



Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies  
Hong Kong Baptist University

**1 July 2009 - 30 June 2010**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Annual Report**  
**July 2009– June 2010**

**Prepared By**  
**The Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies**  
**Hong Kong Baptist University**

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## **1. Introduction to CURS**

The Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies (CURS or the Centre), currently housed at the Department of Geography of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU or the University), was established on 1 July 2001. CURS was founded with a major donation from Heung To Educational Fund secured by Professor C F Ng, former President and Vice Chancellor of the University.

CURS aims at conducting high quality research and cultivating academic exchange on China's urban and regional developmental issues. Research fellows of CURS include faculty members of the University from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds who share a common interest in urban and regional research on China. It is the objective of CURS to enhance the University's status as an academic hub for the study of China's cities and regions.

Research conducted by CURS research fellows covers a wide range of intellectual and policy-oriented domains: regional disparities, housing privatization and housing market segmentation, transportation and land use, environmental management and sustainable development, social problems and social service provision, cultural landscapes, inter-regional and rural-urban migration, social stratification, quality of life, and urban modelling, including the application of geographic information systems and remote sensing techniques in the study of urban and regional change. Since founding, the Centre Director and his research team at CURS have pioneered micro-analysis of urban housing and residential change in China in collaboration with research institutions in Mainland China and elsewhere, such as the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, the Xinjiang Institute of Geography and Ecology, the Urban China Research Network of the University at Albany, New York, the Urban China Research International Network of Cardiff University, Wales, and the Urban and Regional Research Centre of the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands.

## 1.1 List of Staff Members

- **Professor Si-ming Li** (*Department of Geography*), Centre Director  
Research interests: Urban; Housing; Regional Development
- **Professor Donggen Wang** (*Department of Geography*), Associate Director  
Research interests: Transport Modelling
- **Professor Wing Shing Tang** (*Department of Geography*), Chief Editor, CURS Occasional Paper Series  
Research interests: Urban Planning under Socialism
- **Mr Quan Hou**, Research Assistant (2006-)
- **Miss Yushu Zhu**, Research Assistant (7/2009)
- **Doctor Limei Li**, Research Associate (7/2009-8/2009)
- **Miss Lai Yan Pang**, Research Assistant (1/2009-1/2010)

## 1.2 List of Research Fellows

- **Doctor Yuk Shing Cheng** (*Department of Economics*)  
Research interests: China's regional growth empirics and economic reforms (with special interest in rural and fiscal reforms)
- **Professor Sammy W. S. Chiu** (*Department of Social Work*).  
Research interests: Ageism and Social Policy; Youth Culture and Youth Policy; Social Ideology and Social Work; Health Care
- **Professor Larry C. H. Chow** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Energy; Political
- **Professor Cindy Y. Y. Chu** (*Department of History*)  
Research interests: Contemporary China; Chinese Foreign Relations; Sino-American Relations (Political and Cultural); Hong Kong Politics
- **Doctor Him Chung** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Regional Geography of China; Urban–Rural Relations; Rural Transformation
- **Professor Stephanie P. Y. Chung** (*Department of History*)  
Research interests: Social and Economic History; Business History; History of Business Laws and Customs; Chinese Family Business in South China and Southeast Asia

- **Doctor Gina W. F. Lai** (*Department of Sociology*)  
Research interests: Mental Health; Social Networks; Gender Studies
- **Professor Kam Keung Lee** (*Department of History*)  
Research interests: History of Fujian and Taiwan; History of Chinese Revolution; History of Christianity in Modern China
- **Doctor Danching Ruan** (*Department of Sociology*)  
Research interests: Social Network Analysis; Comparative Sociology; Sociology of Chinese Societies
- **Doctor Yat-ming Siu** (*Department of Sociology*)  
Research interests: Fertility and Family Planning; Migration and Residential Mobility
- **Professor Victor F. S. Sit** (*The Advanced Institute for Contemporary China Studies*)  
Research interests: China & Hong Kong Economy; Chinese Politics & Foreign Relations; Urban & Regional Planning; Hong Kong & Pearl River Delta; Chinese Economy; Chinese City, Small-medium Industries; Geography
- **Professor Kenneth K. K. Wong** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Environmental Studies
- **Professor Victor C. W. Wong** (*Department of Social Work*)  
Research interests: Health; Youth; Social Policy; Public Sector Management
- **Doctor Xiaojiang Yu** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Regional Environmental Planning; Environmental Policy; Natural Resource Management in Southeast Asia; Social and Cultural Geography
- **Professor Qiming Zhou** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Geographical Information System

## **2. Research Activities Conducted**

In order to promote academic exchange and networking among scholars in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan and overseas who are interested in China's urban and regional concerns, CURS has actively organized and sponsored international conferences, workshops, seminars and excursions.

### **2.1 Conference Organized**

#### *2.1.1 The 14th HKSTS International Conference, 10-12 December, 2009, Hong Kong*

Jointly with the Hong Kong Society for Transportation Studies and the Department of Geography, HKBU, CURS organized the 14<sup>th</sup> HKSTS International Conference. It was successfully held on December 10-12, 2009 at the InterContinental Grand Stanford Hotel in Hong Kong. The conference was sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, the Hong Kong Geographical Association, and the Eastern Asia Society for Transport Studies. Professor Donggen Wang, Professor of Geography and Associate Director of CURS and Professor Si-ming Li, Chair Professor of Geography and Director of CURS were the co-chairmen of the organizing committee, which comprised members from five local universities. The theme of the conference was 'Transportation and Geography', aiming at drawing the attentions of scholars, practitioners and policy makers to the interdependencies between transportation and territorial developments. The conference was a great success. It attracted more than 150 participants from around 30 countries/regions around the world, including mainland China, the United States, the Netherlands, Denmark, India, Spain, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong. About 110 papers were presented, covering a wide range of topics on transportation and geography.

