

2019 Graduate Workshop on China in the urban age

China's environmental global challenge
and “Eco-civilisation” 生态文明

(as at 09 January 2019)

Contents

CONTEXT	3
China in the Urban Age - a shared research agenda	3
2019 Graduate Workshop on China in the urban age	3
SCHEDULE	4
SPEAKER PROFILES & ABSTRACTS	7
MULIDISCIPLINARY FORA.....	13
PARTICIPANTS	16
FILM SCREENING	25

CONTEXT

China in the Urban Age - a shared research agenda

The University of Sydney China Studies Centre's inaugural theme, [China in the Urban Age](#), envelops almost every discipline, to build a more complex narrative of China's urbanisation and its historical relevance for a better urban world.

Across the sciences, social sciences and humanities, urbanisation is perceived as a goal or a challenge: better, more secure, more equal, more efficient, more culturally grounded, altogether more sustainable. Nowhere in the modern world has the phenomenon of territorial and social transformation been more rapid, comprehensive and all-encompassing than in China. While disciplines tend to advance their own concerns in isolation, there is increasingly the need for a hub connecting diverse findings, languages and questions.

By launching this theme, which we will pursue for the next five years, we want to claim the increasing impossibility of approaching these urban issues as discreet, separate or as solely relevant to China.

2019 Graduate Workshop on China in the urban age

The [inaugural graduate workshop](#) on [China in the Urban Age](#), aims to involve any branch of the sciences, humanities and social sciences with an interest in sustainability, and is devoted to *China's Environmental Challenge and Eco-Civilisation: a Multidisciplinary Approach to the Anthropocene*.

The workshop brings together a group of international graduate research students and early-career researchers whose interests are broadly related to the issue of sustainability in China, for five days of master classes, workshops and discussions led by a dozen leading international experts from diverse relevant fields.

This workshop is an initiative of the China Studies Centre in collaboration with the [Planetary Health Platform](#) at the University of Sydney. It will be held at the University of Sydney between 14 and 18 January 2019.

SCHEDULE

China's Environmental Global challenge and "Eco-civilisation" 生态文明

- a Multidisciplinary Approach to the Anthropocene.

Main venue: The University of Sydney Business School, Abercrombie Building, Corner Abercrombie St and Codrington St, Darlington ([map](#))

Date:	Sunday 13 January
Location:	Theatre room, Abercrombie Student Accommodation, 401 Abercrombie St, Darlington (map)

18:30-19:30 Informal welcome from the China Studies Centre staff

Date:	Monday 14 January
Location:	Seminar Room 2130, The University of Sydney Business School

8:40-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Welcome - Luigi Tomba (China Studies Centre)
9:15-10:45	Self-Introductions - three 30 min sessions - each participant presents their research interest in 3mins
10:45-11:00	Morning tea
11:00-12:30	Luigi Tomba , <i>Finding a New Language: the challenges of eco-civilization</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Tony Capon , <i>Planetary Health and Urbanisation</i>
15:00-15:15	Afternoon tea
15:15-17:00	FORUM 1 - Lifestyles: what has changed, what needs to change? Gil Hizi Julia Harten Weijie Hu Edwin Schmitt Annie Malcolm
17:00-17:30	Whiteboard discussion
17:30-18:00	Break
18:00-18:30	Walk to the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence
18:30-21:00	Welcome Dinner at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence

Date:	Tuesday 15 January
Room:	Lecture Theatre 2150, The University of Sydney Business School

9:00-10:30 **Peng Gong**, *Design for Healthy Cities*
 10:30-11:00 Morning break
 11-12:30 **Anna Lora Wainwright**, *Shifting challenges and opportunities, and the role of civil society*
 12:30-13:30 Lunch
 13:30-15:30 **FORUM 2 - Sustainable and resilient: how and for whom?**
 Ying Jia Tan
 Kai Yang
 Christopher K. Tong
 Simon Yin
 Julia Teebken
 Han Lin
 15:30-15:45 Afternoon Break
 15:45 – 17:00 **Emily Yeh**, *Vulnerability to and knowledge of climate change among pastoralists in Tibet*
 17:00-17:30 Whiteboard discussion

Date:	Wednesday 16 January
Room:	Lecture Theatre 2150, The University of Sydney Business School

9:00-10:30 **Sarah Swider**, *Made to Fail: Constructing human tragedies*
 10:30-11:00 Morning break
 11:00-12:30 **FILM SCREENING: Shielding the Mountains** (20mins, 2010) followed by discussion led by **Emily Yeh** with **Qian Ying**
 12:30-13:30 Lunch
 13:30-15:30 **FORUM 3 - Taking indigeneity seriously?**
 Wang Ting
 Wen-Yao Lee
 Brendan Galipeau
 Ettore Santi
 Tomonori Sugimoto
 15:30-16:15 Travel to the Royal Botanic Garden
 16:15-17:45 Aboriginal Heritage Tour at the garden

Date:	Thursday 17 January
Room:	Lecture Theatre 2150, The University of Sydney Business School

9:00-10:30 **Pierre Landry**, *Which way does the arrow run? The impact of Urbanization on land sales in China 2000-2018*

10:30-11:00 Morning break

11:00-12:30 **Selina Lo**, *Global Health: Implications for China's Ecocivilisation Aspirations*

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 **Zheng Bo**, *Dao is in Weeds / Sex with Ferns*

