

China Geography Special Group, AAG Fall 2015 Newsletter

中国地理学组通讯

October, 2015

Editor: Xiaobo Su, Department of Geography, University of Oregon

Chair's Letter

Dear China Geography Specialty Group Members and Friends.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the AAG annual meeting in Chicago in April, either at sessions or at our Specialty Group banquet held at the downtown Lao Szechuan restaurant. I would like to express my thanks to our out-going Chair, Guo Chen, for her hard work organizing the two China Specialty Group Plenary Sessions with urban geographer David Ley and historian Kenneth Pomeranz. I am honored to be your Chair for the forthcoming year. We welcome Xiaobo Su (new Secretary and Newsletter Editor) and Ding Fei (new Student Representative) to the Executive Team. The Group's new web site (<http://cgsg.geo.msu.edu/AAG-CGSG/Home.html>) has been developed by Guo Chen and Xinyue Ye, and is maintained by Xinyue Ye, for which we are very grateful.

Our Group appears to be in good shape. We had 266 regular members and 88 student members in 2015. We have \$2,233 in the kitty, which will be used for Student Awards and an honorarium for our Keynote Speaker next year. On that note, I hope you are preparing your papers and sessions for the AAG meeting in San Francisco (29 March to 2 April, 2016). Vice-Chair Enru Wang will be in charge of arranging Sessions sponsored by our Group for the San Francisco Conference, so please send your proposed Call for Sessions to both myself and Enru to obtain our Study Group sponsorship – then you can advertise the proposed Session on our web site and also our China Geography Listserv (cgsg-l@uleth.ca).

We will be making Student Awards and an Outstanding Service Award at the San Francisco Meeting, and further details are set out in this Newsletter.

Together with the Geographies of Religion and Belief Systems we are planning a Keynote Talk by Professor Fenggang Wang, Purdue University, a geography of religion in China specialist. We are also planning a Study Group Field Trip of the San Francisco Chinatown led by Justin Tse.



Chair
David Edgington



Vice Chair
Enru Wang



Secretary
Xiaobo Su

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Information on the Specialty Group's inaugural Poster/Illustrated Paper session for students and details on how to be involved follows later in this Newsletter – please encourage your students to join this session.

Wishing you all a successful Fall teaching term.

David W. Edgington
CGSG Chair

CGSG Annual Student Paper Awards

The China Geography Specialty Group sponsors an annual award to recognize excellent student research and paper presentation in a CGSG-sponsored session at the annual AAG conference in San Francisco, 29 March - April 2, 2016.

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 submission 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 San Francisco, March 29 to April 2, 2016.

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 San Francisco in March 2016, 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 January 1st, 2016. 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 February 1st, 2016.

Please send your submission and questions to the CGSG chair at David.Edgington@ubc.ca.

Inaugural China Geography Specialty Group (CGSG) Illustrated Paper (Poster) Session on Research in China

Organizers:

David W. Edgington, Professor, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia,
david.edgington@ubc.ca (CGSG Chair)

Ms. Ding Fei, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota, feixx017@umn.edu (CGSG Student Rep.)

We invite *undergraduate students and graduate students* to present their research on China to the AAG meeting in San Francisco in March 2016 in the form of an illustrated paper (poster). This could be taken from:

- recently completed research or class reports
- recent field work in China
- posters on research methodology as long as it relates to China are also welcome.

What is an Illustrated Paper Session? An 'illustrated paper' is a short (3- to 5-minute) oral summary of a poster that sets out a particular problem, data, method, and findings, followed by a one-on-one or small group discussion with interested listeners at the poster.

The summaries each poster (8 to 12 in this session) will be given by all presenters at the beginning before participants and the audience disperse to the poster boards around the room. Presenters will post their posters (illustrations and other relevant materials) on a 4' x 8' poster board supplied by the AAG.

Prize. A \$100 prize and certificate will be given to the participant judged as having the 'best poster', e.g. an engaging topic, eye-catching and clear layout, presenter willing to answer questions and so on.

Instructions will be given to you in advance of the session beginning on where (i.e. Room name) and when you can post your poster.

So:

3- to 5-minute oral presentation followed by discussion at individual posters

8 to 12 presentations per session

AV consists of 4' x 8' poster boards only.

Submission Procedure: Please submit your participation/registration fee and abstract online through the AAG's website (www.aag.org). We would appreciate if you would send us a copy of your Title and Abstract to both of us as soon as possible, and your PIN by October 25, 2015, so as to provide some time to finalize this session.

