

China Geography Special Group, AAG Spring 2021 Newsletter

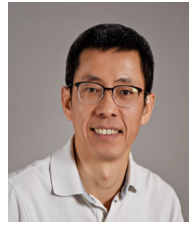
中国地理学组通讯

August 15, 2021

Editor: Anthony Howell, Arizona State University



Vice Chair
Jiang Xu



Vice Chair
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Secretary
Anthony Howell

Chair's Letter

Dear China Specialty Group Members and Friends,

Happy fall 2021 everyone! I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy as COVID-19 continues to ravage many parts of the world. I also hope this latest issue will bring back fond memories of the AAG 2021 Annual Meeting and serve as a reminder that the AAG 2022 Annual Meeting in New York City is right around the corner.

Speaking of New York, more details on the conference will be out soon on the AAG's website, although I suspect that the annual meeting will likely consist of a hybrid of in-person and virtual sessions. Colleagues outside the US are probably yet to decide whether to attend in-person, while colleagues in the US may have already started thinking about travel plans. One colleague told me that New York and Chicago have now completely opened up as a result of the nationwide drive to vaccinate, something that bodes well for the upcoming conference. Should the situation allow for it, I'm sure that attending the conference in person will be a refreshing experience for many of our US colleagues who have been deprived of face-to-face interaction for so long. In Hong Kong, the city where I live, the vaccination rate has been picking up recently. However, we are still bound by international travel restrictions—a reminder perhaps that we are most certainly not out of the woods yet.

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Chair's Letter, continued

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your contributions to CGSG, and more generally to the teaching and research of China geography. I'm honoured and excited to serve as CGSG Chair. I'm grateful to Professor Shenjing He, current past Chair, and other past Chairs and directorate members for their support and wisdom as I step into this role. Today we are facing a variety of uncertain situations, especially those induced by the pandemic. Our voice is essential when it comes to navigating these complex issues, both within the academic community and in policymaking. As Chair, I look forward to working with you all to strengthen CGSG and continue our important contribution to the field of geography. With these ideas in mind, and taking into account feedback from the 2021 Annual Business Meeting, here are a few goals we can work on together:

- **Increasing our visibility:** The Board will organize CGSG Plenary Session(s) and lecture(s) for the upcoming AAG Annual Meeting in New York. If you are organizing a session or panel related to China, please consider seeking sponsorship from the China Specialty Group. This will also help members stay connected with the group and beyond.
- **Strengthening our connection with students:** The Board will continue to organize activities such as the best student paper award and student travel awards. All students are encouraged to apply. For details and submission deadlines, please check the information included in this issue. Announcements will also be sent through the AAG Knowledge Community and the China Geography ListServe. Faculty colleagues, please encourage your students to participate.
- **Potentially forming a nomination committee:** some have floated the idea of forming a nomination committee that will propose candidates to stand for election. The Board has two points to make regarding this matter. Firstly, the nomination committee, if formed, would assist the Board in nominating candidates and organizing the election for new board members. The Board will endorse the nominees and final elected members. Secondly, in light of the AAG's emphasis on equity and inclusiveness, it would be beneficial if this committee were not composed exclusively of former Chairs but also included regular members of the CGSG who have not served on the Board before. These are just initial thoughts; if you have any ideas or suggestions, please write to me via jiangxu@cuhk.edu.hk.

On behalf of the CGSG's executive committee (myself, Jun Zhang, Anthony Howell, and Jiang Chang), I would like to wish everyone a healthy and productive season. I look forward to working with all of you for the benefit of our wonderful group and the field of China geography. Throughout my time as Chair, please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or comments. I hope to see all of you from February 25th to March 1st at the AAG 2022 Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,



Jiang Xu

CGSG Annual Student Paper Awards

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 group for a Student Paper Award is NOT allowed. Papers being considered by other AAG specialty groups for a 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 2022 NYC (Friday, Feb. 25 - Tuesday, March 1)

Award:

- A \$300 prize will be awarded for the best paper, in addition to an award certificate and prepaid lunch at the AAG Awards Banquet if any.
- Two Travel Awards of \$150 each will go to the First and Second Runner-up if they can attend the in-person meeting.
- A committee of faculty from the China 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 CGSG in NYC in February 2022), 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 (jiangxu@cuhk.edu.hk) by **November 1, 2021**.
- Please include author's name, academic level (undergraduate, master's, or doctoral), academic institution, department or program, current address, phone number, and email.
- An electronic version of the paper, in Word format, must reach the Chair no later than **January 17, 2022 (Monday)**.