15:00-15:15 Afternoon Break

15:15-17:15 **FORUM 4 - A multi species world?**
 Tuukka Kaikkonen
 Jamie Wang
 Hua Shao
 Sam Kay

17:15-17:45 Whiteboard discussion

Date:	Friday 18 January
Room:	Seminar Room 3180, The University of Sydney Business School

9:00-10:30 **Olivier Krischer**, *Chinese art in the 1990s and the spectre of urban citizenship*

10:30-11:00 Morning break

11-12:30 **FORUM 5 - Back to a techno future?**
 Oscar Galeev
 Danqi Xing
 Grete Schönebeck
 Yujing Tan

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:30 **FORUM 6 - What is a just city?**
 Xiang Li
 Jesse Rodenbiker
 Ka Ling Cheung
 Hao Yin
 Georgina Andre

15:30- 16:00 Afternoon Break

16:00- 17:00 Final discussion

SPEAKER PROFILES & ABSTRACTS

LUIGI TOMBA

Professor of Chinese Politics and Director, China Studies Centre, The University of Sydney

Finding a New Language: the challenges of eco-civilization

We face a challenge like no other and we need a new language for it. For the first time, sciences (social or natural) and humanities are facing the same existential questions, and they all have the same urgency to address it. “Knowing the science” of environmental degradation is something that humanities and social sciences can no longer postpone, can no longer farm out to experts. Yet, what we are looking for is not only a set of solutions but also an adaptation of our thinking and our language to put us in a condition to communicate and understand the extent of the problem. The Chinese leadership has come up with the idea of “eco-civilisation” an enticing term that we will deconstruct during the next few days. It suggests a more ecological way of being citizens, but it also suggests that the solution is in the human understanding of civility, in the human capacity to save and tame the planet. That the threat and the saviour are the same person. On the other side we are also the only species able to have this debate, and our responsibility to this planet is one we don’t want to shy away. In this talk I want to set the parameters for our discussion, by exploding some important analytical categories, that have become ossified over time and are now often understood uncritically. Words like sustainability, Anthropocene, conservation, nature, resilience and modernity are understood differently and need to be deconstructed before they can become useful. I will suggest ways of doing so by putting into focus some existing contradictions in the Chinese case, and its relevance for the global discussion.

Luigi Tomba is a political scientist with three decades of China experience, having visited China for the first time in 1988. From 2001 to 2017, Luigi was teaching and researching Chinese society and politics at the Australian National University, and in 2017 he assumed the directorship of the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. His work covers many aspects of China’s political and social change, with a particular interest in the consequences of China’s urbanisation on its society and governance. Luigi was also the editor of *The China Journal* (2005-2015) one of the most prestigious international research journals on post-1949 China.

TONY CAPON

Professor of Planetary Health, The University of Sydney

The concept of planetary health

By most measures, human health is better now than at any time in human history. However, these health gains have been unequally distributed and have come at the high price of degradation of natural systems on a unprecedented scale. Published in 2015, the Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on Planetary Health report *Safeguarding human health in the*

Anthropocene epoch concludes that the continuing degradation of natural systems threatens to reverse the health gains seen over the last century. In short, we have mortgaged the health of future generations to realise economic and development gains in the present. Anthropogenic global changes—including climate change, biodiversity loss and toxic pollution of air, water and ecosystems—have direct and indirect health impacts. Put simply, planetary health is the health of human civilisation and the state of the natural systems on which it depends. In this presentation, Professor Capon will introduce the findings of the Lancet Commission and canvass their alignment with the Chinese concept of ecological civilization.

Tony Capon is the inaugural Professor of Planetary Health in the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney. A former director of the global health institute at United Nations University (UNU-IIGH), he is a public health physician and authority on environmental health and health promotion. For more than 20 years, Tony has been leading transdisciplinary research and capacity building efforts on the broad theme of urbanisation, sustainable development and human health. Since 2008, he has advised the International Council for Science (ICSU) on their global interdisciplinary science program on health and wellbeing in the changing urban environment using systems approaches which is hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Urban Environment in Xiamen. Tony is a member of the Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, the advisory board for the Planetary Health Alliance, and the editorial advisory board for The Lancet Planetary Health. He has served in numerous honorary leadership roles with professional and not-for-profit organisations including the International Society for Urban Health, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Frank Fenner Foundation.

PENG GONG

Professor and chair, Department of Earth System Science, Tsinghua University; Professor Emeritus, University of California Berkley

Design for Healthy Cities

China's rapid urbanization during the past 4 decades has brought great benefits to the urban citizens but new challenges have also been created. Despite the fact that a large amount of efforts the Chinese government has made and many successes have been achieved, major gaps remain, including but not limited to an over-reliance on a top-down-approach to environmental management, a narrow focus on health care in urban health management, and a scarcity of intersectoral action. In this presentation, I will give detail about the challenges, their responding actions and recommendations to further improve the urban health situation in China. In addition, I will present some new results achieved at Tsinghua on shaping the urban design and planning for healthy cities development in China.

Peng Gong is Professor and Chair of the Department of Earth System Science, Dean of School of Sciences and Vice Chair of the Academic Committee of Tsinghua University. Before joining Tsinghua, he studied at Nanjing University (1980-1986), the University of British Columbia

(1986-1987), the University of Waterloo (1987-1990), and taught in the Department of Geomatics Engineering at the University of Calgary between 1991 and 1994, and on the faculty in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the University of California, Berkeley between 1994 and 2015. He served as the founding director of the International Institute for Earth System Science at Nanjing University, and the founding director of the State Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing Science, jointly sponsored by the Institute of Remote Sensing Applications of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing Normal University (2004-2010). His major research interests include mapping and monitoring of global environmental change using satellite and ground-based sensors, and modelling of environmentally related infectious diseases.