If you have any questions, please contact the organizers:

David W. Edgington, david.edgington@ubc.ca (CGSG Chair)

Ding Fei, feixx017@umn.edu (CGSG Student Representative).

Announcements

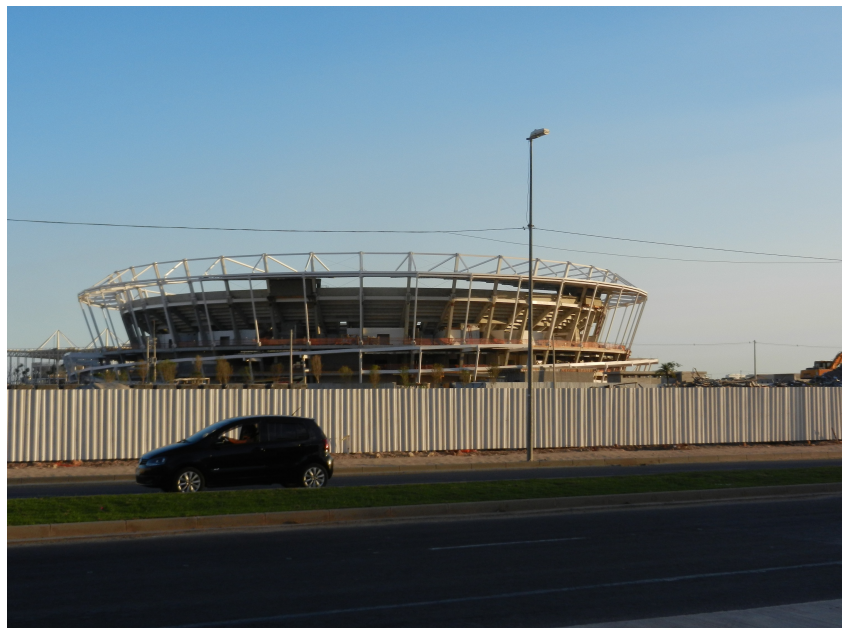
- **Student Awards in the AAG annual conference in 2015, Chicago**

The Student Paper Award went to: Ding Fei, Department of Geography, Environment, and Society, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities - for her paper entitled “Comparative Labor Experiences with “China in Africa”: Evidence from Zhongxing Telecommunication Equipment and Lifan Group in Ethiopia”. Her advisor was Abdi Samatar at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Student travel awards went to (a) Yang, Xin, College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University - for his/her paper entitled “Trans-boundary Pollution in China: Do Polluting Plants Locate in the Borders of Jurisdictions?” His/her advisor was Canfei He; and (b) Lucas Reyes, Undergraduate student from Humboldt State University, Department of Geography - for his paper entitled “The Dawn of the Greenhouse on Rural Tibetan Landscapes”. His major advisor was Stephen Cuhna and project advisors were Tony Rossi and Matthew Derrick.

- The Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change of the International Geographical Union will hold a Pre-IGU Congress Meeting in Nanjing on August 17-20, 2016. More information will be available soon at: <http://www.igutourism.org/china2016.html>
- International Conference on Urbanization and Land Development in China's Interior and Frontier Regions
 - Date:** Dec 14-15, 2015
 - Venue:** David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University
 - Organizers:** David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI), Hong Kong Baptist University
 - Registration:** Registration fee*: USD 150 (The fee includes coffee breaks, a reception, a lunch and a conference dinner.)
 - Deadline for registration: December 7, 2015

Olympic Village under construction in the area of Barra de Tijuca in Rio. The choice of the Olympic site has been criticized as it benefits mostly the middle-class neighborhood of Barra and neglecting the rest of the city. Photo by Xuefei Ren



Member News

Werner Breitung has this summer organised another summer school on "Transformation of Urban Landscapes", which took place in two sessions in Germany and China. Like last year, this was a collaboration of Tongji University, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University Suzhou and the University of Bochum. For next year, he collaborates with Nanjing University to hold the IGU Tourism Geography Commission meeting in Suzhou and Nanjing (13-18 August 2016). He will also guide an excursion to Suzhou for the participants of the IGU Urban Geography Commission meeting in Shanghai before the start of the International Geographical Congress in Beijing. As a further outcome of Werner's 7-years German Science Foundation (DFG) project on "Border-drawing and differentiated governance in the Pearl River Delta", his student Liao Kaihuai has submitted a PhD thesis on Urban Borderlands in Panyu (suburban Guangzhou) to the University of Kiel in Germany.

