

the

Fall 2013 Newsletter

中国地理学组通讯
October, 2013



China Geographers,

Greetings from Boulder, CO, where Autumn has firmly taken hold and the Colorado high country has already seen quite a few early season snow storms. In September, communities up and down Colorado's Front Range were ravaged by flash floods that turned every stream and creek into a raging torrent. Hundreds of homes were lost, roads and bridges were washed away, lives and businesses were uprooted. The estimated damage to roads and highways alone has already exceeded half a billion dollars, and that doesn't include damage within cities and towns themselves. Ironically, or perhaps prophetically, I had just completed a week in my Geography of China course focusing on water issues. We had just spent a day talking about floods: the ancient history of Huang He flooding, the more recent history of Chang Jiang flooding, and all the related social, political, and environmental issues. Then, suddenly, these were no longer abstract issues for myself and my students. They were immediate and traumatic. And I found myself reflecting on the unique ability of geography to bring together the whole range of that experience into an integrated whole: the emotional and affected, the social and political, the environmental, and the physical.

A few weeks after Colorado's floods, Typhoon Fitow slammed into Zhejiang, drenching China's east coast, breaching levees, and inundating the city of Yuyao. Some 70% of the entire city was flooded. The government's inability to respond with adequate security and relief – coupled with a photograph that went viral of a local official being piggybacked by a local as he 'toured' the flood zone (he was subsequently dismissed) – led to huge protests and riots. Like the Colorado floods, the geography of the Fitow disaster is one that would need to account for these social and political pressures in relation to the environmental and physical factors that met with surprising ferocity in Yuyao.

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Geographies of Disasters

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I write this not to persuade you all to become disaster geographers, but only to recognize how events like these might hopefully encourage geographers to break out of their specialist trenches and speak to that broadest range of experience in their work. My position as director of an Asian area studies center has given me reason to reflect on this integrative potential of geography. Geography should be playing a central role in the ongoing transformation of the area studies endeavor, but China geographers remain a rarity in the area studies field. Yet there are significant opportunity for a field, like geography, that is capable of bridging these disparate elements of the human and natural worlds. Though it shouldn't take a disaster for us to recognize and understand this opportunity. As area studies centers are increasingly being called upon (by, for example, the Department of Education, by private funders, and by university administrators) to justify themselves in entirely new ways, geographers should be well-positioned to play a significant role in reshaping the area studies project. For example, area studies scholarship is being called on to bridge traditional area expertise in history, culture, language, religion, politics, and society, with professional fields such as business, engineering, and law. And area studies scholars are being challenged to develop more truly cross-disciplinary projects that bridges humanities, social sciences, and natural or physical sciences. While I have found that a disaster is, sadly enough, an excellent opportunity to develop these kinds of scholarly bridges, I'm also increasingly aware that geography already has many of the necessary tools for this kind of transdisciplinary work. China geography, in particular, seems to be a field well-situated for this kind of work.

Tim Oakes
Chair, China Geography Specialty Group

AAG Meeting Tampa, Florida, April 8-12, 2014

Call for Sessions and Papers

Below is the list that appeared in the Spring 2013 Newsletter of suggested session themes for the 2014 AAG meeting in Tampa. As a reminder, the AAG is featuring two themes for next year's meetings: The Geographies of Climate Change, and Racism and Violence. We encourage everyone to use the China Geography listserv (cgs-g-1@uleth.ca) to circulate ideas and session calls. We can also help you find sessions if you have a paper that you want to make sure gets organized into an China Geography sponsored session.