ANNA LORA-WAINWRIGHT

Professor, School of Geography and Environment, University of Oxford

Shifting challenges and opportunities, and the role of civil society

The challenges to enforcing environmental protection are more than ever a vibrant topic of debate for academics, civil society agents and for Chinese policy makers alike. In this session we will consider how these problems are framed by different stakeholders and with what effects. We will begin by focusing on how particular types of 'nature' and the environment are constructed as objects for protection and conservation while others are seen as opportunities for development. Against this backdrop, we will consider the various governance challenges to environmental protection, as well as the ways in which citizens demand a cleaner environment, under what circumstances they do so, and when they do not. We will examine the role that these various types of 'environmental movements' might play in aiding (or halting) environmental protection and sustainable development. This in turn sheds light on topics of great currency in the study of contemporary China more broadly, such as the relationships between state and society, state legitimacy, social justice and welfare.

Anna Lora-Wainwright: I trained in anthropology and carried out long-term fieldwork in Sichuan, living in a farming village for over a year and researching attitudes to health and healthcare, with a particular focus on cancer. This led to the publication of my first book, *Fighting for Breath: Living Morally and Dying of Cancer* (2013). From 2007, I began to research the ways in which rural communities experience and respond to environmental health risks and took part in three separate interdisciplinary projects related to this topic. This resulted in the publication of several single and co-authored articles, as well as my second book, *Resigned Activism: Living with Pollution in Rural China* (2017). Since 2015 I have directed a project funded by the Leverhulme Trust on Circuits of Waste and Value: Making E-waste Subjects in China and Japan, involving collaborations with Peter Wynn Kirby, Liping Li and Yvan Schulz.

SARAH SWIDER

Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Copenhagen

Made to fail: Constructing human tragedies

China's construction industry now relies mostly on informal and precarious workers and competes by minimizing their health and safety and threatening ours. China's economic reforms have ushered in a period of economic success and integration into the global economy, but it has also led to a rising informal and precarious workforce, including more than 90 percent of construction workers, which poses serious health and safety issues not only for these workers, but for society at large.

In April 2013 in Sichuan, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake rocked the region; buildings collapsed, killing 87,000 people, including 4,700 school children who died in over 7,000 "tofu schools", which crumbled to the ground. This was a human-made tragedy not a natural disaster, as many of the buildings were made to fail with insufficient steel reinforcements and substandard concrete. In Guangzhou, in December 2015, another human-made disaster occurred, as a mountain of waste from a construction dumpsite collapsed, engulfing an area equivalent to more than 70 football fields, destroying over 33 buildings and causing a rising death toll as 200 earth moving machines continue to shift through the wreckage looking for bodies.

A more hidden tragedy are the occupational deaths and disease that construction workers suffer in a system that creates and relies on precarity. These migrant workers are without labor contracts, without unions, without protection of labor laws, and because China has a unique internal passport system, they are without citizenship in the city. They toil long hours, lack adequate training, earn low-wages or fail to get paid, and face difficult, dangerous and sometimes deadly working conditions.

This talk draws connections between the structure of the industry, working conditions including dismal health and safety standards for precarious informal workers, and unstable and unsafe buildings. It explores the forces that lead contractors, workers and local government officials to willingly participate in subverting protections and undermine efforts to create sustainable urbanization and modernization.

Sarah Swider is an Associate Professor at the University of Copenhagen. Sarah has lived and worked with construction workers in China and has studied the industry for over a decade. She shines light on the hidden story behind how China's modern cities are built and the inherent dangers in a system that lacks checks and balances.

EMILY YEH

Professor of Geography, University of Colorado

Vulnerability to and knowledge of climate change among pastoralists in Tibet

Climate change is causing average temperatures on the Tibetan Plateau to rise much faster than the global average. This talk will focus on two major effects of climate change for Tibetan pastoralists: extreme weather events, and ecological effects. The first part of the talk will take a

political ecology approach to understanding pastoralists' vulnerability to snowstorms, analyzing the various factors that contribute to coping capacity and how these have changed over time with broader political economic transformation. The second part of the talk will discuss herders' observations of changes in climate and ecology, analyzing and interpreting a puzzling contradiction between herders' observations and available weather station data. In doing so, I offer some methodological considerations for studying local knowledge, as well as argue that it is precisely at points of contradiction between different ways of knowing where new insights can be generated. Finally, the talk will argue that current rangeland policies that are supposedly also forms of climate adaptation in fact have the opposite effect.

Emily Yeh is a professor of Geography at the University of Colorado Boulder. She conducts research on development and nature-society relations in Tibetan parts of the PRC, including the political ecology of pastoralism, conflicts over access to natural resources, vulnerability of Tibetan herders to climate change, the relationship between ideologies of nature and nation, and environmental subjectivities. Her book *Taming Tibet: Landscape Transformation and the Gift of Chinese Development* (Cornell University Press 2013) explores the intersection of political economy and cultural politics of development as a project of state territorialization. She is also co-editor with Chris Coggins of *Mapping Shangrila: Contested Landscapes in the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands*, and with Kevin O'Brien and Ye Jingzhong of *Rural Politics in Contemporary China*. She regularly teaches classes on political ecology, development, environment and society geography, contemporary China, and research design.