Professor Donggen Wang presented a paper "GPS-enabled Automated Data Collection for Studying Individuals'

Activity-travel Behaviour”. Besides, Professor Tao Tang, Associate Vice-President of HKBU delivered a welcome address at the conference. Mrs. Ava Ng Tse, Director of the Planning Department, HKSAR Government, and Professor Harry Timmermans of Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands, were the keynote speakers. Five internationally renowned scholars, namely, Professor Kevin O’ Connor, Drs. Anthony Chen, H.P. Lo, Francisco Martínez and Junyi Zhang, were invited to speak at the plenary sessions. Two volumes of the conference proceedings were published.



The 14th HKSTS International Conference was held on 10- 12 December 2009 at the InterContinental Grand Stanford Hotel Hong Kong

## **2.2 Participation in International Academic Activities**

### *2.2.1 The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, 14-18 April 2010, Washington, D.C., USA*

Professor Si-ming Li, director of the centre presented a paper entitled “Housing Inequality in China: Guangzhou 1996 and 2005”, at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Washington, D.C., USA, 14-18 April 2010.

2.2.2 *South China Normal University, 23 November 2009, Guangzhou, China*

Professor Si-ming Li, as an invited Lecturer, presented a paper “Inequality in China: Guangzhou 1996 and 2005”.

2.2.3 *2009 Annual Meeting cum 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Geographical Society of China, 17-19 October 2009, Beijing, China*

Professor Si-ming Li, presented two papers including (with Q. Hou) “Spatial Restructuring and Excess Commute in Chinese Cities: A Comparative Study of Shanghai and Guangzhou” and, paper (with Wangbao Liu and Xiaopei Yan) “Related Characteristics and Mechanisms for Excess Commuting in Guangzhou”; He also chaired a session on “Industrial and Economic Development”.

2.2.4 *Conference “Twenty-First Century Urbanization: Social Science Perspectives on China’s Urban Transformation”, 3 October 2009, Michigan, USA*

Professor Si-ming Li presented a paper “Economic Integration between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta at a Crossroads: Mega-Urban Development under One Country, Two Systems.

2.2.5 *The 10th Asian Urbanization Conference, 16-19 August 2009, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

In the mentioned conference, Professor Si-ming Li served as a member of the Organization Committee. He also chaired a session on “Industrial and Economic Development”. In the session, he presented a paper “Spatial Restructuring and Excess Commute in Chinese Cities: A Comparative Study of Shanghai and Guangzhou”.

Besides, Professor Donggen Wang presented a paper “Mobility, Accessibility and Trip Making in Beijing”. He also chaired a session on “40th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Geographical

Association” (Round Table Discussion).

2.2.6 *A lecture given on “Information and Communication Technologies, Modern Life and Time Geography”, 9 June 2010, Peking University, Beijing, China*

Professor Donggen Wang was invited to give a lecture on “Information and Communication Technologies, Modern Life and Time Geography” at the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University.

2.2.7 *Seminar on “Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Modern Life and Time Use”, 16 April 2010, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Professor Donggen Wang was invited to present a seminar on “Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Modern Life and Time Use” at the Institute of Space and Earth Information Science, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

2.2.8 *A lecture given at the College of Public Administration, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, 13 March 2010, Wuhan, China*

Professor Donggen Wang gave a lecture entitled “Urban Spatial Restructuring and Trip Making in Chinese Cities” at the College of Public Administration, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China, 13 March 2010.

2.2.9 *Seminar on “The Spatio-Temporal Approach to Studying Transportation and Social Issues”, 4 March 2010, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Professor Donggen Wang gave a seminar on “The Spatio-Temporal Approach to Studying Transportation and Social Issues” held at the Department of Geography and Resource Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 4 March 2010.

## 2.3 Seminar Organized

### 2.3.1 Seminar on “Mapping the Financial Crisis: Cities of Capital, Law and Epistemology”, 25 February, 2010, HKBU

Professor Elvin WYLY, Associate Professor, Department of Geography; and Chair, the Urban Studies Program, The University of British Columbia, was invited to give a presentation on “Mapping the Financial Crisis: Cities of Capital, Law and Epistemology”. The seminar drew many students and faculty members who were of interest in the topic. Both the speaker and students enjoyed the discussion very much.

### 2.3.2 Seminar on “Writing and Publishing in Geography, Urban Studies and Contemporary China”, 4 March, 2010, HKBU

This seminar was targeted at those interested in writing high-quality papers and publishing their works. All four speakers were members of the Editorial Board of various international publications. They included Professor Elvin Wyly, Co-editor of *Urban Geography*, and member of the Editorial Board, *GeoJournal*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *City*, *Geography Compass*, and *Urban Affairs Review*; Professor Jianfa Shen, Executive Member of the Editorial Board, *China Review*; Professor Wing Shing Tang, Department of Geography, HKBU, and East Asia Editor and member of the Editorial Board, *Human Geography: A New Radical Journal*; and Professor Si-ming Li, the member of the editorial board of *China Review* and *Journal of Geographical Science*, and member of the International Advisory Board, *Housing Studies*. The speakers presented their ideas and shared their skills to more than 40 teaching faculty members and students from HKBU, the University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The audiences all found the seminar and the discussion very useful and inspiring.



