

**The David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI)
Hong Kong Baptist University**

LEWI e-Newsletter

LEWI e-Newsletter is published quarterly by David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies for circulation among its member institutions. Contributions are most welcome.

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Conference Organized

LEWI Conference on “Mobility & Communities: Socio-Spatial Transformations in Chinese Cities”, 29-30 November 2013, Hong Kong Baptist University

LEWI, together with the HKBU Faculty of Social Sciences, jointly presented the conference on “Mobility & Communities: Socio-Spatial Transformations in Chinese Cities” on 29 and 30 November. The conference aimed to provide updated and sophisticated analyses on various aspects of China’s unprecedented urban transformation and spatial change. A total of 12 scholars, all of whom were affiliated with LEWI and Hong Kong Baptist University in one way or another, presented papers in the four panel sessions, which covered the following themes: Migration and urban experiences, neighbourhood and communities, and housing decisions and residential segregations.

In the afternoon of 29 Nov, keynote speaker Prof. Shenjing He, professor of Sun Yat-sen University, kicked off the conference with a presentation on “Homeowner Association and Neighbourhood Governance in Guangzhou, China”. In her presentation, Prof. He shared with the audience some preliminary findings on a synthesized explanation for China’s Homeowner Association. The second day of the conference began with a keynote speech delivered by Prof. Chan Kam-Wing of University of Washington at Seattle, who spoke on “In Search of the Road to Hukou Reform”. Other papers in the conference shed insights on mobility and community change, and on their implications for neighbourhood governance, housing processes, and residential differentiation over space. The conference generated lively discussion and probing questions from the audience.

Professor Si-ming Li, Director of LEWI and Chair Professor of Geography and Professor Shenjing He have submitted a special issue proposal based on the papers delivered to Professor Kam Wing Chan, Chief Editor of Eurasian Geography.



The LEWI conference on “Mobility & Communities: Socio-Spatial Transformations in Chinese Cities” was held on 29-30 Nov 2013



Keynote speaker, Prof. Shenjing He (left), with LEWI Director, Prof. Si-ming Li.

Co-organized Forum

Forum on “Urban China Research is Dead, Long Live Urban China Research”, 19 Nov 2013, Hong Kong Baptist University

The forum was co-organized by LEWI and the Department of Geography of Hong Kong Baptist University. It gathered together four geographers to speak on some aspects of urban China research. The first part of the forum consisted of two papers addressing the issue from the spatial perspective, unveiling the dual society and its spatial implications while the second part touched on two issues that the literature has not properly addressed, with a focus on residential mobility.

The four speakers included renowned scholars Prof. Carolyn Cartier of the University of Technology, Sydney, Prof. Wing-Shing Tang and Prof. Si-ming Li of Hong Kong Baptist University, and Prof. Kam Wing Chan of University of Washington, Seattle.



*Prof. Carolyn Cartier speaking on
“Urban China and the ‘Loss of Space’ in Research Design”*

LEWI Seminar Series

Consuming Urban Living in ‘Villages in the City’: Studentification in Guangzhou, China (15 October 2013)

Speaker: Prof. Shenjing He, Professor and Assistant Dean at the School of Geography and Planning, Sun Yat-Sen University

Abstract:

Against the backdrop of higher education expansion, studentification refers to a particular type of urban socio-spatial restructuring resulting from university students' concentration in certain residential areas. These student residences are often in the form of HMO (House in Multiple Occupation), equipped with cultural and retail services. Over the last decade, studentification has evolved into different forms and has spread to different locales, from student ghetto in North America to vertical studentification in Spain, to marginalised foreign student accommodation in Australia, to various forms of off-campus student accommodation in Kuala Lumpur, Eastern Europe, and China. This study aims to provide a contextualised understanding of this distinct phenomenon in China so as to decode the complex dynamics of urban socio-spatial transformation in the Chinese city. In this paper, I present a line of empirical evidence based on field works in Xiadu Village and Nanting Village, two studentified urban villages close to the campuses of two major universities in Guangzhou. These two villages exemplify different patterns and socio-spatial outcomes of studentification, owing to their different institutions/regulations, location, roles of villagers, and types of students etc. Based on the empirical studies, similarities and differences between the UK and China are summarised from four aspects: economic, social, economic, and built environment. Notably, studentification in China is not only the spatialisation of compromised and marginalised residential choices, but also the spatial result of conscious residential choice to escape from the rigid control of university dorms and the actualisation of cultural identity. In the Chinese context, studentification provides a useful prism to understand a unique trajectory of urbanisation: re-urbanising the 'villages in the city' through bringing in urban living/urban consumptions.



