.edu by 31 December 2012. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out in late-January, 2013. There is no registration fee for the conference. Limited funding will be made available to presenters. For additional information about the conference, please contact Xiaobo Su (xiaobo@uoregon.edu).

- **Emerging Landscapes and Frontiers in Tourism Research**

20-22 September 2013, Kanas National Park, Xinjiang A.R., China

<http://www.geog.nau.edu/igutc/china2013/>

This conference is being organized by Alan A. Lew (Northern Arizona University) and Bao Jigang (Sun Yatsen University). Please contact alan.lew@nau.edu.

Our website and timeline

Past newsletters and the timeline can be found on our [website](#).

THE CHINA GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP TIMELINE can be downloaded [here](#).

The Timeline presents a record of the activities that CGSG initiated and the contributions that members have made in promoting the study of China geography since the group's inception. We thank those of our members who have provided us with valuable information for the Timeline. There are still many gaps in the record, and so we hope members will continue to send us information from the past, as well as keep us updated on recent achievements and contributions.

We look forward to seeing everyone in LA next year!

CGSG Officers 2012-2013

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Guo Chen

Fall 2012