*Seminar on “Writing and Publishing in Geography, Urban Studies and Contemporary China”, 4 March, 2010, HKBU*

## **2.4 Visitation**

### *2.4.1. Visitors from Economic Geography, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany, 8 August 2009*



*Discussion between Professor Li , Professor Dr. Ingo Liefner, Economic Geography, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, and other fellows.*

## **2.5 Study tour**

### *2.5.1 Pearl River Delta Study Trip to Guangzhou & Shunde, 13-14 November 2009*

Professor Si-ming Li, with the assistance of Miss Celia Woo and Miss Becky Pang, led 27 students to visit Guangzhou and Shunde.

The trip formed an integral part of the course GEOG 1620 Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta: A Survey. In a 2-day trip, the students had the chance to visit one of the largest and most successful joint-ventures in China, Guangzhou Toyota Ltd. The visit demonstrated how fast-growing auto manufacturing is in China now. After that, the group went straight to the next stop --- Starlight International Holdings Ltd, a Hong Kong based electronic appliance factory in Panyu. Then we made a journey to Guangzhou R&F Properties Co Ltd without stop, a rising real estate enterprise listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.



*Students just witnessed a miracle of urban development taken place on the land of China.*

Chencun-the World of Flowers marked the beginning of our second day of field trip. It was established as a major horticultural products market to boost the local flower market in 1998. The group then learnt about aquaculture in Shunde, which is a key eel cultivation base in Guangdong.

Learning in the field is a long heralded tradition of Geography. The 2-day trip was indeed an eye-opening experience for our students, exposing them to the economic dynamics and environmental challenges in the PRD that something they can never learn in the classroom.



*Professor Si-ming Li delivered honorarium after the visit.*

### **3. Research Projects / Publications**

#### **3.1. Existing Research Projects**

The staff and research fellows of the CURS have undertaken a variety of research projects financed by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) and Faculty Research Grants (FRG). The following are some of the on-going projects and projects initiated over the year under review.

##### *3.1.1 Geographic concentration and the dynamics of changes of Chinese industries*

Principal Investigator: Doctor Yuk Shing Cheng  
Exercise Period: June 2010- May 2011  
Source of Funding: Faculty Research Grant (FGR1/09-10/069)  
Amount Awarded: HK\$46,900

##### *Brief Introduction*

This project aims to investigate China's regional disparity from the perspective of the New Economic Geography, which studies factors affecting the agglomeration and dispersion of economic activities in the spatial context. When China started its reforms and open-up in 1979, she adopted a regional development strategy that favoured the coastal region. Preferential policies were provided to coastal provinces to promote their economic growth,

resulting in a growing concentration of economic activities in this region. As the socio-economic costs of such an unbalanced strategy increased, the Chinese government has launched several new strategies to help other regions to quicken their economic development since the late 1990s. They include the implementation of the “Western Development Strategy” in 1999, the strategy of “Reinvigorating the Northeastern China” in 2002, and the strategy of “Promoting the Rise of the Central Region” in 2005. This project employs new empirical techniques developed in the literature of the New Economic Geography to study the geographic concentration of Chinese industry and its dynamic changes over time. In particular, it will evaluate whether the concentration of industries in the coastal region has changed or not in the past decade.

### *3.1.2 Utilization of Chinese Medicine Services in Hong Kong*

Investigators:	Dr. Gina W. F. Lai, Wing Sze Vincy Lai, Odalia Wong
Exercise Period:	September 16, 2009 – November 30, 2010
Source of Funding:	Faculty Research Grant (FRG1/09-10/001)
Amount Awarded:	HK\$59,840

#### *Brief Introduction*

This proposal seeks funding to support a project on the utilization of Chinese medicine (CM) services in Hong Kong. The proposed study aims (1) to assess the use patterns of CM services for the relief of discomforts, (2) to investigate the facilitators and barriers influencing the use of CM services under a health care system dominated by Western medicine (WM), and (3) to understand the process of using CM services. Utilization of CM services is conceived as a result of the interaction of individual, interpersonal, organization, and mass media forces. A telephone survey of 1000 Chinese adults will be conducted to collect data on the use patterns of CM services, and establishing the association between the identified explanatory factors and utilization of CM services. The proposed study is expected to illuminate the reasons and process of using CM services vis-à-vis WM services, an important area that is

lacking in local studies. Identification of the facilitators and barriers affecting the use of CM service may also provide insights into the development of CM in Hong Kong.

### *3.1.3 Gender and Family in Contemporary China*

Investigators: Dr. Gina W. F. Lai, Odalia Wong,  
Danching Ruan, Day Wong  
Exercise Period: March 1, 2009 – February 28, 2010  
Source of Funding: CERG Incentive Award Scheme (2008-09)  
Amount Awarded: HK\$148,740

#### *Brief Introduction*

The project aims to conduct literature review and empirical groundwork for a collaborative research project with Nanjing University on gender and the family in contemporary China. The systematic review of research literature will cover five areas, including (1) Gender norms and attitudes in China, (2) Gender relations in the family, (3) Intergenerational relations, (4) Gender inequality over the life course, and (5) Forms of intimate relationships. Preliminary data will be collected in Nanjing on these five areas.