Here's the list, though I'm sure there are plenty of other ideas out there as well:

- China-Japan Relations.
- Geopolitics and Islands Problems
- Finance
- Local Government Bankruptcy (ghost towns and local livelihood)
- Transportation in China (different scale, fast speed train, and local transportation)
- China and Other Pieces of Asia
- Theorizing Capitalism in China
- Panels on Urban Planning
- FDI from China to the U.S.; Chinese migrants in Southeast and South Asia
- Census from 2010
- Global Urbanism: Challenges in Chinese cities
- Ecology, Uneven Distribution of Ecological Goods, Urban Pollution Issues, and Impacts on Different Discourses
- Hot Topics for Tampa's Conference Theme: Theme Parks, Tourism in China
- Interactions with Other Geography Groups
- Security in China, PLA, and Geopolitical Issues

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If you are interested in joining a session sponsored or co-sponsored by CGSG, or if you wish to organize a CGSG-sponsored session, please contact the CGSG (guochen@msu.edu) and we will work to arrange your paper in an appropriate session. We look forward to meeting you all in Tampa, FL in 2014!

Timothy Oakes
CGSG Chair

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 Tampa, Florida, April 8-12, 2014.

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 Tampa, Florida, in April 2014, 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, 2014**. 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, 2014**. Questions? Please contact toakes@colorado.edu.

Members News

Yanwei Chai (Professor, College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University). Since the early 1990s, the Behavioral Geography Research Group of Peking University has been collecting information about who, what, when, where and how residents in Chinese cities travel to work, school, shop, restaurants, for recreation purposes and more, as well as research on these activities themselves. Very recently, the Xi'ning Household Activity-Travel Survey was conducted this September. It is the first largest household activity-travel survey in western Chinese cities, as well as the first space-time behavior survey within typical multi-ethnic areas. About 1,600 randomly selected households within different typical communities were approached to participate in the survey, of which 1,500 responded. Data was collected through paper questionnaires from households on the detail of their activities and travel made in a 48-hour period, including a continuous Sunday and Monday. Detailed socio-demographic information was also collected as well as their behavior concerning shopping, recreation, commuting and health activities. The survey offers a dynamic activity-travel system perspective for in-depth study of urban structure, urban planning, transport, community and multi-ethnic issues as a benchmark for best practice of activity-travel surveys in western China. Please note that the Behavioral Geography Research Group of Peking University is calling for post-doctor researchers both in space-time behavior research and related fields.

Kam Wing Chan (Professor, Geography, University of Washington) is spending a sabbatical semester this fall in Hong Kong at that Baptist University as a University Fellow. He continues to do research on China's urbanization and the *hukou* system, and collaborates with colleagues in Hong Kong. He is also giving a number of talks in the region. Earlier in the summer, he wrote several articles on urbanization and the *hukou* reform in the Chinese media, including a roadmap for abolishing the *hukou* system (“户籍改革路线图” 财新《新世纪》). This proposal was also presented at a forum organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in August in Beijing, and a conference organized by the French Institute for International Relations in October in Paris. His work continues to attract media attention. Please visit his site at <http://faculty.washington.edu/kwchan/>.

Guo Chen (Assistant Professor, Department of Geography & Global Urban Studies Program, Michigan State University) is currently on a maternity leave until early spring. Upon completing the last spring newsletter, she has been enjoying time with family and her newborn, and collaborating with scholars and her students on several manuscripts about China's emerging slums and urban segregation.

David W. Edgington (Professor, Geography, University of British Columbia) visited Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing in July to conduct research into the activities of Japanese electronics firms in Greater China. His student Terry Fu, successfully wrote a Masters thesis earlier this year on the subject of university-industry relations in Nanjing. Terry is now working for the accountancy firm PMKG in Shanghai.

Pengfei Li is now a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, working on a research project "Canadian-Chinese Cluster Networks: Architecture for Transnational Knowledge Flows" in the following two years.

Tim Oakes (Professor, Geography, University of Colorado) was recently awarded an Isaac Manesseh Meyer Fellowship for Visiting Scholars at the National University of Singapore (NUS), where he will spend most of January (2014) working with NUS geographers on a number of projects.

