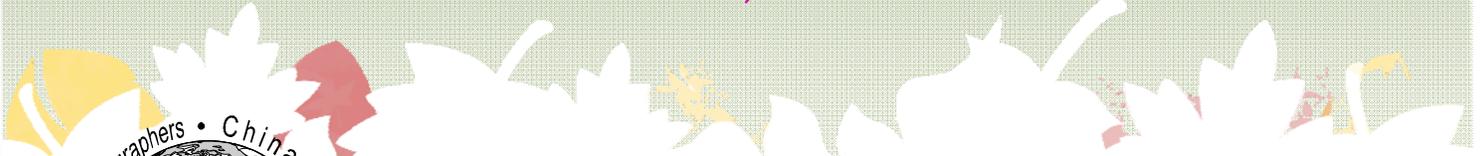


the

Spring 2014 Newsletter

中国地理学组通讯
March, 2014



Letter to members and *Tampa 2014*

Table of Contents



Tim Oakes, Chair

China Geographers,

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the AAG meetings in Tampa in April. We have a great line-up of over 30 panels sponsored and co-sponsored by the China Geography Specialty Group. Several of these panels have been organized by graduate students, including a three-part panel on development and China's frontiers. Given the increasing dominance of urbanization and urban space in China's geography, there are quite a few panels on urban China, including urban governance, infrastructure, public space, and broader processes of urbanization and urban regional transformations. Other panel themes include China's regional development and inequality, migration and mobility in China, fieldwork methods, frontiers and borderland regions, environmental processes, rural environment and society, tourism, transportation and environmental degradation. Please also join us for our annual Business Meeting, scheduled for 11:50 AM –12:30 PM, Thursday 4/10. Room 23 TCC, First Floor, and our annual banquet held in the evening at the China Yuan Seafood Restaurant, 8502 N Armenia Ave # 1A, Tampa, <http://chinayuanrestaurant.com>.

(Continued on page 2)

Letters to Members	page 1
2014 AAG Annual Meeting, Tampa CGSG Sponsored Sessions....	page 3
Members News.....	page 5
Members' Recent or Forthcoming Publications.....	page 7
Job Announcements.....	page 9
Upcoming Conferences and Meetings.....	page 11
Members' Forum.....	page 11
Student Corner.....	page 13
China Geography Website and Timeline.....	page 17
Current CGSG Officers.....	page 17



Last Fall, in the context of commenting on ‘geographies of disasters’, I suggested that geography “should be playing a central role in the ongoing transformation of the area studies endeavor.” During my recent time as a visiting fellow in Geography at the National University of Singapore, I had several conversations with colleagues about area studies and geography. More and more geographers seem to recognize that area studies, in general, are moving in a direction in which geography can and should be playing a more central role. In the United States, as a result primarily of restructured funding priorities (in particular, deep budget cuts to the Department of Education’s Title VI programs), area studies is steadily moving away from its traditional focus in the humanities. The exception to this is the continued emphasis on expanding access to and improving outcomes in foreign language training. But more broadly, area studies funding can no longer be relied on for basic research in humanities fields. While this is alarming in itself, it also presents opportunities to rethink the role of area studies in a post-Cold War era of globalization, climate change, and fiscal crisis. The field is becoming increasingly driven by specific project-based initiatives that stretch across many disciplinary divides, include significant outreach components, often involving professional schools, and even taking on the appearance of ‘global studies.’ While area studies and geography are both inherently multidisciplinary, geography has traditionally been more comfortable, perhaps, in balancing regional and topical approaches to social and environmental phenomena.

I think China geographers – many of whom work in, or have ties to existing area studies centers or institutes – can play a role in demonstrating both scholarly and institutional leadership that is needed in the current transformation of area studies. In addition to publishing in more area studies journals, that means taking on campus leadership roles to promote China and Asian studies programs. Over the past year I’ve been learning more about many of you who are doing exactly this. So, I’m hopeful for both the future of area studies and China geography’s role in that future.

Tim Oakes
Chair, China Geography Specialty Group



Cherry blossoms at Gucun Park, Shanghai, March 2014 (photo credit, English.EastDay.com)

2014 AAG Annual Meeting, Tampa

CGSG Sponsored Sessions

Wednesday, 4/09/2014

2171 Geographical Perspectives on Social Development in China

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

2172 China's Changing Urban Governance

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Meeting Room 5, Marriott, Second Floor

2271 Regional Development, Inequality and Policy in China I

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

2572 Regional Development, Inequality and Policy in China II

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Meeting Room 5, Marriott, Second Floor

2272 China's Rapid Urbanization and Suburbanization

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 5, Marriott, Second Floor

2471 China's Migrants and Migration: New Patterns, Trends, and Policies

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

2472 China's City-Regions

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Meeting Room 5, Marriott, Second Floor