### *3.1.4 Urban Restructuring and Relocation of Housing and Jobs: Implications for Access to Employment Opportunities and Spatial Mismatch in Chinese Cities*

Principal Investigator: Professor Si-ming Li  
Exercise Period: January 2009 – June 2010  
Source of Funding: GRF/RGC  
Amount Awarded: HK\$785,200

#### *Brief Introduction*

Chinese cities have undergone profound transformation in recent years. To capitalize on rising land prices, many work units have relocated the production plants to the suburbs, leaving behind the workers in dilapidated housing in former work-unit compounds. At the same time, a large number of inner-city dwellers have been

relocated to outlying suburbs consequent upon redevelopment projects. Complicating the matter are the millions of migrants seeking their fortune in the city who are trapped in the “villages in the city”. The almost perfect match between job and housing distributions characterising pre-reform China is being rapidly torn apart. The need for commuting is on the rise. Especially caught are the low-income manual workers and the migrants. To them the cost of commuting is exorbitant, both money-wise and time-wise. While rapid economic growth may have generated ample new jobs, for a substantial segment of the population access to jobs has become difficult. A spatial mismatch of job and housing (Kain, 1968; Houston, 2005) could have emerged. Based on large-scale surveys conducted in Guangzhou, Beijing and Shanghai, this project examines the extent to which the spatial mismatch hypothesis holds in the Chinese case and how this may have exacerbated urban unemployment and the problem of rising income inequalities.

*3.1.5 Spatial Restructuring, Changing Housing and Community Types, and Residential Experiences in Urban China: A Comparative Study of Guangzhou and Shanghai*

Principal Investigator: Professor Si-ming Li  
Exercise Period: January 2010 – December 2011  
Source of Funding: GRF/RGC (HKBU 243209)  
Amount Awarded: HK\$768,230

*Brief Introduction*

The transition from a centrally planned to a socialist market economy in China has engendered incessant spatial restructuring and produced a plethora of housing and community types in urban China. First there are the pre-1949 tenements and courtyard housing in the urban core. Massive redevelopments in recent years have uprooted tens of thousands of residents and impinged heavily on these communities. Second there are the *danwei* compounds of the socialist planning period located outside the core. Housing sold to sitting tenants under the reform has since been given full property rights and allowed to enter the market. The resultant inflow of unrelated inhabitants is now undermining the

homogeneity and integrity of many *danwei* compounds. Third, there are the commodity housing estates in redeveloped inner-city neighbourhoods and newly developed suburbs populated by China's rising middle class. The new owner-occupiers are eager and relatively well resourced to defend their rights so as to maintain the value of their properties. Finally, there are the urban villages on former urban-rural fringes with concentrations of rural migrants.

A distinguishing feature of Chinese cities is the presence of boundaries and gates. They delineated the *danwei* compounds before. They are also features of the new commodity housing estates. But the meaning of boundaries and gates could be quite different for the former worker-residents and for the new owner-occupiers. Surely, there are also communities which are more loosely defined physically; yet residents' committees have been empowered to perform community building functions in such communities.

Using data from household survey conducted in Guangzhou and Shanghai in 2005 and 2006-7, together with data from supplementary fieldworks as well as from census and other sources, the proposed study attempt to analyse the interrelationship between community formation and neighbourly relations, on the one hand, and residential experiences, on the other, and examines how such relationships are conditioned by the changing built environment of the residence in light of China's unprecedented urban and economic and social transformation. Special attention is given to the effects of boundaries and gates. Both quantitative and qualitative works are needed to unravel the richness and diversity of behavioural responses of the residents in adjusting to and making the best out of the changes in structural or institutional forces and environmental features. The quantitative analysis will involve structural equation estimations with built-in feedback loops. The more qualitative works require extensive field observations and in-depth interviews with different stakeholders.

### *3.1.6 Urban Form Remaking, Car-Dependence and Traffic Congestion in Urban China*

Principal Investigator: Professor Donggen Wang

Exercise Period: 2010-2011

Source of Funding: GRF/RGC

Amount Awarded: HK\$781,755

#### *Brief Introduction*

The significance of traffic congestion and air pollution in Chinese cities was highlighted during the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The average speed of motor vehicles in the city centre during rush hour is now around 12-18 km per hour compared with 15 km per hour by bicycle; Transport-related air pollutions account for about 23% of total air pollution in Beijing. Many attribute the problems to the rocket soaring car ownership and the increasing dependence on car for urban Chinese in their daily travel. More fundamental issues, however, have not yet received sufficient attention: apart from increased income, what other factors contribute to the growing demand for car? Apart from increased accessibility to car, what other factors contribute to the increased urban traffic? Based on our recent research on urban transportation in China, we hypothesize that urban form remaking, or spatial restructuring in Chinese cities, resulted from Danwei (or work unit), land, and housing reforms, has largely, if not fundamentally, changed the ways that urban Chinese use time and space and consequently their travel behaviour. This research is thus proposed to investigate the interrelations between urban form remaking, car-dependence and traffic congestion in Beijing. Specifically, we will collect first-hand data on individuals' preference towards living environment and travel behaviour, actual activity-travel behaviour and socio-economic variables at two time points. Secondary data will be collected to characterize the built environment in which individuals live. Econometric models especially longitudinal modelling tools such as the two-wave structural equation models will be used to establish associations as well as cause-effect relations between built environment and activity-travel behaviour in terms of car ownership, the use of time and space, travel frequencies and

duration and shares of motorized and non-motorized transport modes. This proposed research has both great academic significance and policy relevance. It will enrich the current literature on the connections between built environment and activity-travel behaviour with empirical findings from a case outside North America and Europe. It will also greatly contribute to the understanding of congestion and air pollution problems related to urban traffic in Chinese cities and based on which appropriate remedy policies may be proposed.