Kam Wing Chan (Professor, Geography, U of Washington) continues his annual routine of visiting universities and cities in Asia and giving lectures in September and October in recent years. His current work includes working on a book in Chinese on those topics. He also participated as one of two China consultants in Ford Foundation's Strategic Planning for Asia. Last November he also gave a lecture at the University of Toronto after receiving the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Geography and Program in Planning. Recently he also co-edited two special issues on mobilities and community change in China for *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. Please visit his site at <http://faculty.washington.edu/kwchan/>.

Cindy Fan (UCLA) gave a keynote at the 10th Annual Collegiate Model United Nations Conference and will give another keynote at the University of Utah. Her paper on migration and remittances in China has been published in an edited volume on the changing family in Asia, and she has a paper on household-splitting forthcoming in *Trialog*. In her role as Vice Provost for International Studies and Global Engagement, she has created UCLA Global Forums in Asia and Europe and has traveled to East Asia, Central Europe, the Middle East, and New Zealand to strengthen the university's global partnerships.

Rudi Hartmann (University of Colorado, Denver) organized a panel session "A Comparative Geography of China and the U.S." at the 100th Annual Meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education, in Washington, D.C., August 9, 2015. The presentations were based on the joint work for *A Comparative Geography of China and the U.S.* (volume published by Springer Press 2014, with Jing'ai Wang, Beijing Normal University, and Rudi Hartmann, University of Colorado Denver, serving as editors).

Alan A. Lew (Northern Arizona University) *Tourism Geographies*, vol 16, #5 (2014) was a special issue on Tourism Geography Research in China. contents can be found here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rtxg20/16/5>. If you need access to any of these articles, please contact Alan Lew (alan.lew@nau.edu), the editor-in-chief of *Tourism Geographies*.

Thomas Narins (University at Albany) finished his dissertation titled *The Lure of Chinese State Capitalism in Latin America: Influence, Investments and Imports*" (UCLA Department of Geography, Winter 2015). Recently, he joins the Department of Geography & Planning, University at Albany, as an assistant professor.

Member News (continuing...)

Tim Oakes (University of Colorado at Boulder) This past spring, as Director of the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, I organized a two-day symposium on "Mediating Asia" which featured a gathering of international scholars and media practitioners exploring the rise of Asian-based media industries. The Center's theme for the 2015-16 academic year is "Transcultural Asia," featuring a year of interdisciplinary explorations of historical and contemporary transcultural processes within Asia (see <http://cas.colorado.edu/content/2015-2016-transcultural-asia>). I have also been collaborating with Jun Wang, of City University of Hong Kong, on the project "Making Cultural Cities in Asia." We have an edited volume in press, co-edited with Colorado Geography PhD candidate Yang Yang (Wang, J., T. Oakes, and Y. Yang (eds.). 2016. Making Cultural Cities in Asia: Mobility, Assemblage, and the Politics of Aspirational Urbanism (London & New York: Routledge). See <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138848726>). We also organized a workshop at City University in Hong Kong in June: "Making Cultural Cities: A Dialogue Between China and the World." We're working toward organizing the papers from this workshop into one or two journal special issues. In August, I presented a critical review of the state of the field in Chinese ethnic tourism studies for a workshop (also at City University of Hong Kong) on minorities in China. This review will appear in the the forthcoming (2016) volume edited by Zang Xiaowei: Handbook on Minorities in China (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar). I also co-edited a special issue of the journal Tourist Studies on volunteer tourism (Sin, H.L, T. Oakes, and M. Mostafanezhad. 2015. Traveling for a cause: critical examinations of volunteer tourism and social justice. Tourist Studies 15(2)).

Xuefei Ren (Michigan State University) conducted a seminar at the Ford Foundation and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in August 2015, on urbanization, housing, and governance in mega-cities in China, India and Brazil. She spent two weeks travelling in Sao Paulo, Brasilia, and Rio de Janeiro and met with local researchers in urban planning and public policy. She is interested in extending her comparative work on China and India to Brazil, focusing on informal settlements, legacies of mega-events, and consequences of state capacity in urban public policies in the BRICs countries.

Port Maravilla, a major redevelopment project to regenerate the port area in downtown Rio de Janeiro, as part of the Olympics master plan.
Photo by Xuefei Ren



Member News (continuing...)

Yu (Aloe) Luo Rioux (University of Massachusetts Lowell) has recently published her translated volume (from Chinese) *A Cultural History of Classical Chinese Gardens*. New York: SCPG Publishing Corporation; Shanghai: Shanghai Century Publishing Group, 2015. Rioux is invited again to guest lecture on “SARS and Crisis Management with Chinese Characteristics” in the upcoming October for Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College.