PIERRE LANDRY

Professor of Government and Public Administration, Director of the University Service Centre, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Which way does the arrow run? The impact of Urbanization on land sales in China 2000-2018

I rely on an exhaustive data from all land auctions in China over the last two decades to evaluate the consequences of China's pattern of urbanization. I focus on the impact of the administrative types and ranks of units, as well as inclusion of county-level government in the pilot "urbanization plan" under the DRC, to measure the impact of "administrative urbanization" on actual patterns of land use.

Pierre F. Landry is a professor of Government and Public Administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and co-director of the Universities Service Center for China Studies. His research focuses on local governance, in China and globally.

SELINA LO

Senior Research Fellow, School of Public Health, The University of Sydney; Consulting editor, The Lancet

Global Health: Implications for China's Ecocivilisation Aspirations

This talk will provide a definition of Global Health and identify trends that intersect with Planetary Health. I will highlight areas in Global Health that could have co-benefits, such as physical activity, non-communicable diseases and mental health; as well as discussing less direct yet significant issues, including governance, health security, and the political and commercial determinants of health.

Finally, I will outline China's global health work, the relationship of ecocivilisation to health, and prospects and opportunities for future research.

Selina Lo has a medical and legal background and is currently Consulting Editor for the Lancet medical journal and to the UN. She spent 15 years with Doctors without Borders (Médecins sans Frontières) in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar and China leading medical humanitarian missions. She worked with Clinton Foundation, seconded to the China Centre for Disease Control and Prevention on HIV AIDS treatment. She was medical director of the global access to medicines campaign based in Geneva for Doctors without Borders. She has been Senior Editor at the Lancet for 8 years, based in London and Beijing, covering global commissions including Planetary Health and Climate Change (2015), and Health and China's Healthy Cities (2018).

ZHENG BO

Artist and Assistant professor, School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong

Dao is in Weeds / Sex with Ferns

Zheng Bo will share his recent art practice working with plants and politics, including gardens of weeds for art museums, botanical propaganda subject to plant wishes, a fictional Chinese Communist Garden in Paris, and an ongoing eco-queer film in Taiwan.

What would aesthetics for a Good Anthropocene look like? How could we facilitate symbioses between Daoist, Buddhist, and indigenous ideas with contemporary art practices? How should we decompose categories like "art" and "creativity," institutions like "museums" and "collections"? Not being able to answer these questions alone, he hopes that through discussion some ideas could spring up.

Zheng Bo is an artist, writer, and teacher, committed to socially and ecologically engaged art. He investigates the past and imagines the future from the perspectives of marginalized communities and marginalized plants. He is learning to cultivate ecological wisdom for a Good Anthropocene. He has worked with a number of museums and art spaces in Asia and Europe, most recently Parco Arte Vivente (Torino), TheCube Project Space (Taipei), Villa Vassilieff (Paris), Cass Sculpture Foundation (Goodwood), Sifang Art Museum (Nanjing), and Hong Kong Museum of Art. In 2018 his works have been included in Manifesta 12, Cosmopolis #1.5, the 11th Taipei Biennial, the 2nd Yinchuan Biennial, and the 1st Thailand Biennial. He taught at China Academy of Art from 2010 to 2013, and currently teaches at the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong.

OLIVIER KRISCHER

Art historian and Deputy director, China Studies Centre, The University of Sydney

Chinese art in the 1990s and the spectre of urban citizenship

Much of this conference is rightly concerned with the “eco” in the “eco-civilisation” equation; with concepts of mobilizing the sciences, applied and social, for the environment; or for example with confronting the practical challenges to more sustainable and equitable resource management. As an art historian, I’m wondering what I can contribute, when the subject of my research is, some might think, by nature of no practical purpose? Yet, whatever civilization denotes, art seems to be one of those undefinable yet irreplaceable aspects of our humanity. If we are to live in this “eco-civilisation”, what is its art and where are its origins?

While social practices, socially engaged or ecological art are at the forefront of art discourse today in China as elsewhere, I would like to look back at some art in China during the 1990s, which is marked by the promise of a globally networked market economy and the pervasive impact of urban transformation, lived and imagined. On the one hand, art of the period became known for its political cynicism, entrepreneurial spirit, and a curious kind of individual and national bravado. Yet, alongside reflection on the construction and ruin of the urban built environment in which most artists live, many attempted to address broader, subtler issues, including cultural memory, the commodification of labour, social mobility and inequity, commercialization, globalization (and its discontents), and shifting personal and national identities. While the period has been critiqued as superficial or opportunistic, with a naïve faith in the authority of the market or an escape into idiosyncratic experiments, some artists made tentative forays towards one of the central mysteries of this new civilization – the urban subject.

Olivier Krischer is an art historian whose research regards the role of art theory and practice in modern and contemporary China-Japan relations, and more recently networks of artistic activism from Hong Kong and across East Asia. Prior to joining the Centre, Olivier was a Visiting Fellow in the Institute for Modern History, at Academia Sinica, Taiwan, and a post-doctoral fellow at the Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU. He completed his PhD at the University of Tsukuba on a Japanese Government monbukagakusho scholarship, studying China-Japan relations through art in the early twentieth century.