*3.1.7 The reintegration of returned overseas Filipina Domestic helpers: social and cultural effects in their home communities (FRG1/09-10/044)*

Principal Investigator: Doctor Xiaojiang Yu  
Exercise Period: February 1, 2010- January 30, 2011  
Source of Funding: FRG  
Amount Awarded: HK\$60,000

*Brief Introduction*

With globalisation, millions of female labour migrants have worked in foreign countries as domestic helpers. In host countries, social, economic, politic, and cultural issues related to the Filipina domestic helpers have attracted attention from academic scholars, international agencies, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, little has been done to examine social and cultural effects after they completed overseas employment and returned to their homeland. In this proposed research, I will investigate the social and cultural changes among the domestic helpers after they returned to their hometowns and villages from overseas, specifically, their personal identity, social behaviours, family ties, and attitude towards the religion. Additionally, the influences of the changes on local society will be identified. The research method will be mainly based on the field research in the Philippines, which includes face to face discussion with returned domestic helpers, their family members, neighbours, church organisations, and local communities. It is anticipated that

the research will bridge gaps in academic studies of international migration related social and cultural issues; be useful for governments and international organizations to develop relevant policies; and improve teaching subjects of social studies, international development, and cultural geography at both post and undergraduate levels.

### *3.1.8 The evolving role of carbon finance (greenhouse gas) schemes in promoting renewable energy development in New Zealand*

Investigators: Doctor Xiaojiang Yu, Doctor Noim Uddin  
Exercise Period: March 2010-September 2011  
Source of Funding: GRF Incentive Award Scheme  
Amount Awarded: HK\$10,000

#### *Brief Introduction*

This research aims to study greenhouse gas schemes and institutional settings implemented by the Government of New Zealand. In particular this research will assess the role that carbon finance (greenhouse gas schemes) has played in promoting renewable energy development in New Zealand. Any changes made to the Kyoto Protocol flexible mechanisms in the context of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations could directly effect greenhouse gas emission reduction projects particularly renewable energy development in New Zealand or more likely to change carbon finance investments. This analysis may therefore inform the domestic greenhouse gas management and renewable energy policy discussions taking place in New Zealand, as well as the international climate policy discussions on how to reform the flexibility mechanism in order to facilitate a low-carbon economy.

### *3.1.9 Remote Sensing Change Detection and Spatio-temporal Analysis on Environmental Impacts by the Expansion of Irrigated Farmland Expansion in Aridzone of China*

Principal Investigator: Professor Qiming Zhou

Exercise Period: 2007-2009

Source of Funding: GRF/RGC

Amount Awarded: HK\$317,000

### *Brief Introduction*

Land cover change is one of the most sensitive indicators that echo the interactions between human activities and natural environment. In arid environment, the rapid expansion of cultivated land in the marginal region has destroyed native rangeland vegetation cover and caused intensive competition on limited water resource. The proposed research is to investigate the environmental impacts due to rapid expansion of cultivated land in the marginal area of arid zone of western China. Multi-temporal satellite imagery will be used to create a spatio-temporal image of changing farmland since early 1990's when the national and local governments' policy stimulated considerable investment on irrigated agriculture in the fringe area of deserts. Landscape metric that is commonly employed in ecological studies will be applied to this spatio-temporal image and change trajectory of farmland will be established. It is expected that the spatio-temporal pattern of the farmland change can be revealed by the interpretation of the landscape metric so that areas and sequence of farmland growth can be identified. The goal of the study is to develop a practical methodology for assessing the growth limit under constrains of water resource, environmental vulnerability and sustainability of the growth.

### *3.1.10 Investigations on issues and methods of multi-scale digital terrain analysis*

Principal Investigator: Professor Qiming Zhou

Exercise Period: 2009-2010

Source of Funding: GRF/RGC (GRF 203309)

Amount Awarded: HK\$312,000

### *Brief Introduction*

Preventing or minimizing losses in human life and property caused by natural disasters such as flood and landslide has prompted continuing effort in resource and environment management. Although the prevention of such disasters is still far beyond human control, losses may be minimized if the risk of such disasters can be reliably modelled and forecasted for a local catchment. This demands the quantitative knowledge of the water budget, which in turn requires reliable estimation of morphological parameters of the landscape. Such parameters also form a foundation for environmental applications such as flood and landslide monitoring and prediction, water conservation and soil erosion modelling.

This project attempts to investigate issues and methodology of multi-scale digital terrain analysis based on digital elevation models (DEM). The focus is on the methods of deriving critical terrain parameters and features for applications at various scales based on a single-resolution DEM. A multi-scale data structure for digital terrain analysis will be developed based on multiple levels of significant points (or the ‘turning points’) of the terrain surface, which are extracted from a grid-based DEM using methods of terrain feature point and line identification. A dynamic triangulated irregular network (TIN) will be constructed on the terrain significant points, and methods will then be developed to derive terrain parameters or extract terrain features from the integrated multi-scale data structure. Uncertainties of the derivatives will be evaluated and modelled, using a data-independent accuracy assessment method as well as the real-world test. The sensitivity and solution space of the proposed method will also be analysed. It is expected that the outcome of the project will provide a reliable basis for the estimation of critical terrain parameters such as flow volume and catchment area at the optimum scale matching the application demands

### **3.2. Research Outputs of CURS Fellows**

#### **Doctor Yuk Shing Cheng**

##### **Journal paper:**

- (2009) “Reforms of the Agricultural Bank of China – Can Policy and Commercial Objectives Be Reconciled?” *The Chinese Economy*, Vol.42, No.5, September-October 2009, pp.79-97.

#### **Professor Sammy W. S. Chiu**

##### **Journal paper:**

- (2010). “The Myth and Reality of Internet Intimacy Among Youth: Challenges to Social Work in Hong Kong” *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol.158, No.3, pp.31-37.