2571 Chinese Migration and Transnational Migration

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

2671 Housing, Residential Development and Spatial Structures in Chinese Cities

is scheduled on Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

Thursday, 4/10/2014

3122 Water in China

is scheduled on Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Room 22, TCC, First Floor

3123 Making Cultural Cities in Asia I

is scheduled on Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Room 23, TCC, First Floor

3223 Making Cultural Cities in Asia II

is scheduled on Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Room 23, TCC, First Floor

3222 Addressing Tampa Themes from China

is scheduled on Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Room 22, TCC, First Floor

3422 Global Change and Environmental Responses in China

is scheduled on Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Room 22, TCC, First Floor

3423 Hubs of Mobility and Diversity: Understanding Public Space and Migrant Neighborhoods in Chinese Inner-Urban Areas

is scheduled on Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Room 23, TCC, First Floor

Thursday, 4/10/2014**3522 Social, Economic and Environmental Issues in Rural China I**

is scheduled on Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Room 22, TCC, First Floor

3622 Social, Economic and Environmental Issues in Rural China II

is scheduled on Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Room 22, TCC, First Floor

Friday, 4/13/2014**4155 The Geography of Urban Infrastructure I: Infrastructure, Ownership, and Financial Markets**

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Grand Salon D, Marriott, Second Floor

4255 The Geography of Urban Infrastructure II: Infrastructure, Governance, and Networks

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Grand Salon D, Marriott, Second Floor

4455 The Geography of Urban Infrastructure III: Infrastructure, Planning, and Urban Growth

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Grand Salon D, Marriott, Second Floor

4555 The Geography of Urban Infrastructure IV: Infrastructure, Mechanisms, and Institutional Arrangements

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Grand Salon D, Marriott, Second Floor

4171 Development and Space at China's Frontiers I

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

4271 Development and Space at China's Frontiers II

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

4471 Development and Space at China's Frontiers III

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

4571 Tourism Geography, Culture, and the Environment in China

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

4572 Transportation Geography in China

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Meeting Room 5, Marriott, Second Floor

4671 China's Economic Geography

is scheduled on Friday, 4/11/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Meeting Room 4, Marriott, Second Floor

Saturday, 4/12/2014**5208 Panel: Doing Feminist Fieldwork in China, by Choice and by Default**

is scheduled on Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Room 8, TCC, First Floor

5155 China Population and Development Issues

is scheduled on Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Grand Salon D, Marriott, Second Floor

CGSG Business Meeting and Banquet:**3323 China Specialty Group Business Meeting**

is scheduled on Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 11:50 AM - 12:30 PM in Room 23, TCC, First Floor

CGSG Banquet Dinner on Thursday April 10th starts 7:30pm.

China Yuan Seafood Restaurant (龙源)

8502 N Armenia Ave # 1A, Tampa (10-15 min ride from downtown)

<http://chinayuanrestaurant.com>

Members News

Kam Wing Chan (Professor, University of Washington) was awarded a University Fellowship and spent a productive semester at Hong Kong Baptist University last autumn. The stay allowed him to collaborate with scholars in HKBU and deliver several talks in the city and region, including four at international conferences and workshop held in HK. He also presented his proposal for abolishing the hukou system at two major China research centers in Hong Kong: the Universities Service Centre for Chinese Studies, and French Centre for Research on Contemporary China. In October, he was a keynote speaker at French Institute for International Relations in Paris. In addition, he has continued research on China's urbanization and the hukou system, spoken to the media, written op-eds, and served as the China editor for *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. He has a lot to read and to write!

Guo Chen (Assistant Professor, Michigan State University) spent the winter break in Guangzhou and Nanjing, attended a conference in SYSU and guest lectured in Nanjing University. Guo also has received a National Geographic Society (NGS) Research and Exploration Grant for her project "The 'Hidden' Geography of China's Slums: A Geographic and Visual Exploration." This grant will allow Guo and her team, including graduate students at MSU, Chinese collaborators, NGOs, and local community schools, to compile an interactive database including visuals of slums in Beijing and Hong Kong.

David W. Edgington (Professor, University of British Columbia) gave a presentation entitled 'Manufacturing University-Industry Linkages in Nanjing' to the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geography meeting at the University of Victoria (March 2014).

Cindy Fan (Professor, UCLA) recently gave two keynote presentations at the University of Sydney and Chinese University of Hong Kong. She also spoke at the China Town Hall organized by the National Committee on United States-China Relations, and was on BBC News and Jewish Live TV. Her book 'China on the Move' has been translated into Chinese, and she has published two refereed articles on migrants' integration and new-generation migrant workers in China. Over the past year, Cindy has presented in conferences in Doha, Kiel, and Singapore, and has led UCLA delegations to Paris, Vladivostok, Bangalore, New Delhi, Mumbai, Beijing, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Taipei, including a meeting with President Ma Ying-jeou. She is currently an American Council on Education Fellow.