Members' Recent or Forthcoming Publications

Journal articles and book chapters

Yanwei Chai. 2013. Space-time Behavior Research in China: Recent Development and Future Prospect, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 103, 1093-1099.

Kam Wing Chan. 2013. China, Internal Migration. In Immanuel Ness and Peter Bellwood (Eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Global Migration*. Oxford, Blackwell Publishing.

陈金永, “十五年完成户籍改革 《中国改革》 2013年第6期, 頁72-75。 (<http://other.caixin.com/2013-06-10/100540215.html>)
(English translation: <http://english.caixin.com/2013-06-13/100540785.html>)

G. Chen, (forthcoming). The Housing Predicaments of China's Urban Poor. In E. Murphy and N. Hourani (Eds.), *The Housing Question: Tensions, Continuities, and Contingencies in the Modern City*. Farnham, Ashgate.

Bathelt, H. and **Li, P.F.** 2013. Global Cluster Networks—Foreign Direct Investment Flows From Canada to China, *Journal of Economic Geography*, doi: 10.1093/jeg/lbt005.

Bathelt, H. and **Li, P.F.** 2013. Evolutionary Economic Geography and Relational Geography. In M.M. Fischer, P. Nijkamp (Eds.), *Handbook of Regional Science*, Springer, pp. 591-607.

Contribution by **Li Pengfei** on Industrial Clusters. In Dinh, T.D. et al. 2013. *Tales From the Development Frontier, How China and Other Countries Harness Light Manufacturing to Create Jobs and Prosperity*, Washington, D.C., World Bank Press.

Shuguang Wang and Yongchang Zhang. 2012. 'Tiering' China's Urban Markets for the Study of Retail Geography, *China Urban Studies*, 5, 263-285.

I. Liefner, **Y.H.D. Wei** and G. Zeng. 2013. The Innovativeness and Heterogeneity of Foreign-Invested High-Tech Companies In Shanghai, *Growth and Change*, 44, 522-549.

H.F. Liao, and **Y.H.D. Wei.** 2013. TNCs' Technology Linkages with Domestic Firms: An Investigation of the ICT industry in Suzhou, China, *Environment and Planning C*, 31, 460-474.

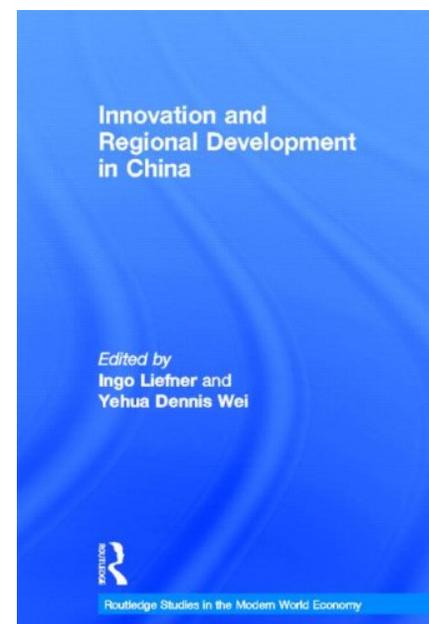
Y.H. D. Wei, and F.H.F. Liao. 2013. FDI Embeddedness in Production and Innovation in China: Strategic Coupling in Global Production Networks?, *Habitat International* 40, 82-90.

Y.H.D. Wei, F. Yuan and F.H. Liao. 2013. Spatial Mismatch and Determinants of Foreign and Domestic ICT Firms in China, *Professional Geographer*, 65, 247-264.

Books

Ingo Liefner and **Dennis Yehua Wei** (eds.), 2013. *Innovation and Regional Development in China*, London, Routledge.

This edited volume investigates the unique characteristics of Chinese innovation and regional development, China's policy framework, and the role that transactional corporations play in China's increasing innovation activities. This book contributes to the heated debate regarding pathways for technology progress and regional development in developing countries, and identifies the ways in which local production networks respond to different configurations of external linkages. Linking patterns of global and local production networks with the trajectories of technology development and regional development allows the authors to theorize and test whether, and how, particular configurations of production networks generate divergent long-term local productivity growth and technological development outcomes.