##### **Book edited:**

- (with K.W. Chan and W.K. Yu) (2010) *A Society for People: In Memory of Peter Townsend*, (Hong Kong: Red Publishing Company, 2010), pp180, (In Chinese)

##### **Book Chapters:**

- (with T.M. Chan and M. Chiu) (2010). “One country, Two Cities: A Comparison of Perceived Cohesion in Guangzhou and Hong Kong”. In K.H. Mok & Y.W. Ku (eds). *Social Cohesion in Greater China: Challenges for Social Policy and Governance*. (Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co & King's college of the University of London), pp121-146
- (2010) “Reconsidering Social Policy in Hong Kong”. In S. Chiu, K.W. Chan & W.K.Yu (eds), *A Society for People: In Memory of Peter Townsend*, (Hong Kong: Red Publishing Company), pp39-52.(In Chinese)
- (2010) “Structured dependency in old age: Rethinking ageism and elderly services in Hong Kong”. In S.Chiu, K.W. Chan & W.K.Yu (eds). *A Society for People: In Memory of Peter*

*Townsend*, (Hong Kong: Red Publishing Company, 2010), pp39-52, 166-180. (In Chinese)

- (with W.K. Yu) (2010) “The retirement protection reforms in Hong Kong and urban China – the causes, key features and implications on the similarities and differences of their government’s responses to economic globalization” , *Joint Social Work Research Network Working Paper Series*, No.1, (Hong Kong Baptist University, National Taiwan University, and Macao Polytechnic Institute,2010), pp1-40.

### **Conference papers:**

- (with M. Li, and W.L. Wong) (2010) “Poverty Versus Dignity: A Study of Urban Mudlarks in Hong Kong”. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Hong Kong Association of Gerontology, April, 2010.
- (with M. Li, and W.L. Wong) (2009) “The re-provisioning of a young drug addict rehabilitation centre in Lantau Island, Hong Kong: The rationality of impact assessment, values dilemma and the ethics of care”. Paper presented at the Conference on Social Work Professional Ethics, Law and Culture, Taiwan Social Work Professional Service Quality Promotion Association, Shih Chien University, Taipei, 26 November, 2009.

### **Professor Cindy Y. Y. Chu**

#### **Books edited:**

- (2010)《玫瑰修女》(*The Maryknoll Sisters*)。(香港：公教報，2010年)

#### **Books Chapters:**

- (with Miriam Xavier Mug and Betty Ann Maheu) (2009) “The Maryknoll Sisters, their Ministries and Educational Work, 1921 to the Present,” in *History of Catholic Religious Orders and Missionary Congregations in Hong Kong*, Vol. Two: Research

Papers, edited by Louis Ha and Patrick Taveirne (Hong Kong: Centre for Catholic Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2009), pp. 439-75.

- (with Miriam Xavier Mug and Betty Ann Maheu) (2009) “The Maryknoll Sisters since 1945,” in *History of Catholic Religious Orders and Missionary Congregations in Hong Kong*, Vol. Two: Research Papers, edited by Louis Ha and Patrick Taveirne (Hong Kong: Centre for Catholic Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2009), pp. 476-539.

### **Doctor Him Chung**

#### **Journals:**

- (2010) “Building an Image of Villages-in-the-city: A Clarification of China's Distinct Urban Space”, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 34(2):421-437.
- (2009) “The Planning of 'Village-in-the-City' in Shenzhen, China: A State-led Approach”, *International Planning Studies*, 14(3):253-273.

#### **Book chapters:**

- (with W.S. Tang) (2010) “Social Justice and Illegal Construction in China: A Case-study of Tianhe Village, Guangzhou”, in W.S. Tang and F. Mizuoka (eds), *A Critical Geography Perspective*, (Tokyo: Kokon Shoin, Japan, 2010), pp. 199-217.

### **Doctor Gina W. F. Lai**

#### **Conference papers**

- (July 2010), “Gendered Effects of Marriage on Access to Social Capital”, Paper presented at the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Gothenburg, Sweden, 11-17 July, 2010

## **Professor Kam Keung Lee**

### **Journal Papers:**

- (2009) 〈第六屆近代中國基督教史研討會——抗日戰爭時期的中國教會〉，《基督教週報》，2351期（2009年9月20日）。
- (2009) 〈馬禮遜來華及其宗教事業之再評估〉 (Re-evaluation of Rev. Robert Morrison and His Missionary Cause)，《近化中國基督教史研究集刊》，8期（2008/2009），頁1-10。
- (2009) 〈從邊緣到中心——基督教潮人生命堂的由來及本地化〉 (From Periphery to Centre: Origins and Localization of the Swatow Churches in Hong Kong)，《輔仁歷史學報》，24期（2009）。

### **Books edited:**

- (2010) 《世變中的史學》 (*Chinese Historiography in the Changing World*) (桂林：廣西師範大學出版社，2010)，359頁。
- (2009) 《福源潮汕澤香江——基督教潮人生命堂百年史 1909-2009》 (*A Centennial History of Swatow Churches in Hong Kong 1909-2009*)，陳潔光，楊昱昇，李金強合著（香港：商務印書館，2009），367頁。

### **Book chapters:**

- (2010) 〈20世紀中國新史學的起承轉合〉 (Origins and Changes of the Chinese Historiography in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century)，《世變中的史學》。(桂林：廣西師範大學出版社，2010)，頁1-6，172-194。
- (2010) 〈南港學派的創始者——郭廷以的生平志業及其弟子〉 (The Founder of Nan Kang School: Life, Works and Students of Mr. Kuo Ting-ye)，《世變中的史學》。(桂林：廣西師範大學出版社，2010)，頁1-6，172-194。
- (2010) 〈同鄉、同業、同信仰——以“旅港潮人中華基督教會”為個案的研究（1923-1938）〉 (Same Origin, Same Trade, Same Belief: A Case Study of the Swatow Chinese Church in Hong Kong, 1923-1938)；吳義雄編：《地方社會文化與近代中西文化交流》。(上海：上海人民出版社，2010)，頁225-243。