Rudi Hartmann (Associate Professor, University of Colorado Denver) gave a featured talk on "Tourism to Heritage Sites with a Controversial History: A Case Study of Eight Historic Sites Associated with the Pacific War 1937 – 45" at the International Conference on Tourism Landscape and Tourism in Marginal Areas, in Kanas, Xinjiang September 23, 2013. The selected eight heritage sites include two sites from China (the Lu Gou Qiao/Marco Polo Bridge incident site July 1937 commonly considered the beginning of the Pacific War, and the Nanjing Massacre Memorial site), four sites from the U.S. and two sites from Japan.

Anthony Howell (Graduate Program in Geography, UCLA) recently returned from his Fulbright experience at Peking University in Fall 2013 and is currently finishing his PhD program in Geography at UCLA. Anthony will start a new faculty position in Fall 2014 as an assistant professor in the School of Economics at Peking University where he will continue his research on Chinese innovation and regional growth, and ethnic migration, poverty and inequality.

Youqin Huang (Associate Professor, SUNY Albany) received a grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Program of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to study "The Impact of Migration on Children", grant number: R03HD074671 (2013-2015).

Ron Knapp (Professor Emeritus, SUNY New Paltz) made three conference presentations over the past 6 months: "Discovering China's 'Forgotten' Bridges" at the Second National Covered Bridge Conference, Dayton, Ohio. June 2013; "America's Forgotten Great Wooden Covered Bridges" at Min-Zhe [Fujian-Zhejiang] Conference on the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Zhenghe, Fujian. November 8, 2013; and keynote speaker at the Fifth International Symposium on Covered Bridges, Taishun, Zhejiang, November 13, 2013.

Tim Oakes (Professor, University of Colorado at Boulder) continues to direct the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, which keeps him pretty busy! But he had an enjoyable respite in January, which he spent at the National University of Singapore as an Isaac Manasseh Meyer visiting fellow in Geography. These days his research is focusing on an NSF-funded project on the redevelopment and transformation of urban space in small cities and towns in China. Recent workshops have included transcultural leisure in Asia, at Heidelberg University's 'Asia and Europe' Cluster, and urban heritage, development, and hospitality, in Tongli China. And he continues to serve as Visiting Professor in cultural geography at Wageningen University, Netherlands.

Stan Toops (Associate Professor, Miami University) attended the International Geographic Union Tourism Preconference in August 2013; and presented a paper entitled "Dynamics of Silk Road Tourism: China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan." He also presented a paper "Landscapes of Silk Road Tourism: Xinjiang" at the International Geographic Union Regional Conference. Kyoto, Japan. August 2013. His travels in the past year have been to Beppu, Hiroshima, and Miyajima, as well as Tokyo and Osaka, all in Japan. In August 2014 he plans to visit Mongolia for a research project on 'Changing Patterns of Power in Historical and Modern Central and Inner Asia'.

Wenfei Winnie Wang (Lecturer, University of Bristol) has recently been awarded a 414K GBP ESRC grant on the "Impact of Urban-rural Return Migration on Rural Development in China - with Implications for Vietnam". Prof. Jianfa Shen from CUHK, Prof. Zhongdong Ma from HKUST, Prof. Yu Zhu from Fujian Normal University and Prof. Qiang Ren from Beijing University are all involved in this project as Co-Investigators.

Yu Zhou (Professor, Vassar College) has been working on China's green building initiatives supported by Peking University-Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. She has recently received a grant by Asian Network to participate in a faculty enhancement traveling seminar to India June 2014.

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. How to Reform China's Hukou System, *China Dialogue*, Special issue on China's urbanization, pp.13-18
(https://s3.amazonaws.com/cd.live/uploads/content/file_en/6480/37_urbanisation_journal_single_file-new_1_.pdf).

Kam Wing Chan. 2013. China is Not 'Eating Our Lunch', in James Harvey, Nelda Cambron-McCabe, Luvern L. Cunningham, and Robert H. Koff (eds.), *The Superintendent's Fieldbook: A Guide for Leaders of Learning* (2nd. ed.), Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press and National Superintendents Roundtable, pp.325-327.

陳金永, 2013. “探讨户籍改革之路” 蔡昉主编《中国人口与劳动问题报告No.14》, 第111至125页。

陳金永, “滬學生評估奪冠的光環背後,” 《明報》, 2014-1-3, A30,
(<http://faculty.washington.edu/kwchan/ShanghaiPISA.jpg>)

Howell, A. 2013. Chinese Minority Income Disparity in Urumqi, Xinjiang: An Analysis of Han-Uyghur Labour Market Outcomes in the Formal and Informal Economies, *China: An International Journal*, 11(3), 1-23.

Howell, A. 2013. Is Geography Dead or Destiny in a Globalizing World? A Network Analysis and Latent Space Modeling Approach of the World Trade Network, *Journal of Globalization Studies*, 4(2), 3-23.