MULIDISCIPLINARY FORA

1. Lifestyles: what has changed, what needs to change? The large transformation of life into an urban life has produced significant gains but also generated new challenges (the diabetes crisis, the growth of non-communicable diseases, wasteful consumption, loss of contact with nature, etc.). At the same time many of the challenges to our world come from the inability to adapt our behaviour to the new concentrated way of living we experience. The circular economy

suggests that process solutions are already available. Is environmentalism a middle class thing? China's government has long been arguing that it is not in a position to do something for the environment because it still needs to "grow" its economy first. It has, however, reached a point where economic growth and environmentalism are no longer in contradiction and disregarding the latter may affect the bottom line. Are economic priorities and environmental priorities necessarily in conflict? How is this played out at the level of the individual? Is the aspiration to pursue a "China Dream" suggesting that China wants to go down a different track from the US?

2. Sustainable and resilient: how and for whom? We need to talk about sustainability and resilience. One idea encourages us to think of how much we can overload the system without breaking it, the other suggests that we develop defence mechanisms to the challenges of climate change, economic and social crises. Are these the right concepts? Eco- and smart cities promise a green future, but also suggest that the emerging green economy is an economy like any other. Does something more fundamental need to change, and how can that realistically be achieved? Are there other concepts that could help us to achieve the green future we are seeking? Has China been a pioneer, investing large amounts of resources in alternative energy sources and smart technology? Or is it producing contradictions in other areas?

3. A multi species world? The discussion of what is ecological and civilised is today increasingly extending to the rights, concerns and action of non-human actors, from plants to animals to natural reserves, weather and eco-systems, which have usually been seen as resources at our disposal. As much as we are now becoming deeply aware of living in the Anthropocene, we are also for the first time in a position of recognising (to recognise...?) that our destiny as a species is connected to that of other living beings. What are the consequences of including them in our thinking? What does it mean to consider our destiny first? What practical consequences would such an attitude have on concepts of Nature and Conservation? And what changes when we see our responsibilities as those of a species among other? Are there challenges particular to China that make it difficult to include other species in the conversation about eco-civilisation?

4. Back to a techno future? What are realistic technological interventions that have promise for adaptation? The discussion has often been about the nature of the solution, between the need to "solve" a specific problem and the need to "adapt" to the changing conditions we are experiencing. Technology offers us an opportunity. What does it mean to rely on technology for the solution of environmental problems? And what problems does it generate? What should inspire technological solutions (nature itself, accumulated knowledge, scientific thinking)? What are the implications, advantages and disadvantages of a central control of technologies like what we are experiencing in China (a more efficient and faster implementation, versus the risk of relying on a small number of actors)? Should we sacrifice freedom and privacy for security and efficiency? Is the "right to technology" in need of private-public partnership? And is the goal of technology that of reversing the impact of humans on the environment? And ultimately, what is a technology? Do we need to first rethink what technology is and does? Are there unintended consequences?

5. Taking indigeneity seriously? What is the role of indigenous knowledge? Is there a way in which indigenous forms of knowledge can be part of a solution? Besides the drive to preserve such ways as part of our diverse human heritage, what is the most just way to deal with indigenous knowledge or more broadly with local manifestations of knowledge? How can the perceived friction between a drive towards “modernity” and the “traditional” nature generally assigned to indigenous knowledge be solved? Beyond such dichotomies, are there lessons from indigenous economies and resource management that can be applied at scale to the current situation? Is ethnicity an issue in the search for ecological solutions in China?

6. What is a just city? China’s urbanisation, as much as urbanisation elsewhere, is facing the question of what a just city should look like. Equal access to resources is only part of the issue. Climate change and environmental degradation are affecting people differently; even the solutions to environmental degradation (from the waste import ban, to the low-carbon economy and the rapid growth of electric mobility) sometimes increase inequality and reduce access to the city, segregating people and eco-systems and making them controversial and elite objects of consumption. In a world that has already concentrated the majority of the population in cities, what are reasonable objectives in the development of a city? Is a just future dependent on the city? If the goal is that of giving citizens fair access to mobility, energy, food, housing and care, what is the role of the state and of the market in realising that goal? What about justice for future generations?

PARTICIPANTS



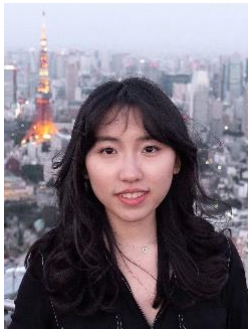
JESSE RODENBIKER (PhD candidate, Geography, UC Berkeley)

Interests: Urban Ecological Protection Zoning, Socio-environmental dislocation, Cultural politics of science and nature in ecological civilization building

Thesis: “Ecological State: Science, Nature and the City in China's Southwest”

Bio: Jesse’s work explores China’s urban green development at the intersection of environmental science, urban land governance, and social dislocation. Through 15 months of research on the cultural politics and political economies of urban land governance across cities of the China’s

Southwest he makes the case that processes of green zoning are remaking state and society through the uneven incorporation of peri-urban land, infrastructure, and people.



TING WANG (PhD candidate, University of Hong Kong)

Interests: Environmental and resource management & planning in China (water urbanism and local knowledge)

Thesis: “Rethinking the role of local knowledge in the discourse of water resource management. A comparative study of the challenges of emerging landscape integrated water resource management (LIWRM) in Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta regions in China”

Bio: WANG Ting is an urban researcher with hybrid educational background in urban planning and landscape architecture. She is studying

Ph.D. in the Faculty of Architecture in the University of Hong Kong with a concentration on power and space, and environmental resource management planning, design and politics. Her current research is focusing on the emerging Landscape Integrated Water Resource Management in Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta regions in China.