Greg Veeck (Western Michigan University) works with other colleagues to publish the third edition of *China's Geography* (G. Veeck, C.W. Pannell, Y.Q. Huang and S.M. Bao), which will be available in Spring of 2016, hopefully in time for the AAG annual meeting. There are three new chapters and the entire book has been significantly revised in response to reviews and critiques of the second edition. There will be over 150 color figures, tables and photographs. All graphics are available to text adopters in color power point. We are working on having a supporting website developed by Shuming Bao and Greg Veeck.

Yehua Dennis Wei (University of Utah) edited a special issue on spatial inequality in *Applied Geography* 61: 1-116. He is editing a special issue on spatial inequality in Asia in *Geographical Review* and a special issue on urban land and sustainable development in *Sustainability*.

Stephen S. Young (Salem State University) has been since 2010 working on a Long-term Chinese Academy of Sciences research project into deforestation in China and China's ability to decrease the rate of deforestation through Nature Reserves and regulations. Our findings are being published in *Conservation Biology*. Although deforestation continues in China, especially in important natural forests in southern China, the good news of the research is that the rate of deforestation has been declining as more areas have been set aside as reserves and forest regulations have been better enforced. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cobi.12561/abstract>

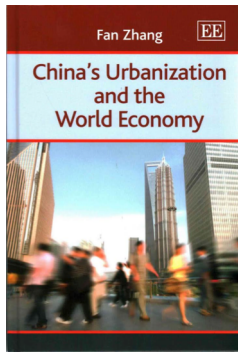


Complex of Alemão, the largest cluster of favelas in Rio and also the headquarter of UPP—a security taskforce set up to contain drug traffickers for the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics. Photo by Xuefei Ren

Members Recent or Forthcoming Publications

- Chan, Kam Wing, 2015 (in press). "Five Decades of the Chinese Hukou System," in Robyn R. Iredale and Fei Guo (eds.), *Handbook On Chinese Migration, Identity and Wellbeing*, Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd, Cheltenham, UK.
- Chan, Kam Wing (in press). "China's Hukou Reform and New Urbanization Blueprint," in Francois Gipouloux (ed.) *China's Urban Century*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK.
- Li, Si-Ming, Kam Wing Chan and Shenjing He, 2015. "Migration, Mobility, and Community Change in Chinese Cities," *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, Vol.55, no.4, pp.307-312.
- Forstall, Richard L., and Kam Wing Chan, 2015. "Urban Places: Statistical Definitions," in *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd edition, Vol. 24. Oxford: Elsevier. pp. 854–861.
- Wang, Fang and Kam Wing Chan, 2014. "Beijing 'daduhuiqu' de jieding yu tantao" (Discussion on the delimitation of Beijing Metropolitan Area), *Zhongguo kexue (Population Science of China)*. No.3, pp.43-52.
- Feng D., W. Breitung & Zhu H. (2015): Creating and defending concepts of home in suburban Guangzhou. *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 55, no. 4, pp. 381-403.
- Flock, R. & W. Breitung (2015): Migrant street vendors in urban China and the social creation of public space. *Population, Space and Place* (published online first, DOI: 10.1002/psp.1892).
- Gao, J.L. (2015) Urban Land Expansion and Structural Change in the Yangtze River Delta, China. *Sustainability* 7(8): 10281-10307.
- Wei, Y.H.D. (2015) Spatiality of Regional Inequality. *Applied Geography* 61: 1-10.
- Liao, F.H. and Y.H.D. Wei. (2015) Space, Scale, and Regional Inequality in Provincial China. *Applied Geography* 61: 94-104.
- Wei, Y.H.D. (2015) Zone Fever, Project Fever: Development Policy, Economic Transition, and Urban Expansion in China. *Geographical Review* 105(2): 156-177.
- Wei, Y.H.D. (2015) Network Linkages and Local Embeddedness of Foreign Ventures in China. *Regional Studies* 49(2): 287-299.
- Li, D.D., Y.H.D. Wei, T. Wang. (2015) Spatial and Temporal Evolution of Urban Innovation Network in China. *Habitat International* 49: 484-496.
- Wang, Z.Y., Y.Q. Cheng, X.Y. Ye and Y.H.D. Wei. (2015) Analyzing the Space-time Dynamics of Innovation in China: ESDA and Spatial Panel Approaches. *Growth and Change* 46(1): 133-149.
- Huang, Z., Y.H.D. Wei, C. He and H. Li. (2015) Urban Land Expansion under Economic Transition in China: A Multi-level Modeling Analysis. *Habitat International* 47: 69-82.
- Li, H., Y.H.D. Wei, F.H. Liao and Z. Huang. (2015) Administrative Hierarchy and Urban Land Expansion in Transitional China. *Applied Geography* 56: 177-186.
- Su, Xiaobo (2015) Nontraditional Security and China's Transnational Narcotics Control in Northern Laos and Myanmar, *Political Geography*, 48: 72-82.
- Narins, T.P. (2015). 'Dynamics of the Russia-China Forest Products Trade,' *Growth & Change*. DOI: 10.1111/grow.12108
- Yaoyang Yan (2014) *Spatial Modeling of Sediment Quality in Lake Okeechobee, Florida: Optimal Approaches to Map Spatial-temporal Changes*. Scholars' Press, 232 pages. ISBN-13: 978-3639705218
- Yaoyang Yan, R. Thomas James, Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm & Walter Tang. (2014). Geographically weighted spatial modelling of sediment quality in Lake Okeechobee, Florida, *GIScience & Remote Sensing*, 51:4, 366-389