Yi, Chengdong, and **Youqin Huang**, 2014. Housing Consumption and Housing Inequality in Chinese Cities during the First Decade of the 21st Century, *Housing Studies*, 29(2), 1-22.

Oakes, T. 2013. Heritage as improvement: cultural display and contested governance in rural China. *Modern China*, 39(4): 380-407.

Jerry Green, Mary Henry, Liza Skryzhevskaya, and **Stanley Toops.** 2013. The Course Syllabus as a Guide to Map Interpretation Instruction, *Research In Geographic Education*, 14, 42-54.

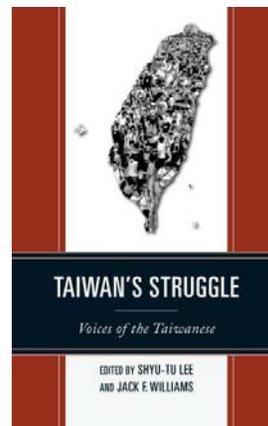
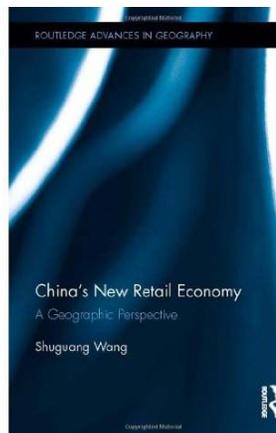
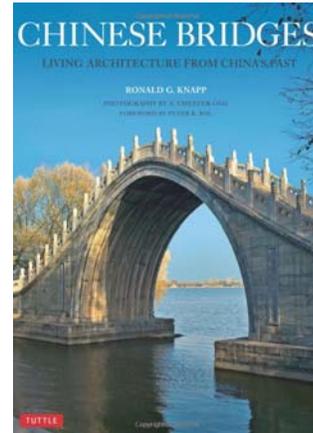
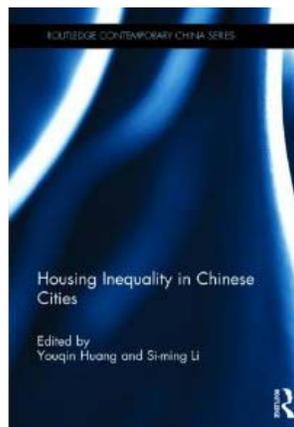
S. Toops, 2014. Where Inner Asia meets Outer China: The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in Eurasian Corridors of Interconnection, in S. Walcott and C. Johnson (eds.) *Eurasian Corridors of Interconnections*, Oxford, Routledge, 49-71.

Huang, Hao and **Yehua Dennis Wei.** 2014, Intra-metropolitan Location of Foreign Direct Investment in Wuhan, China: Institution, Urban Structure, and Accessibility. *Applied Geography*, 47, 78-88.

Yuan, Feng, **Yehua Dennis Wei** and Wen Chen. 2014. Economic Transition, Industrial Location and Corporate Networks: Remaking the Sunan Model in Wuxi City, China, *Habitat International*, 42, 58-68.

Yu Zhou. 2013. Time and Space of China's ICT industry, in P.Cooke. G. Searle and K O'Connor (eds.), *The Economic Geography of the IT Industry in the Asian Pacific Region*, Oxford, Routledge, 68-85.

Books



S. Anderson, M. Peterson, and S. Toops. 2014. *International Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Global Issues* (3rd ed.), Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Youqin Huang and Si-ming Li (eds.). 2014. *Housing Inequality in Chinese Cities*, London and New York, Routledge.

Ron Knapp. 2013. *Chinese Bridges: Living Architecture from China's Past*, Tokyo, Tuttle.

Shuguang Wang. 2014, *China's New Retail Economy: A Geographic Perspective*, London, Routledge.

Shyu-tu Lee and Jack F. Williams (eds.). 2014. *Taiwan's Struggle: Voices of the Taiwanese*, Lanham, Maryland, Rowman & Littlefield.

Publication Announcements

A Comparative Geography of China and the U.S. is in in press and available soon (May). The book – edited by **Rudi Hartmann** and Jing'ai Wang with contributions from Hongmian Gong, Clifton Pannell, Gregory Veeck, Susan Walcott and other CGSG members - meets a high demand for comparative information about China and the United States. See copies, table of contents and previews of the book at the Springer Press booth at the AAG and on the internet:

<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/geography/book/978-94-017-8791-8>

Job Announcements

Junior Fellow, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

Morningside College at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is once again looking to hire a recent university graduate to join the College staff as a Junior Fellow beginning in August 2014. Please encourage your students to consider applying.

This is a one-year appointment, with possibility of renewal for a second year. Duties include (but are not limited to) leading tutorials, organizing cultural events, designing and managing service learning opportunities, and advising students. Roundtrip airfare and housing are provided by the College. CUHK offers a competitive salary and medical care. This is a great opportunity for a recent graduate to spend a year living and working in Hong Kong. Details of the post are available here:

<http://www.per.cuhk.edu.hk/JobVacancies/TeachingAdministrativeandProfessionalPosts/tabid/202/Default.aspx>. Contact: Ann Huss, PhD, Associate Master & Dean of General Education, Morningside College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong.