- (2009)〈清季香港華商與革命運動關係之探析〉，《史學與史識：王爾敏教授八秩嵩壽榮慶學術論文集》。(台北：廣文書局，2009)，頁53-74。
- (2009)〈從省港澳地域觀察孫中山的求學與革命〉(Sun Yat-sen's School Life and Revolutionary Activities in Hong Kong, Macau and Canton)，《紀念孫中山誕辰140周年國際學術研討會論文集》。(北京：社會科學文獻出版社，2009)，下卷，頁1107-1124。

### **Conference papers:**

- (July 2010)〈近代中國基督教商人研究發凡〉(Studies on Chinese Business Christians)，發表於「中國基督教史研究暑期青年學者論壇」，由武漢華中師範大學東西文化交流研究中心及香港中文大學當代基督教資源中心合辦，2010年7月7-9日。
- (June 2010)〈近代中國之洋化——以香港輔仁文社(1892)為例之探析〉(Westernization of Modern China: A Case Study of Furen Literary Society)，發表於「第二屆漢化、胡化、洋化：傳統社會的轉型與適應國際學術研討會」，由台灣國立中正大學主辦，2010年6月4-5日。
- (May 2010)〈教會文獻及口述歷史——以潮人生命堂為例〉(Literature and Local History of the Swatow Church in Hong Kong)。發表於「教會文物保育與集體回憶」專題講座，由宣道會區聯會主辦，2010年5月25日。
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- (January 2010)〈商人信徒——以基督教潮人生命堂為例〉(Chinese Business Christians: A Case Study of Swatow Churches in Hong Kong)，發表於「第五屆香港亞洲研究學會研討會」，由香港亞洲研究學會與香港大學合辦，2010年1月8-9日。
- (November 2009)〈清代福州及其腹地物產之研究〉，發表於「中

國清代地理國際學術研討會」，復旦大學舉辦，2009年11月14-16日。

### **Professor Si-ming Li**

#### **Journal papers:**

- (2010) “Evolving Residential and Employment Locations and Patterns of Commute under Hyper Growth: the Case of Guangzhou, China,” *Urban Studies*, Vol. 47, No. 10, 2010, pp. 1643–1661.
- (with Quan Hou, Susu Chen and Chunshan Zhou) (2010) “Work, Home and Market: the Social Transformation of Housing Space in Guangzhou, China,” *Urban Geography*, Vol. 31, No. 4, 2010, pp. 434–452.
- (2009) “Housing inequality in urban China: Guangzhou 1996 et 2005”, *Espaces Populations Sociétés*, No. 3, 2009, pp. 511-521

#### **Books edited:**

- (2010)《新香港地理。上下冊》(*A New Geography of Hong Kong. Vol. I and II.*) 詹志勇、李思名、馮通主編。Edited by C Y Jim, Si-ming Li and Tong Fung. (香港：郊野公園之友、漁農自然護理署、天地圖書有限公司共同出版，2010。Hong Kong: Friends of Country Park, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and Cosmos Books Ltd, 2010) (Vol:316pp, Vol:228pp) (In Chinese and English)
- (2009)《巨龍的甦醒：中國改革開放三十年、港澳回歸、與東亞發展新範式—第十二屆中華經濟協作系統國際會議論文集》(*The Awakening of the Dragon: China's Thirty Years of Reform, the Return of Hong Kong and Macau, and New Development Paradigms in East Asia*)李思名、黃枝連、馮氏惠、陳東林主編。澳門：澳門大學出版中心，2009，29章，336頁。(In Chinese)

#### **Book chapters:**

- (2010) “Housing and Urban Development: Political Economy and Space (住房與城市發展：政治經濟與地理空間),” in C Y Jim, Si-ming Li and Tong Fung, eds. *A New Geography of Hong Kong*,

Vol. II. 《新香港地理，下冊》(Hong Kong: Friends of Country Park, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and Cosmos Books Ltd, 2010), pp. 37 -70.

- (with Limei Li) (2010) “The impact of variations in urban registration within cities,” in Martin Whyte, ed., *One Country, Two Societies? Rural-Urban Inequality in Contemporary China* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2010), pp. 188-218
- (2009)〈在十字路口的香港和珠江三角洲的協作關係〉(Economic Coordination between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta at a Crossroads)。《巨龍的甦醒：中國改革開放三十年、港澳回歸、與東亞發展新範式—第十二屆中華經濟協作系統國際會議論文集》(*The Awakening of the Dragon: China's Thirty Years of Reform, the Return of Hong Kong and Macau, and New Development Paradigms in East Asia*) (李思名、黃枝連、馮氏惠、陳東林主編。(澳門：澳門大學出版中心，2009)，頁 109-120。

### **Doctor Danching Ruan**

#### **Journal paper:**

- (與劉麗敏、楊善華) (2010) “教育選拔與社會變遷——高校招生政策之世紀演變”，《華中科技大學學報》，第二十四卷（第一期），頁 117-124。

#### **Book edited:**

- (2009) 《重塑上海--上海新老居民一體化進程研究》(*Migration and the Remaking of Shanghai. Shanghai: Xuelin Publication House*)。阮丹青主編。(上海學林出版社，2009)，333 頁。

#### **Book chapters:**

- (2009)〈一城兩界：新老上海人的社會網絡與社會資本〉(One city and two worlds--Social network and social capital of the locals and migrants in Shanghai.)，《重塑上海--上海新老居民一體化進程研究》(*Migration and the Remaking of Shanghai. Shanghai: Xuelin Publication House*)。阮丹青主編。(上海學林出版社，2009) 頁 3-27。

- (與賴滄寬) (2009)〈從排斥到接納：老上海人的態度差異與行爲〉 (Exclusion and inclusion--the attitudes of the local Shanghai people towards the migrants)。《重塑上海--上海新老居民一體化進程研究》 (*Migration and the Remaking of Shanghai. Shanghai: Xuelin Publication House*)。阮丹青主編。(上海學林出版社，2009) 頁 119-141。

### **Professor Victor, F.S. Sit**

#### **Journal paper:**

- (2010) “香港在配合中國崛起成爲經濟強國的角色”，《信報財經月刊-一十年代中國世紀》，香港：信報財經，Vol.394, 54-62。

#### **Books edited:**

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- (2010) *Hong Kong: 160 Years Development in Maps*, (Hong Kong: Joint Publishing Limited, 2010) pp.178.