From Enclaves to Citadels: A Dynamic and Contested Transformation of China's Urban Villages (5 November 2013)

Speaker: Dr. Pu Hao, Research Assistant Professor, LEWI, Hong Kong Baptist University

Abstract:

The economic reforms of the late 1970s led to a massive urban expansion in China as villages were swallowed by the urban sprawl. The most striking example is Shenzhen, an area with 300,000 inhabitants grew into a metropolis of 14 million people over a couple of decades. Today only 3 million are formal residents of the city, and the rest of the people without local residency are excluded from subsidized amenities like education, health care and social housing. Most of the people that move into the city find accommodation in one of the 320 villages that have become embedded in the urban fabric. These urban villages provide roughly half of the total residential floor area in Shenzhen, although they only cover 13% of the total built-up land. Over time, these multifaceted spaces of informality have shaped a landscape that is clearly different from the formal city; however, their transformation follows a logical trajectory which continuously contests social and market-driven demands. As the city further develops and infrastructure improves, the expected economic rents of urban village land will keep on rising. For those villages, market-led redevelopments are almost inevitable. Large-scale land acquisition and redevelopment are beginning to transform urban villages into upscale private apartments, luxury hotels and malls—citadels of the rich. This process diminishes a great deal of affordable housing stock in the central city, further marginalizing the low-income groups. Moreover, this works as a domino effect where the redevelopment of one urban village drives the process for other urban villages in the proximity to fall on the same redevelopment path.



Resident Graduate Scholarship Program

In Fall 2013, we welcomed one student to LEWI to participate in the Resident Graduate Scholarship (RGS) Program:

Wenwen Li, Master Candidate, Institute of Modern China in School of History and Culture, Lanzhou University. Thesis topic: “Encounter, Adjustment and Interaction: On the Dissemination of American Christian and Missionary Alliance in Gannan Tibetan Areas”. Field supervisor at HKBU: Dr. George Kam-wah Mak, LEWI, HKBU.

“My research focuses on the history of modern China, including late Qing and Republic China period. I am interested in Cross-Culture research, especially the interaction between Christianity and other religions, and to explore the inner difference and the endogenous mechanism among different religions and cultures. I will stay in Hong Kong for five months from September 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014.



RGS student, Wenwen Li of Lanzhou University

Visiting Scholar Programme

Prof. Shenjing He, Professor and Assistant Dean at the School of Geography and Planning, Sun Yat-Sen University

Prof. Shenjing He was LEWI visiting scholar from September to November 2013. Prof. He (Ph.D. in Geography, University of Southampton, 2006) is Professor and

Assistant Dean at the School of Geography and Planning of Sun Tai-Sen University. She is the regional editor of *Urban Studies*, and a member of the international editorial advisory board of *International Planning Studies*. Her research interests focus on urban redevelopment, gentrification, urban poverty, and neoliberal urbanism. She has published more than fifty journal articles and book chapters in English and Chinese, including papers in *Antipode*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Urban Studies*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Population, Space and Place*, *Urban Geography*, *Social & Cultural Geography* etc.

During Prof. He's visit, she collaborated with LEWI Director, Prof. Si-ming Li, to analyze the data for a project on homeowners' associations in Guangzhou.