Faculty Positions at Duke Kunshan University (DKU)

Duke Kunshan University (DKU) will open the doors to its state-of-the-art campus in fall 2014 with undergraduate courses, graduate programs, research facilities, a conference center, and a full range of student services. We are delighted to announce that we are currently recruiting faculty for 4 positions to begin in August of 2014 at DKU. These positions are in Chinese Language, Economics, Environmental Policy, and Writing and Communications. Two additional positions in Modern Chinese History and American Studies are under development, and will be ready for recruitment soon.

All the positions are full time, open rank faculty positions. Initial appointments are multi-year renewable contracts. Criteria for renewal include teaching excellence, curriculum development, and service. English is the language of instruction at DKU, and we welcome applications from across the globe. Successful candidates will be part of the DKU founding faculty, will collaborate with Duke departments and will participate in the creation of faculty governance at DKU. The full job descriptions are attached to this email. For more information, please visit

<http://dku.edu.cn/about/employment>.

Duke University is privileged to have the opportunity to demonstrate a liberal arts research university model in China. DKU is governed by an independent board of trustees composed of representatives of the parent universities and founding partners and operates under guiding principles that include academic freedom and open access to information. We seek your recommendations for nominations for these positions. We would appreciate receiving any nominations from you as soon as possible. Consideration of candidates has begun and will continue until the positions are filled.

We look forward to welcoming the students and faculty and sharing our experiences in the months and years ahead. Please contact us if you would like more details about Duke Kunshan University.

Post-doctoral Fellow, The University Of Hong Kong

Post-doctoral Fellow: Political Economy of Land Development in China's Metropolises, Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences.

Applicants are invited for appointment as Post-doctoral Fellow in the Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences, from September 1, 2014 or as soon as possible thereafter, but not later than February 28, 2015. The appointment will be made for a period of 3 years.

We are seeking energetic and productive candidates to strengthen our ongoing research on China's urban and regional development. Applicants should have research experiences in one or preferably more of the following key subfields in the study of China: political economy of land development in China's metropolises; central-local relations and land finance; urban internal restructuring and redevelopments of urban land; mega-events, local debts, and uneven urban developments; privatization of SOEs and redevelopment of their land. A Ph.D. degree in Geography or a closely related discipline (politics, sociology, economics, planning, etc.) and a demonstrated record of relevant scholarly publications are required. Relevant field work experience in China is desirable. The appointee will participate in an interdisciplinary research project concerning land development in China's metropolises: A political economy perspective under the University's strategic research theme on contemporary China studies. Information about the Department can be obtained at <http://geog.hku.hk>. Enquires about the post should be addressed to the project leader, Professor George C.S. Lin (e-mail: gcslin@hku.hk) or Mr. Tommy Liu (e-mail: twkliu@hku.hk), Executive Officer, Department of Geography. Applications close on 30 April 2014. A highly competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience will be offered. The appointment carries leave, and medical/dental benefits. Applicants should send a completed application form, together with a C.V., by e-mail to geogjobs@hku.hk. They should also arrange for submission, to the same email address as above, three references from senior academics who are familiar with their academic and research background, skills and experience. Please indicate clearly "Post-doctoral Fellow in Contemporary China Studies" in the subject of the e-mail. Application forms (341/1111) can be obtained at <http://www.hku.hk/apptunit/form-ext.doc>. Further particulars can be obtained at <http://jobs.hku.hk>

The University thanks applicants for their interests, but advise that only short-listed applicants will be notified of the application result. The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to a No-Smoking Policy.

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

5th Urban Space and Social Life: Theory and Practice Conference. City Development in Its Natural and Built Environment.

Call for:

- 1) Papers
- 2) Design Competition Entries
- 3) Jurors for the Design Competition

All paper presenters will be the jurors of the competition at the conference

Date: June 16-18, 2014.

Location: Athinaia (previous a silky factory) in Gazi, Athens, Greece

Organizer: 4C5M Studio

Co-organizer: World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP)

Support: Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning and Design Institute, Shanghai, China

Department of Sociology, The American College of Greece, Athens, Greece

Keynote Speakers: Professor Gregory A. Katsaa, The American College of Greece

Professor Thomas J. Campanella, Cornell University

Professor Quisheng Pan, Texas Southern University

The 4C5M Studio's 5th Urban Space and Social Life conference invites papers and design competitions that explore challenging issues under the theme of City Development in Its Natural and Built Environment. City Development's challenge lies in how we sustain the quality of our living while balancing the demands of the natural and built environment. Often times, our city development creates undisputable "gridlocks" for ourselves. Challenges include but not limited to traffic, revitalization of old centers, balance use of spaces that intersect with natural forces such as natural disasters, geographic limitations (mountains, waters, and weather), and the return of wildlife. Our everyday living, culture, identity are shaped and impacted by the convolution of the natural and built environment. The conference invites the participants' imagination and creativity (papers and/or designs) to explore, understand, and solve some of the issues.