Book Review



CHINA'S URBANIZATION AND THE WORLD ECONOMY. *By Fan Zhang, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2014. xi, 256 pp. £75.00, hardback. ISBN 978-1-781000-187-5*

This book argues that Chinese urbanization will be important for China's future development and will change the way the world economy functions in the future. With this overarching premise, economist Fan Zhang then seeks to engage the reader by asking how Chinese urbanization became so important. Throughout the book Zhang contends that the continued process of Chinese urbanization is essential in continuing China's economic development. China is following a two-stage development trajectory: 1) overseas market oriented, and 2) domestic market oriented, and the urbanization of China's population acts as the bridge between the two stages and the foundation of a national Chinese domestic market. The book is organized into three main parts. Part I focuses on urbanization within China, Part II focuses on the impact that this urbanization on the world economy, and Part III – perhaps the most creative and enlightening part of the book – discusses the policy options at the disposal of China's leaders in Beijing.

Several grand narratives and themes emerge from this book. First, Zhang makes a convincing argument that it was the Chinese government's price fixing policies that artificially lowered the price of agricultural products that led to the inequality in wages between Chinese people living in the countryside and those living in urban areas. This form of economic inequality has been one of the main driving factors leading to Chinese rural to urban migration and has been one of the major causes of social tension in China. Also, regional inequality, particularly the differences in standards of living between those Chinese living in the Eastern versus Western parts of the country, continues to be a major socio-economic challenge in China. As is the case for rural to urban migration, the impetus for East-West inequality also lies in earlier government decisions to invest in the urban and industrial structures of cities on the east coast of China. Also, according to Zhang, a successful future Chinese urbanization involves a complex mix of reforming: the residential system (*Hukou*), urban and rural land ownership, the financial relationship between local and central government (p. 212).

Finally, the author makes a conscious effort to attract and draw in an Anglo-European/Western audience by drawing parallels and comparisons between Chinese internal migration and that of the 'great migration' from Europe to the New World in the nineteenth century. He also states "[t]he scale and importance of the urbanization to China is just like the liberation of slaves in North America in the nineteenth century" (p. 212). While the last comparison may be fiercely debated among Fang's American readers, it appears that the placement of such comparisons between the two histories, at the beginning and end of the book, represents a conscious effort to draw in English readers. He allows the reader to draw from this study of Chinese urbanization an understanding and context with which to situate a theme that may not be immediate relatable to an American or European audience. It is clear that Zhang is a gifted thinker and researcher. His breadth of knowledge and access to information about urbanization and how the Chinese government is thinking is impressive.

Reviewed by Tom Narins, *Department of Geography and Planning, University at Albany-SUNY*

Our Website and Listserv

Past newsletters, CGSG timeline and some other information can be found on our website (<http://cgsg.geo.msu.edu/AAG-CGSG/Home.html>)

Please consider subscribing to the CGSG mailing list:

<http://listserv.uleth.ca/mailman/listinfo/cgsg-1>.

AAG Knowledge Communities - China:

<http://community.aag.org/AAG/Communities/ViewCommunities/GroupDetails/?CommunityKey=41360cc8-d0dc-4e17-9dd2-df94bc859fd2>

CGSG Officers 2014-2015

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