WEIJIE HU (PhD candidate, University of Sydney)

Interests: Architecture, affordable housing, land/planning politics

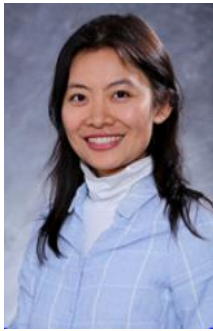
Thesis: Urbanisation and Public Rental Housing in Chongqing, China

Bio: Weijie Hu is a PhD candidate in Architecture and Urbanism at the University of Sydney,

Australia. His thesis examines the politics of urbanisation and social housing in Chongqing,

China from the perspectives of peasants and shed new light on both positive and negative

changes taking place in the latter’s everyday lives. Also, he is a registered architect in the Netherlands, with working experience in Paris and Rotterdam.



HAO YIN (Postdoctoral researcher, Center for Earth System Science, Tsinghua University)

Interests: Energy consumption and its impacts on climate change and air pollution

Bio: Hao is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Earth System Science at Tsinghua University. She holds a double-degree PhD from Beijing Normal University and Aalborg University, specializing in environmental economics. Hao's research applies interdisciplinary methods to analyze the economic loss of air pollution. Hao is deeply interested in balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. Her postdoctoral research investigates global health impacts of air pollution and co-benefits of renewable energy.



TUUKKA KAIKKONEN (PhD candidate, Australian National University)

Interests: Archaeology and anthropology

Thesis: "Dispersal of rice and millets from China to Taiwan 4,000-6,000 years ago: microbotanical evidence from soils and sediments"

Bio: I'm a PhD candidate with a background in archaeology. To date, I've been researching the prehistoric spread of agriculture to Taiwan; however, I'm now shifting my focus to more contemporary topics within the social sciences. I've lived, studied, and conducted research in Taiwan and the PRC for one and a half years and am learning Mandarin on my spare time. My other interests include food and the Effective Altruism movement.



DANQI XING (PhD candidate, Tsinghua University)

Interests: Urban Ecology

Thesis: "Main factors influencing citizen science applied in urban ecological studies"

Bio: Danqi Xing (Jenny) is a postgraduate at Tsinghua University, originally from Luoyang, China. She received her BA in Forestry Science in 2017. Later on, with great enthusiasm, she chose to pursue a Master's study in Urban Ecology. Her research interests are efficient survey methods used in urban ecosystems science and citizen science in urban ecological studies. She is devoting herself to solve ecological problems in cities with tools/methods developed in multidisciplinary studies using advanced technology.



OSCAR GALEEV (Yenching Scholar, Peking University)

Interests: Green technologies in China

Thesis: “Ideology and Politics of High-Tech Modernisation in China”

Bio: Before doing China Studies research at the Yenching Academy I was specializing in international political economy and Middle Eastern studies at Leiden University. So my interests cover comparative area studies and spatial inequalities in postcolonial contexts. But my research right now is concerned with the development of technology and political ideology in China, and with export of the Chinese model of urbanization.



GEORGINA ANDRE (PhD candidate, Geography and Urban Planning, Universite Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne and Wuhan University)

Interests: Second-tier city metropolisation, urban mobility, urban localities
PhD in Geography and Urban Planning

Thesis: “The evolution of urban localities in Wuhan, a Chinese second-tier city engaged in a metropolisation process”

Bio: Georgina has become a researcher after ten years of professional experience. She is currently carrying out a double PhD in geography at the University of la Sorbonne in Paris, and in urban design at the University of

Wuhan in China. Her research area covers Chinese big cities metropolitan transition, taking Wuhan as a case-study. Her PhD is funded by Arte Charpentier Architectes, an agency very active in Wuhan's urban projects.



EDWIN SCHMITT (Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Oslo)

Interests: Environmental Anthropology, Environmental History and Applied Science

Bio: I am an Environmental Anthropologist by training, but as a Postdoc at UiO I have shifted to the field of Energy History. My research has focused on energy development in Sichuan, Yunnan, Hebei and Qinghai; commodification in Han, Nuosu and Ersu villages of Western Sichuan; and environmental consciousness among urban residents of Chengdu. I am currently developing a project on the biophysical, socio-economic and geopolitical impacts of cultural heritage preservation.



BRENDAN GALIPEAU (Postdoctoral Fellow, Chao Center for Asian Studies, Rice University)

Interests: China, Environmental Anthropology, Agriculture

Bio: Brendan A. Galipeau, PhD is an environmental anthropologist whose research interests focus on hydropower development, agricultural practices, and landscape history. His book manuscript, *Crafting a Tibetan Terroir: Wine Production, Identity, and Landscape Change in Shangri-La, China*, explores economic and ecological representations of ethnicity and identity formation as they relate to agricultural change and commodification of wine and grape production among Tibetans in Northwest Yunnan Province in Southwest China.