Creating a Better Living Space with Joint Responsibility

Please visit the conference website for details and design competition rules and regulations:

<http://www.4c5mstudio.org/conference/conference-at-athens-greece-june-16-18-2014>

Please forward any question to Ho Hon Leung, Ph.D. 梁浩翰博士 urbanspace2014@4c5mstudio.org.

Members' Forum

'China's New Blueprint For Urbanization'

Kam Wing Chan

(commentary published in the *China Economic Quarterly*, March, 2014).

Urbanization is unquestionably high on China's national agenda. The first-ever central urbanization work meeting was held in mid-December, chaired by Xi Jinping and attended by the full standing committee of the Politburo. But what exactly does the party-state intend urbanization to mean? The main strokes are clear but the details are devilish.

For the past decade, “urbanization” has often meant shoving lots of people into cities and local governments borrowing huge amounts of money against land (much of it expropriated) to build infrastructure, some necessary and some wasteful. Critics dubbed this China’s new “Great Leap Forward.” About two years ago, then vice-premier Li Keqiang began to push for a new approach: focusing on the social rather than the infrastructural aspects of urbanization, and emphasizing growth in urban household incomes rather than local-government investment spending.

Upon becoming premier in March 2013, Li indicated that a formal urbanization plan would be released by year-end. This release has been delayed by disagreements in the leadership, but the broad outlines are now reasonably clear, based on documents released during last November’s Third Plenum; the subsequent central work conferences on urbanization, rural issues and the economy; and the “No. 1 Central Document,” a key statement of rural policy priorities issued in January.

The central idea is an admission that China’s dual rural-urban structure, set up in the 1950s, remains a major obstacle to development. The structure of distinct residence permits, or *hukou*, for rural and urban residents urbanites and farmers into two disparate social, economic and political spheres. Official recognition that the dual structure is a problem opens the possibility for a bolder and more innovative urbanization strategy, with four main components:

1. *Hukou* reform to enable rural migrants to build more secure lives in the cities and towns.
2. Reform of rural land transfer system to enable a more equitable process for conversion of rural land for urban use.
3. Fiscal reform to create a sustainable local tax base needed to fund recurrent social expenditures, as a result of including migrants in the urban service system.
4. Attention to important but non-economic aspects of urban development, such as pollution, urban landscape, and historical preservation and things like pollution control and historic preservation.

The urbanization conference rightly set *hukou* reform as the top task. The rural work conference a few days later followed it up with setting a target of granting urban *hukou* status for 100m migrants by the end of 2020, out of the current 230m migrants in China’s cities. This is basically what I have called for in my own *hukou* reform proposal, and it is a significant step forward, especially after a decade of inaction.

Yet the specific measures are not daring. Conservatively, China will cling to the existing practice of easing *hukou* restrictions in towns and small cities but will put more controls on migration to and settlement in the big cities. Indeed, Beijing’s local government has since said that it will soon put out stricter measures to curb migration to the capital.

Relaxing the *hukou* restrictions only in smaller urban centers will not help many of the migrants as most of them are in the big cities. Because of the agglomeration economies at China’s current stage of development, most new jobs will continue to be generated in large cities. More stringent restrictions on migration to big cities will likely be ineffective and economically counter-productive.

The next priority—conversion of rural land for urban use—is crucial for urbanization, but it is hard to figure out how to do it fairly. Advocates of expanded property rights for farmers argue that farmers will use their land as a source of capital or collateral to fund agricultural investment, or a move to the city.

Others contend that the move will increase the risks of mass rural dispossession and dislocation, especially in inland areas where protection of rural property rights is weak, and so marketization of rural land must proceed with caution.

These contending views have led to some confusion: the Third Plenum decision apparently gave the green light for marketizing rural land transfers, but two months later the No.1 Document indicated that this reform would not proceed immediately. Concerns of some leaders over the mass dislocation risks may have temporarily stalled this change.

Based on what has been rolled out so far, China's new urbanization blueprint has identified a set of broad and reasonable directions. It is not a plan of specific measures, which are still being worked out. Like many other good plans in China, they can still be distorted, hijacked for other purposes or even reversed as they get implemented at the local level. This is where the real test will lie.

Students' Corner

Call for contributions: The graduate student blog of China Geography:

Dear China geographers,

This is the editorial group of the blog for graduate students in China geography. We hope this message finds you well.