Job Announcements

The Department of Geography at National Taiwan University (NTU) invites applications for two appointments at all ranks beginning in August 2014. We recruit scholars trained in earth system sciences, social sciences, or spatial sciences to explore the impacts, vulnerability and adaptation associated with global change (e.g., risks and disasters, biogeography, coupled natural and human systems, geoinformatics). We seek applicants whose research complements strengths in the Department and around the University. These positions will enrich the facets of global change research and teaching in the department, and contribute to growth of an interdisciplinary and cross-department research network at NTU. Successful candidates will demonstrate a capacity to carry out collaborative research with colleagues in Geography and other departments. For more information about the Department, please see <http://www.geog.ntu.edu.tw/>.

Qualified candidates must hold a Ph.D. degree in geography or related academic disciplines at the time of application. Those who finish their study program, including the Ph.D. dissertation requirement, and expect to graduate by May 2014, but do not yet get the diploma can be considered as a qualified candidate, only on the condition with a certificate from his/her Ph.D. adviser. Applicants should be proficient in lecturing in either English or Mandarin Chinese. Questions regarding the positions should be directed to Professor Jinn-Yuh Hsu (jinnjuh@ntu.edu.tw). To apply please submit the following materials in a package by December 20, 2013: (1) a letter of application describing how he/she would contribute to the Department's teaching and research program; (2) a curriculum vitae; (3) a publication list; (4) three reference letters. NTU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

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Student Corner

Call for participation: a blog for students of China Geography

Dear China geographers:

Greetings from Lili and Yang, your student representatives of the CGSG. We hope this email finds you well. We are sending this message to call for your participation in a newly started blog for graduate students of China geography: <http://chinageography.blog.com/>. The blog starts from a constructive suggestion of Yueming Zhang from Clark University on building a collaborative platform for students and junior scholars to exchange information and share ideas. By engaging students as well as scholars at various levels, we hope to better connect student members of the CGSG and create a supportive environment for both research and career.

This message has three sections. The first provides a brief introduction about the structure of the blog and how it runs. The following two sections aim to recruit editors and blog authors respectively.

1. An introduction of the blog

There are six sections on this blog (see below).

Home: The home page features a brief mission statement of this blog and the highlights of recent blog posts composed by graduate students.

Articles: This page contains blog posts on selected themes as well as 'off-theme' ones that focus on issues such as dissertation/thesis writing.

News: News related to the development of the academic field and the country China will be available here.

Opportunities: Updates on grants, job opportunities, conferences and workshops, etc.

Resources: This page offers a pool for data sources (stats, archives, databases etc.), useful web links, academic tools, bibliographies, course syllabus, etc.

About & Help: This page features four sub-sections: an extended introduction of the blog, a 'help' section to clarify how the blog works, contact information, and a list of editors.

2. Editor recruitment

Since this blog just started, we would like to invite fellow graduate students to join the editorial team. The editors will not only take charge of the everyday maintenance of a specific section introduced above, they are also expected to serve as the reviewing editors of contributing posts of section Articles. Editors will be selected based on their competence, time commitment and if they can expand the expertise of the editorial team. Please note that editors are expected to commit to their positions for at least one year. Rotation will be made on a yearly basis. While this blog is founded on a voluntary basis for non-profit and editors will not be compensated in any ways, serving on the editorial team can be a great adventure and opportunity to gain experience and make an impact in the field. If you are allured by such an idea, please contact us at chinageographystudent@gmail.com by November 1, 2013. Please include the following information in your email:

Your name:

Academic level:

Affiliation:

Research interests:

Contact information (Email):

A most recent CV (1-2 pages)

We now have three editors already on board. They are also the founders of the blog: Lili Wang (PhD candidate, Department of Geography at Ohio State University), Yang Yang (PhD student, Department of Geography at University of Colorado - Boulder), and Yuemeng Zhang (PhD student, Department of Geography at Clark University).