Call for papers from Asian Geographer

Asian Geographer (<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rage20/current>) is an international peer-reviewed journal disseminating knowledge about geographical problems and issues with a focus on Asia and the Pacific Rim. The journal would like to invite CGSG members to submit their works. Contributions may address any field of physical or human geographical inquiries and methodologies. Works based on other regions are also welcomed if they can demonstrate a linkage to Asia and the Pacific Rim. Priority is given to contributions which move beyond the profiling of specific geographical sites to promote a wider theoretical and conceptual understanding. Contributions are welcomed in the form of full-length original research articles, review papers and critical commentaries (max. 8,000 words), as well as shorter reports on latest fieldwork findings for the section “Asian Geography in Brief” (max. 4,000 words). The journal also welcomes proposals for special issues throughout the year. Proposals may be directed to Editor-in-Chief, Professor Jiang Xu, at jiangxu@cuhk.edu.hk.

Published twice a year by Routledge, Asian Geographer is indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and Scopus. The issue of *Asian Geographer* in August 2021 will feature a special issue on “Northeast Asia in Regional Perspective”, guest-edited by three geopolitics specialists: Professor Alexander C. Diener from The University of Kansas, Dr. Andrew Grant from Boston College, and Dr. Mia M. Bennett from The University of Hong Kong. As a region which – in its most expansive sense – includes Russia, the Koreas, China, Japan, Mongolia, and even maritime border zones in the Asia-Pacific and Arctic, Northeast Asia has been, and is continuing to be, an important site of regional integration and global connectivity. As the guest editors highlighted in their forthcoming editorial, the special issue unpacks “the complex and often competing visions of Northeast Asia’s spatial extent and coherence as a conceptual region, demonstrating how it has shifted over time and continues to shift today.” Please visit Asian Geographer’s website for articles in this special issue.

CGSG Member News

Cindy Fan (UCLA) gave a keynote at the GenUrb-China Network and an invited talk at the University of Hong Kong on migration and left-behind women in China. She also gave an invited talk at the UCLA Going Global Student Conference and presented in the “Webinars as a Tool of Global Learning” session at the NAFSA (Association of International Educators) 2021 Annual Conference & Expo. She has moderated talks by former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon; founder of Squirrel AI Learning Derek Li; and Pulitzer Prize winner Jared Diamond; and the inaugural Fireside Chat with Women Presidents and Vice Presidents for the Association of Pacific Rim Universities.

Kean Fan Lim (Newcastle University): A roundtable discussion on Dr. Lim’s book, “On Shifting Foundations: State Rescaling, Policy Experimentation and Economic Restructuring in Post-1949 China,” was recently published in *Urban Studies*. This second roundtable follows a successful first symposium involving John Agnew, Kevin Cox, Xiaobo Su and Chun Yang in *Political Geography*. Readers may find it helpful to read the recent discussion in *Urban Studies* in tandem with the discussion in *Political Geography*.

Ron Knapp (SUNY New Paltz), like so many US-based geographers, has not been able to travel to China for field work since late 2019. As a result, he pivoted to completing what he calls "my pandemic project," finishing up a local study of covered bridges that had languished for too long. "In Search of America's Covered Bridges" was just published June 2021 in the international journal *Built Heritage* <https://rdcu.be/cnm7j> Using archival materials that had not surfaced before, he was able to push back the commonly accepted dates of three covered bridges in New Paltz from the generally accepted dates circa 1850 to specific years in the 1820s. In addition, combining interests in comparative history, nearly every other month he has an opportunity to give a lecture titled "The Great Covered Bridges of China and the United States" via zoom or live at various regional venues. On September 25, he is scheduled for a zoom lecture "China's Great Covered Bridges" for the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland, Oregon.

Jiang Xu (CUHK) received a Hong Kong Research Grants Council grant to carry out a research project entitled “Big data for big land grab? A discursive-material nexus analysis of big data-themed land development in China’s inland Data Valley”. The project is situated in a context of rising concern on how big data and new information technologies are reshaping Chinese societies. It will address a research question to answer how big data turn, as both material technologies and abstract ideas, has played a vital role in developing, governing and envisioning land development in Guizhou, China’s most prestigious big data valley. Jiang is also leading an interdisciplinary team to investigate the emerging industries in the Greater Bay Area in South China. If colleagues are interested in collaborating with Jiang, please write to her directly via jiangxu@cuhk.edu.hk.

Fulong Wu (UCL) gave the Urban Geography Public Lecture in 2021 at the Annual Meeting of AAG. That lecture is published in the journal of *Urban Geography*.

CGSG Member News, Continued

Jesse Rodenbiker (Cornell) was the moderator for the panel: "The Chinese Case as a Puzzle for Political Economy" at the University of California, Berkeley Network for a New Political Economy. It features You-tien Hsing (UC Berkeley, Geography), Gerard Rolands (UC Berkeley Political Science), and Yuen Yuen Ang (Political Science, Michigan). There is a recording here:

<https://n2pe.berkeley.edu/events/recordings/>.