KAI YANG (Postdoctoral Fellow, Peking University)

Interests: Environmental science, soil, contamination remediation, water/hydrology

Bio: I graduated from the University of Sydney with a PhD degree in Environmental Sciences (Soil Science) in 2016. After the graduation, I worked as Research Associate Professor at Qilu University of Technology (Shandong Academy of Sciences) in Jinan, China. I am currently doing a postdoc at Peking University in Beijing. My research is focused on (1) soil contamination remediation and (2) soil and water conservation and desertification control.



HUA SHAO (PhD candidate, Law, Minzu University of China & CSIRO Australia)

Interests: Biodiversity and traditional knowledge conservation

Thesis: "Comparative perspectives on traditional knowledge for biodiversity in China and Australia"

Bio: My research focuses on traditional knowledge of biodiversity conservation. A review of policies, institutions, and other arrangements for indigenous knowledge in China and Australia is undertaken to show the impact of Policies on the protection of traditional knowledge. Through the comparative policy and institutional analysis, additives lessons for each country, including global implications.



CHRISTOPHER TONG (Assistant Professor, University of Maryland; Fulbright scholar in China, 2018-19)

Interests: Modern Chinese literature and environmental humanities

Bio: Christopher K. Tong is an assistant professor of Chinese and Asian Studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and currently a Fulbright research scholar in Nanjing, China. He is working on a book manuscript on the culture and politics of representing the environment in early 20th-century China. In 2019, he will serve as Chair of the Modern Language Association's Modern and

Contemporary Chinese forum.



GIL HIZI (Teaching Fellow, University of Sydney)

Interests: anthropology, contemporary China

Bio: I am a Teaching Fellow in Anthropology at Sydney University. I have recently completed my doctoral degree, which was based on an ethnographic study of extracurricular practices of self-improvement in contemporary China. More generally, I am interested in social changes in China that touch upon issues of personhood, affect and morality.



JULIA HARTEN (PhD candidate, Public Policy and Management, University of Southern California)

Interests: Housing

Thesis: "Crowded with Potential: Bed Space Rentals in China"

Bio: I am a PhD Candidate in Public Policy at USC Price. My research advances knowledge on the spatial structure of growing megacities by uncovering the hidden urbanism of those for whom cities did not plan, and often refuse to plan. Towards this end, I inventively mobilize quantitative techniques in dialogue with ethnographic field work.



ETTORE SANTI (PhD candidate, Architecture, UC Berkeley)

Interests: Architecture, Landscape, and Chinese Development

Thesis: “Restructuring the Chinese Countryside: Landscapes of Agrarian Change in Rural Hunan”

Bio: Ettore is Ph.D. student in Architecture History, Theory, and Society. He is an architect and urban designer specializing in contemporary Chinese urbanism. His dissertation investigates how local states and large-scale private corporate actors are turning China’s rural villages into spaces for intensive food production and tourism consumption. His inquiry considers

two forces leading villages remaking: the techno-scientific ecological modernism design practices, and the local farmers' desires of upward social mobility.



TOMONORI SUGIMOTO (PhD candidate, Stanford University)

Interests: anthropology, urban and environmental anthropology, race/ethnicity/indigeneity

Thesis: “The Indigenous Right to the City? Urban Indigeneity and the State in Taiwan”

Bio: Tomo Sugimoto is currently completing his PhD in sociocultural anthropology at Stanford University. His dissertation examines conflicts over land, nature, and space between indigenous Austronesian people and the state in Taipei. As a visiting fellow at Stanford's Peking Center and

North Minzu University in 2018, he has also begun research in Ningxia on the PRC policy of relocating rural farmers to cities for environmental restoration and poverty alleviation.



HAN LIN (Tutor, Flinders University)

Interests: China's climate change and energy policies, China's environmental governance, classic Chinese philosophy

Bio: I completed my PhD in 2018 at Flinders University. My thesis investigated how China can better develop and implement its major climate-related energy policies in order to achieve better climate change mitigation outcomes and minimize social and environmental impacts. My research interests cover several streams in the domain of China’s environmental governance, including energy and climate

change policies, atmospheric pollution, and ideologies of and approaches to environmental governance.



SAM KAY (PhD candidate, Ohio State University)

Interests: environmental politics, urban studies, species studies

Thesis: "Uprooting people, planting trees: Disentangling Beijing's poverty belt and greenbelt"

Bio: I am a Geographer whose research bridges the issues of urbanization and politics of the environment. My dissertation research in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region is driven by an interest in how the emergence of environmental concerns such as climate change and pollution are driving a range of policy actions in developing world cities, and the impact these actions are having on disadvantaged populations.



WEN-YAO LEE (PhD student, Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Kansas)

Interests: human-environment relations; development policy on ethnic minorities in China; kinship, ethnicity, and ritual in the Sino-Tibetan borderlands

Thesis: "Contesting relationships to nature: religious revival and local notions of modernity in Pumi communities in Southwest China"

Bio: I am from Taiwan. I started doing fieldwork in Pumi-speaking communities (普米族) in northwest Yunnan from 2011 and finished my M.A. thesis on their kinship and ethnicity. I am now working on my Ph.D. project regarding the changes in Pumi communities' religious practices about natural deities and uses of natural resources to understand how state policy and market system affect local relations with nature.



YUJING TAN (PhD candidate, Leiden University)

Interests: Sociology of Contemporary China, Urban Geography, Social and Technological Innovation, State-society Relations

Thesis: "Innovating China: Governance and Mobility in the New Economy"

Bio: I identify myself as a junior research of political economy of innovation in China. Holding perspective of economic sociology and anthropology in my thesis, I am interested in the everyday making of techno and social innovation in urban China. I study how "innovation" is imagined, interpreted and practiced by who and how they are interacted to use "innovation" to reproduce social and political relations in the new economy.