3. Blog author recruitment

Other than serving on the editorial team, you can contribute to the blog as blog authors, supplying material for such sections: Articles, News, Opportunities, and Resources, Please send your posts to chinageographystudent@gmail.com and specify in your email title which section your post is intended for. For example, if you want to submit a book review to the Articles section, please compose your email title in this form: [Articles]: XXXXXX. Call for posting will be circulated via the CGSG listserv periodically.

The most heavy-loaded section on the blog is Articles. The content of Articles is updated monthly and divided into two parts: theme-based articles and off-theme articles. Every month the editorial team will select a 'theme' and call for contributing posts. Each theme will last for a year. Articles not intended to engage the 'theme' discussion will also be collected here. All drafts of blog articles will be reviewed by a group of student editors. The procedure imitates an academic journal's review process. Contributors will be notified via email once their submissions are accepted. As for contributors, we will also invite more established scholars as guest bloggers to contribute to designated themes. For the first round of

blog posting, we would like to open the floor for proposed themes. Please send your suggestions to chinageographystudent@gmail.com by November 15, 2013. We will be sending out a formal call for posting shortly after the editorial board makes the decision.

We hope this blog project will serve you well in future. This goal, however, will not actualize without your participation and contribution. If you want to serve on the editorial team, propose themes of the Articles section, or contribute to any other sections of the blog, please send your message to chinageographystudent@gmail.com. Please also feel free to contact us with any questions, comments or suggestions for the blog. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

To expand the audience of the message, please pass this letter to any individuals and groups you think might be interested. Thanks a lot.

Best wishes,

Lili and Yang.

Memorial to Hou Renzhi, 1911-2013



CGSG expresses great sadness over the passing of prominent Chinese historical geographer Hou Renzhi in Beijing on Oct. 22, 2013, 2:50pm. Professor Hou, who was 102 years old at the time of his death, is the last of the generation of Chinese scholars who obtained a PhD degree abroad before the founding of PRC and then returned to China to teach at Yanjing University (later known as Peking University). He had been the Deputy Provost of Peking University, Dean of the Department of Geology and Geography, and Dean of the Department of Geography at Peking University. He was elected Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1980. In 1999, Hou was awarded the distinguished George Davidson Medal by the American Geographical Society. Professor Hou's

lifelong fascination of Beijing had been the basis of his long-standing and popular lecture "Hou Renzhi Talks about Beijing," a must for Peking University freshman since the 1950s. Yu Zhou (Vassar College) recalled the lecture being the most mesmerizing talk in her entire college career.

Professor Hou had a long history of interaction with overseas scholars. As a young student he was assigned for a time to be interpreter and assistant for Owen Lattimore. As a graduate student at the University of Liverpool, he worked closely with H.C. Darby, one of the most influential historical geographers of the twentieth century. Upon his return to China, Professor Hou worked on a wide range of research projects, from an extended study of the arid Ordos region to a lifelong fascination with the historical geography of Beijing. Professor Hou received one of the highest honors from the city of Beijing when he was invited to dedicate Beijing's Urban Planning Exhibition Hall – his signature is cast in bronze as part of a large sculpture in the entrance hall. He had a profound influence on a number of scholars in the U.S., including Piper Gaubatz, as her Chinese dissertation adviser, and Diane Obenchain (professor of religion at Calvin College) among others.

This memorial was prepared for CGSG by Yu Zhou and Piper Gaubatz

Our website and timeline

Past newsletters and the timeline can be found on our website

(<http://personal.bgsu.edu/~xye/cgsg.htm>)

THE CHINA GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP TIMELINE can be downloaded from

http://personal.bgsu.edu/~xye/news/AAG_CGSG_Timeline_Mar09.doc.

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.

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