After almost two months of preparation, we are pleased to announce that our blog (<http://chinageography.blog.com/>) is now open to accept the first round of submissions. In this call for contributions, we are featuring three themes that are based on suggestions offered by many graduate students: environmental issues, urban development, and theoretical and methodological considerations on China Geography. All of this could not have happened without the hard work of the members on the editorial board. Our editors in 2014 include ten graduate students from multiple disciplines and a vast range of geographical regions. They are:

Dylan Brady (Geography, University of Oregon)

Wei Chen (Geography, Ohio State University)

Xixi Fu (Resource Management and Geography, University of Melbourne)

Andrew Grant (Geography, UCLA)

Sam Kay (Geography, Ohio State University)

Chen Liu (Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London)

Robert Vanwey (History, SUNY)

Lili Wang (Geography, Ohio State University)

Yang Yang (Geography, University of Colorado Boulder)

Yueming Zhang (Geography, Clark University)

More information about our blog and our editors will be available on the blog. The site is currently under construction, and will be up and running soon.

Call for submissions:

Themes

1. Environmental Issues in Today's China

In recent years, China has experienced headline-grabbing environmental problems, from polluted rivers and tainted crops to choking smog and rising cancer rates. While recent government policies promote increased environmental protection, pollution of air and water has become a critical problem within China, even spilling over its borders. In recent years, for example, scholars have investigated adjustments to China's environmental policies and regulations (Carter and Mol, 2007), citizen action for water access (Mertha, 2008), rural sustainability (Tilt, 2009), the geographic unevenness of environmental policies (Yeh, 2009), and the impacts of massive infrastructure projects on river flow distribution (Wang et al., 2013).

We welcome contributions that offer: (1) overviews of recent environmental issues in China and their implications, (2) case studies of environmental problems in China, their causes and progression, (3) theoretical approaches to further understandings of environmental problems in China, (4) discussion of recent policy changes or adjustments, (5) investigations of citizens' adaptations or responses to real and imagined increases in water, air, and food pollution and many other environmental problems, (6) China's extraterritorial influences on climate change and pollution.

2. Urban Development in Chinese Cities

In past few decades, cities in China have emerged as a new frontier of global urban skylines. Specifically, its rapid urbanization has been a dynamic, complex, and rapid process. Contemporary Chinese urbanization poses questions concerning urbanites' livelihoods, grassroots organizations and civil politics, complicated legal mechanisms, governance institutions at various levels, global economic trends, and the environment. Emerging studies in the field of China geography have focused on the following issues:

- General trend, scale and forms of urbanization (Ma and Fan, 1994; Sit and Yang, 1997; Lin, 2001, 2002, 2007; Friedmann, 2005; Logan eds., 2005, 2008; Campanella, 2008)
- The transformation of the spatial structure of the Chinese city (Wu, 1995; Gaubatz, 1999; Cartier, 2002), the transformation of local governance (Wu, 1997, 2002, 2008)
- The development of city planning institutions and initiatives (Olds, 1997; Yeh and Wu, 1998; Tang, 2000; Ma, 2004; Wei, 2005; Leaf and Hou, 2006; Lu, 2006; Abramson, 2006, 2007, 2011; Luo and Shen, 2008; Zacharias and Tang, 2010)
- The new town movement and the widespread 'ghost towns' (Chen and Wang, 2009; Wang et al., 2010; Wu and Phelps, 2011; Xue et al., 2013)
- The evolution of land-centered politics (Lin, 2007; Hsing, 2009, 2010; Shin 2013), housing problems (Wang et al, 2005; He and Wu, 2009)
- Urban poverty, social stratification and spatial segregation (Wang, 2005; Wu, 2007; Gu et al., 2006; Li and Huang eds., 2014)
- Grassroots movements (Cai, 2005, 2007; Tomba, 2005; Perry and Goldman eds., 2007; Read, 2007; Shi, 2008)
- Ethnic minorities adaptations to resettlement programs (Yeh, 2013)
- Government eco-city projects (Hoffman, 2011; Chang and Sheppard, 2013).

- Leisure, recreation, and cultural development in cities (Rolandersen, 2011; Oakes, 2012)
- Inter-reference of international architecture (Ren, 2011; Bosker 2013; de Kloet and Scheen, 2013)
- Urban models (Wu and Barnes, 2008; Chen and Wang, 2009; Shen and Wu, 2012).

We welcome posts that further explore emerging trends in Chinese cities, such as the impacts of recent urban policy changes on urbanites, global concern over local Chinese government debt, and government and citizen responses to worsening air pollution problems, just to list a few.

Engagement with theoretical issues is also welcome, such as exploring if and how popular theories of the urban, such as those of Henri Lefebvre and David Harvey, can be productively adapted to help explain contemporary Chinese urbanization (Elden and Brenner 2009). Furthermore, we are interested in developing more discussions on the role of Chinese cases in global urban studies (Roy and Ong 2011), such as how might studies of Chinese cities speak to urbanization elsewhere in the world? What kind of roles do Chinese cities play in the theorization of the urban? Are they mere laboratories to examine the transfer of urban theories from the West to the East? What are some new and different implications generated from the research on Chinese cities?