Outputs of Research Staff

Publications

By directors/working group convenors:

李思名、黃枝連、陳尚懋、唐欣偉（主編），《全球化與兩岸四地新關係》。香港教育圖書公司，2013年12月。

Li, S.M., Cheng, H.H. & Wang, J. (2013) "Making a Cultural Cluster in China: A Study of *Dafen* Oil Painting Village, Shenzhen". *Habitat International*, 41, 156-167.

Chan, K., Leung, V. and Tsang, L. (2013, forthcoming). "Health Information and Advertising Appeal in Food Commercials: A Content Analysis". *Journal of Nutritional Therapeutics*.

By Research Assistant Professors:

Hao, P., Hooimeijer, P., Sliuzas, R. and Geertman, S. (2013). "What Drives the Spatial Development of Urban Villages in China?". *Urban Studies*, 50(16) 3394-3411.

Hao P, Geertman S, Hooimeijer P and Sliuzas R. (2013). "Spatial Analyses of the Urban Village Development Process in Shenzhen, China". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 37(6) 2177-2197.

Choi, D.K.T. and Mak, G.K.W. (2014 forthcoming). "An Overview of Catholic Bible Translation in Twentieth-Century China". In Chu, C (Ed.), *Chinese Catholicism from*

1900 to the Present. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Presentations

By Prof. Si-ming Li, LEWI Director

(with Zhu, Y.S.) *Changing Residential Mobility in Guangzhou City: Permanent Residents versus Migrants*. Presented at the 2013 Beijing Forum, Beijing, 31 October - 3 November 2013.

《回歸後香港的土地和住房政策: 政治經濟分析》。發表於“中國發展新階段: 港澳地位與角色國際研討會”。廣州中山大學港澳台研究中心, 2013年十一月十五至十六日。

Residential Mobility in Chinese Cities: A Relatively Neglected Topic in Urban China Research. Presented at the Forum on “Urban China Research is Dead, Long Live Urban China Research” jointly organized by the Department of Geography and the David C Lam Institute for East-West Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University, 19 November 2013.

(with Zhu, Y.S.) *Intra-Urban Residential Mobility in Guangzhou, China, 1990-2010, with Special Reference to Rural Migrants*. Presented at the “Conference on Mobility and Communities: Socio-spatial Transformation in Chinese cities” organized by the David C Lam Institute for East-West Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University, 29-30 November 2013.

(with Du, H.M.) *Hong Kong's Changing Housing Policies Post-1997: A Political Economy Analysis*. Paper presented at the International conference on China's Urban Transformation and Restructuring, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, 13-15 December 2013.

By Kara Chan, Convenor, Environment, Health and Sustainability Working Group

(with Han, X.) *Effectiveness of Environmental Advertising for Hotels*. Presented at the 19th International Conference of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS), Russian Federation Vladivostok, Russia, 3-5 October 2013.

(with Siu, J. and Fung, T.) *Perception of Acupuncture among Users and Non-users in Hong Kong*. Presented at the 19th International Conference of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS), Russian Federation Vladivostok, Russia, 3-5 October 2013.

By Dr. Pu Hao, Research Assistant Professor, Urbanization and Mobility Working Group

Residential Segregation and the Spatial Pattern of Housing Choices in Shenzhen. Presented at the LEWI Conference on Mobility and Communities: Socio-Spatial Transformation in Chinese Cities, Hong Kong Baptist University, 29-30 November 2013.

By Dr. Shanshan Lan, Research Assistant Professor, Urbanization and Mobility Working Group

Issues of integrity and trust in Chinese-African small business transactions in Guangzhou. Paper presented at the International Conference on Hong Kong, Macao and Pearl River Delta in the Development of Contemporary China, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, 15-16 November 2013.

Transnational Trade Networks and Circumscribed Mobility among Undocumented African Migrants in China. Presented at The American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, 20-24 November 2013.

(with Xiao, A.) *Trans-Border Mobility and Cross-Cultural Business Networking Among Chinese and Nigerian Petty Entrepreneurs*. Paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, 21-24 November 2013.