JAMIE WANG (PhD Candidate, Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney)

Interests: environmental humanities, ecological modernism, sustainability, Urban Environmental Issues, technological urban solutions, story-telling

Thesis: “Imagining the Invisible City”

Bio: I’m a PhD candidate, a writer and a poet. My research explores urban ecological development and high-tech sustainable solutions. It proposes a critical rethinking of the relations among planetary pressures, technological solutions and imagined futures for human/non-human life in large metropolises, with a specific focus on Singapore. The project addresses some of the many cultural, ethical, political, and philosophical issues that arise in the pursuit of an ecological modernised future.



YING JIA TAN (Assistant Professor, Wesleyan University)

Interests: history of China’s electricity and energy infrastructure and industry

Bio: Ying Jia Tan is assistant professor of history and East Asian Studies at Wesleyan University. He is completing a book manuscript on the history of electricity in wartime China, which explores how mobilization for war accelerated China's transition towards a carbon-intensive economy. He teaches courses on the history of China and history of science and technology.



JULIA TEEBKEN (PhD candidate, Graduate School of East Asian Studies and the Environmental Policy Research Centre, Freie University Berlin)

Interests: social scientific responses to climate change adaptation in China and the U.S. (comparative environmental politics, political philosophy, human dimensions of policy issues)

Thesis: “Vulnerability creation? Barriers to transformative adaptation politics in China and the US”

Bio: I am currently in the last stages of my PhD project about barriers to transformative climate adaptation in China and the US. In that capacity, I investigate how governments of two different political systems influence the ability of local populations to cope with, prepare for and recover from intensifying climate change impacts as part of deliberate public climate change adaptation policies. My research is based on two case studies: Metro Atlanta, in Georgia state, the southeastern US and Jinhua, in Eastern Zhejiang province, China.



SIMON YIN (Lecturer, Hefei University of Technology)

Interests: Sustainable development, smart cities

Bio: After earning my BA degree from Peking University in China, I obtained my MA degree from Harvard University in the USA. My major research interest is China's sustainable development.



GRETE SCHONEBECK (PhD candidate, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt)

Interests: Religion/culture; environment and graves since 1800

Thesis: "Spaces for the dead. Spaces for the living? On the social meaning of graves in China since 1800"

Bio: I am a PhD candidate in Sinology and teach undergraduate classes.

The topic of my PhD research is the social function of graves in China since 1800. I am interested in how deathscapes and their use change, which impact urbanisation and environmental change have on gravesites,

and the outcome of policies enforcing green burial and eco-civilisation. I use research methods of different disciplines such as anthropology and history.



ANNIE MALCOLM (PhD candidate, UC Berkeley)

Interests: sociocultural anthropology, China, art and urbanization

Thesis: "Amateur Migration: Ethnography of a Chinese Art Village"

Bio: Annie Malcolm is a Ph.D. Candidate in Anthropology at U.C. Berkeley. She is currently writing a dissertation based on ethnographic fieldwork in an art village in Shenzhen, China,

focussing on the intersection between the urban and rural within the spaces artists create and respond to. Interests include contemporary China, Chinese contemporary art, urbanization, aesthetics and experimental ethnographies.



KA LING CHEUNG (PhD candidate, Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne)

Interests: Urban governance; Urban development; Public housing policy

Thesis: “The Emergence of More Just Cities in China? A Case Study of Housing Migrant Workers in Chongqing”

Bio: I am a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at The University of Melbourne. My research is about urban justice and public housing provision in China. It investigates public housing provision and its impact on the housing circumstances of

migrant workers. It hopes to advance the understanding of creating a more just city in China and contribute policy insights for delivering just housing policies.



XIANG LI (PhD candidate, urban planning, University of Melbourne)

Interests: urban redevelopment, institutions, governance, urban consolidation

Thesis: “Power relations among participants in urban consolidation: Case studies of three residential redevelopment projects in Shenzhen, China”

Bio: I am currently in my last stage of the PhD programme in the University of Melbourne. With increasingly collaborative institutional transformation in Chinese urban redevelopment, the power of

economically powerful actors was constrained by the mounting community power, resulting a fairer process. My research focuses on the institutional change of urban redevelopment and power relations among the stakeholders in China. I am also interested in the theories and frameworks in the New Institutional Economics.

FILM SCREENING



[Shielding the Mountains](#) (20mins, 2010)

Why have Tibetans become environmentalists? How do Tibetan conceptions of nature differ from Western ones? What is the relationship between culture and nature? *Shielding the Mountains* explores these questions through a narrative featuring Rinchen Samdrup, the leader of a Tibetan community environmental association in a remote area of Chamdo, in the eastern Tibet Autonomous Region; and Tashi Dorje, a leading Tibetan environmentalist in China who first became interested in conservation after the death of a good friend at the hands of Tibetan antelope poachers. Viewers learn about the formation of coalitions of Chinese and Tibetan environmentalists that make Rinchen's work possible, as well as about the religious, cultural, and personal motivations for Tibetan environmentalism, and its basis in a particular understanding of the landscape, of what "nature" is, and why it should be protected.

In Tibetan & Chinese, with English subtitles. Produced and written by Emily Yeh; directed by Kunga Lama.