3. Theoretical and Methodological Considerations on China Geography

With its swift economic development, the social and cultural context of China has dramatically transformed in recent years. Along with these changes social, cultural, political and economic studies of China have also changed over the past three decades. In this context, several international academic journals with the foci on both of the comprehensive Chinese studies (such as *The China Quarterly*) and some special areas in China (for example, *Journal of China Tourism Research*) emerged. Finding out the theories and methodologies to research Chinese issues, therefore, becomes one of the most important tasks of these journals and a lot of other scholarship on China.

Scholars of China are increasingly using diversified methodologies to explore their questions, as China draws increasing academic interest. Books such as *Doing Fieldwork in China* (2006) and *Contemporary Chinese Politics: New Sources, Methods, and Field Strategies* (2010) reveal the ongoing discussion over the variety and effectiveness of practicing various methodologies in China. In these books, scholars from around the world give their practical advice and discuss more general theoretical points in doing empirical research in China, drawing on their own fieldwork practice. With the constantly changing environment and socio-cultural formations in contemporary China, further discussions on methodologies are certainly necessary. By methodologies, they imply a wide range of issues such as epistemologies, framework, and perspectives in the field

In light of the provocation, we invite submissions exploring theoretical, empirical and methodological engagement in China Geography in a range of global contexts. Contributions that have focuses beyond existing mainstream methods and theorization are particularly welcomed.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Current theoretical discussions in China Geography and China studies in general;
- The theoretical communication among scholars in China and other parts of the world;
- Discussions of types of methodologies commonly used by China geographers and proposals for methodological innovation in the field.

Submission Requirements:

Submissions of blog entries should be no longer than 2,000 words. Graphs, images, and links included in the entries need to be sent as separate attachments. Placeholders need to be signaled in the text. A bibliography needs to be included. The preferred citation style is Chicago. As for the format, submissions are preferably sent as word documents or other accessible and generic formats such as PDF.

In your email, please include:

- Name, affiliated institution, and level of graduate studies, contact information (preferred email address).
- Related themes
- An abstract of no more than 150 words and a list of key words
- Blog entry (as an attachment)
- Image, graph, links etc. (as attachments)
- A short bio of the contributor(s)

Review procedure:

We intend to have blog posts citable as open access peer review publications. All abstracts will be reviewed by the editorial board. Results of the abstract review will be notified via email shortly after submission. Once abstracts are accepted, full-length contributions should then be submitted within two weeks. Submissions will be reviewed by at least two different members on the editorial board based on themes. Suggestions on revision and resubmission will be provided upon the submission of full-length entries. Contributors are expected to resubmit their revised contributions within a week upon receiving editorial suggestions.

These three themes described above will be run between February 2014 and December 2014. Submissions of entries will be accepted between February 17, 2014 and November 20, 2014. Please email your submissions to Chinageographystudent@gmail.com. If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us at Chinageographystudent@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,
Editors of the China Geography Student Blog

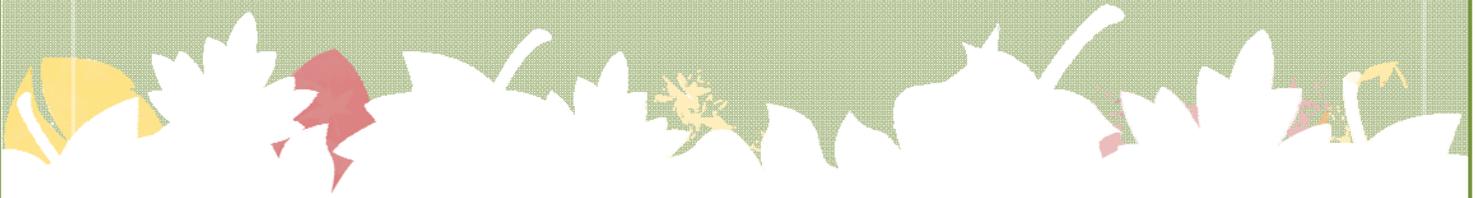
Our website and timeline

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.



CGSG Officers 2013-2014

Chair:

Tim Oakes

University of Colorado, Boulder

toakes@colorado.edu

Vice-chair:

Guo Chen

Michigan State University

guochen@msu.edu

Secretary:

David W. Edgington

University of British Columbia

david.edgington@ubc.ca

Student Representatives:

Lili Wang

Ohio State University

wang.1330@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Web Master:

Xinyue Ye

Bowling Green State
University

xinyue.ye@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Yifei Sun

California State University,
Northridge

yifei.sun@csdun.edu

Yang Yang

University of Colorado, Boulder

yang.yang@colorado.edu

Editor of Newsletter

David W. Edgington

Spring 2014