Transnational Business and Family Strategies among Chinese/Nigerian Couples in Guangzhou and Lagos. Presented at the Conference on Mobility and Communities: Socio-Spatial Transformation in Chinese Cities. Hong Kong Baptist University, 29-30 November 2013.

By Dr. Judy Siu, Research Assistant Professor, Health and Sustainability Working Group

Barriers of Receiving Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination among Young Female University Students in Hong Kong. Presented at the International Conference of HIV/AIDS, STDs, and STIs, Orlando, FL, U.S.A., 23 - 25 October 2013.

The Relationship between Illness Experience and Poor Mental Health Status of Patients with Overactive Bladder in Hong Kong. Presented at the Asia Mental Health Conference, Hong Kong Baptist University, 22 November 2013.

Grants Secured

Project Title: Land and Housing Policies in Post-Handover Hong Kong: Political Economy and Urban Space

Principle Investigator: Prof. Si-ming Li, LEWI Director

Source of Funding: Public Policy Research Funding Scheme, University Grants Committee, Hong Kong SAR Government

Amount Awarded: HKD416,760

Brief Introduction:

Momentous events have characterized the first sixteen years of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR). Among these were drastic and repeated changes land and housing policies, swinging from one end of the state versus market pendulum to another. These developments took place in the context of phenomenal upheavals and shifts in the world economy, as well as the vastly heightened politicization of Hong Kong's internal affairs under the pledge of "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong" enshrined in the Basic Laws.

Unravelling the intricate and complex relations underlying the drastic changes in Hong Kong's land and housing policies has significance beyond the SAR. In many respects what Hong Kong has experienced is reflective of major developments in the world politico-spatial economy at large: the financialization of economic activities through spatial fix, and growing worldwide economic instability epitomized by periodic burst of property bubbles. Clearly, such an analysis helps to inform theoretical debates on the causes of the current global economic crisis instigated by the sub-prime mortgage saga and its implications for the realignment of the world economy and world cities, Hong Kong included.

On a more local level, situating the SAR's land and housing policy emphases under varying economic, political and spatial contexts surely is of significance in terms of identifying relevant policy options, both short-term and long-term, so as to enhance housing affordability without causing another burst of the property bubble; the latter has proved to be detrimental to social and political stability. In fact one might argue

that a major factor behind the difficulties faced by the SAR administration since the handover was the sudden collapse in property prices immediately after the founding of the SAR in 1997, and the associated prolonged deflation, high unemployment and falling nominal incomes.

Furthermore, the proposed contextual analysis contributes to formulating appropriate strategies to achieve the policy objectives. This is of major importance, given the increasing prevalence of political battles fought over land and housing issues in the name of defending social and environmental justice, which has severely undermined the launching of well-intended policies, including the efforts to cool down the overheated property market, increase public housing provision, and revamp the planning of new development zones to ensure adequate land and housing supply. How to solicit the support of relevant interest groups and stakeholders is therefore a top policy concern for the SAR government.

Project Title: Understanding the Economic Geography of Urban Informal Settlements in China

Principle Investigator: Dr. Pu Hao, Research Assistant Professor, LEWI

Source of Funding: Faculty Research Grant, Hong Kong Baptist University

Amount Awarded: HKD50,000

Brief Introduction:

In the global South the development of informal settlements often dominates urban form and growth. These settlements are housing enclaves for the urban poor but they also accommodate incredible percentage of social and economic activities. These activities emerge and proliferate in certain settlements or particular sections of a settlement. However, the reason for the spatial distribution and dynamics of informal social and economic activities are unclear. This research undertakes a thorough analysis of the urban form and economic geography of selected informal settlements in Shenzhen, one of the most dynamic cities in China. Empirical exploration is foremost aiming at identifying the factors that explain the spatial distribution of retail and service establishments in informal settlements. Research findings will contribute to urban planning and policies in coping with the current state and future development of informal urban development. In addition, the analytical methods developed will be applicable for spatial analysis of informal urban development worldwide. Surveys conducted by the PI supplemented with the official municipal building database will be the primary data source for this research.