CGSG Outstanding Service Awards

CGSG is also very pleased to announce Prof. Ronald G Knapp (The State University of New York (SUNY) New Paltz) and Prof. Qihao Weng (Indiana State University) as two recipients of this year's CGSG Outstanding Service Awards. Numerous former chairs of the CGSG affirmed their nominations.

Prof. Knapp is a key contributor to our understanding of China's cultural and historical geography through his writings and lectures. He is also an enthusiastic ambassador to the reinforcement of the cultural links between China and the United States. Prof. Weng served as Chair of the CGSG in 2010-2011 and is a key contributor to research on urban environmental and ecological systems and human-environment interactions. Their scholarly achievements and service contributions have helped make China geography an enduring academic topic and the CGSG a stronger organization with broader reach. Thank you, Ronald and Qihao!

CGSG Annual Student Paper Awards

The annual awards to recognize distinguished student research and papers were presented at the CSGS Business Meeting too. The Best Student Paper Award went to Lisha He, The University of Hong Kong, for her paper entitled "The uneven geography of Chinese real estate investment in the United States: Local market conditions, migration and ethnic networks". The Best Paper Runner-up went to Yining Tan, Arizona State University, for her work entitled "Cross-border Mobility of Skilled Migrants from the US to China: Migration Motivations and Return Intentions". A big congratulations to them!

Members' Recent or Forthcoming Publications

- Chan, Kam Wing. 2021. "What the 2020 Chinese Census Tells Us about Progress in Hukou Reform," *China Brief*, 21(15): 11-17. <https://jamestown.org/program/what-the-2020-chinese-census-tells-us-about-progress-in-hukou-reform/>
- Chan, Kam Wing, Michael Gentile, Nadir Kinossian, Tim Oakes, and Craig Young. 2020. "More-Than-Viral" Eurasian Geographies of the Covid-19 Pandemic: Interconnections, Inequalities, and Geopolitics, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 61(4-5): 343-361. DOI: 10.1080/15387216.2020.1840414
- Featherstone, D; Zhang, AY; Kumar, A; Fu, W and **Lim, K. F.** (2021) Book Review Symposium: On Shifting Foundations. *Urban Studies*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F00420980211021284>.
- Li, Meng and Kam Wing Chan, 2021. "The Collective *Hukou* in Urban China," *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15387216.2021.1925571>
- **Lim, K. F.** and Su, X. (2021). Cross-border market building for narcotics control: A Polanyian analysis of the China–Myanmar border region. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12447>.
- Lui, Lake and Kam Wing Chan. 2020. "Rural but Not Rural": Gendered and Classed Moral Identities in Liminal Spaces in Guangdong, China," *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15387216.2020.1833358>
- **Rodenbiker, J.** 2021. Making Ecology Developmental: China's Environmental Sciences and Green Modernization in Global Context, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2020.1863766.
- **Rodenbiker, J.** 2021. Adapting Participatory Research Methods for Reflexive Environmental Management. *Qualitative Research*. DOI: 10.1177/1468794121990966.
- Tang, Wing-shing and Kam Wing Chan (eds.) 2021. *Urban China Reframed: A Critical Appreciation*, London: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Urban-China-Reframed-A-Critical-Appreciation/Tang-Chan/p/book/9780367706456>
- Toops, S., M. Peterson, W. Vanderbush, N. Sackefiyo and S. Anderson. 2021 *International Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Global Issues*. Routledge 5th ed. ([Link](#))
- Toops, S. "A Geographic Preface." In *Understanding Contemporary Asia Pacific*, Kathleen Palmer Kaup, ed. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2021, 13-34. ([Link](#))
- Wang, D., Y.D. Wei and T. Deng. Transportation development, spatiotemporal Convergence, and urban land use: Study of the opening of high-speed rails in the Yangtze River Delta, China. *Journal of Urban Planning and Development* 147(3). 2021.
- Xiao, W., Y.D. Wei and N. Wang. Modeling job accessibility using online map data: An extended two-step floating catchment area method with multiple travel modes. *Journal of Transport Geography* 93. 2021.
- Xiao, W., Y.D. Wei and H. Li. Understanding jobs-housing imbalance in urban China: A case study of Shanghai. *Journal of Transport and Land Use* 14(1): 389-415. 2021.
- Zhang, F., Chung, C. K. L., Lu, T., & Wu, F. (2021). The role of the local government in China's urban sustainability transition: A case study of Wuxi's solar development. *Cities*, 117.

Our Website and Listserv

The specialty group now has a new website: <http://cgsg.geo.msu.edu>

Please consider subscribing to the CGSG mailing list: <http://listserv.uleth.ca/mailman/listinfo/cgsg-l>.

AAG Knowledge Communities – China:

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

CGSG Officers 2020-2021

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