#### **Book chapters:**

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- (2010) “全球經濟大轉移中的機遇與戰略——香港案例研究”，《第三個三十年——再度大轉型的中國》，(北京：人民出版社，2010)，頁 305-332。
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### **Conference papers:**

- (January 2010) 〈全球城市成長與全球經濟危機：我國新的城市化方向〉，發表於「全球城市成長與全球經濟危機國際研討會」，由北京大學城市與環境學院，北京大學深圳研究生院以及明尼蘇達大學地理系，新加坡國立大學地理系主辦，2010年1月7日。
- (December 2009) 〈國際城市群理論和研究方向〉，發表於「城市群發展模式國際學術研討會」，由湖南省領導協調委員會智力辦公室主辦，2009年12月3-4日。
- (October 2009) 〈香港在配合國家崛起成爲經濟強國的角色〉，發表於「中國富強之路——前景與挑戰」學術論壇，由中國富強基金會及香港浸會大學當代中國研究所合辦，2009年10月28日。
- (September 2009) 〈我國建國以來城市化與城市發展的回顧〉，發表於第二屆當代中國史國際高級論壇，由北京當代中國研究所主辦，2009年9月16-18日。

### **Professor Donggen Wang**

#### **Journal papers:**

- (with P. Li) (2009) "Numerical Analysis of the Statistical Properties of Uniform Design in Stated Choice Modelling" *Transport Reviews*, Volume 29, Issue 5, pp. 619 – 634.

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**Professor Kenneth K. K. Wong****Journal paper:**

- (April 2010) “Environmental Awareness, Governance and Public Participation: Public Perception Perspectives”, *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, 67(2):169-181.

## **Professor Victor C. W. Wong**

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## **Doctor Xiaojiang Yu**

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**Professor Qiming Zhou**

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**Conference paper:**

- (With B. Sun) (2009) “Processing multi-temporal images for detecting and quantifying spatial pattern of farmland change in western China”, Paper presented at the International Workshop on High-resolution 3D Earth Image Analysis for Remote Area Applications, Alax League, Inner Mongolia, China, 18-21 September, 2009
- (With B. Sun) (2009) “Modeling and visualizing spatio-temporal pattern of land cover change in Pearl River Delta region of China using multi-temporal imagery”, in *Proceedings of ISPRS Workshop on Virtual Changing Globe for Visualisation and Analysis*, 27-28 October, Wuhan, *The International Archives of The Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences*, Gong, J. and Zhou, Q. (eds.), 38(4/W10): Unpaginated CDROM.

### **3.3. Occasional Papers**

To facilitate academic exchange and to disseminate research findings in the quickest manner, CURS has launched an occasional paper series, with Dr. Wing Shing Tang serving as the Chief Editor. Authors of CURS Occasional Papers include Centre's fellows and other staff members of HKBU, as well as scholars from other academic institutions in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and overseas. In the period July 2009 - June 2010, a total of 11 occasional papers were published. The paper abstracts are available on the CURS website ([www.hkbu.edu.hk~curs](http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~curs)). The full papers are priced at HK\$30 per copy. Subscribers of CURS Occasional Papers include libraries of local and overseas universities and research units of business enterprises. Below is a list of CURS Occasional Papers published over the period. The abstracts of the occasional papers are given in Appendix 1.

**List of CURS Occasional Papers Published, July 2009- June 2010**

No.	Title	Author
89	Redevelopment of Industrial Land in Hong Kong: An Inter-district Analysis	Joanna W Y Lee (August 2009)
90	上海外商投資環境評價的歷史比較研究	陸緋雲 (August 2009)
91	Recreation Conflict Perceptions of Urban Park Visitors: A Case Study of Tuen Mun Park, Hong Kong, China	Koon Kwai Wong and Xiaojiang Yu (August 2009)
92	Evolving Residential and Employment Locations and Patterns of Commute under Hyper Growth: the Case of Guangzhou, China	Si-ming Li (November 2009)
93	Community Type, Gateness and Neighbourhood Experiences: A Study of Guangzhou, China	Si-ming Li, Yushu Zhu and Limei Li (November 2009)
94	Housing and Urban Development in Hong Kong: Political Economy and Space	Si-ming LI (November 2009)
95	How large has the gate of Chinese hukou system been opened?—managing and controlling the exploding metropolis	Limei Li, Si-ming Li and Yingfang Chen (December 2009)
96	Unity is strength: the emergence and use of online neighborhood forum in transitional urban China	Limei Li, Si-ming Li (December 2009)
97	Economic Integration between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta at a Crossroads: Mega-Urban Development under One Country, Two Systems	Si-ming Li (December 2009)
98	Housing Inequality in Urban China: Guangzhou 1996 and 2005	Si-ming Li (December 2009)
99	《市區重建策略》檢討：「久在樊籠裡，復得反自然」	鄧永成 (December 2009)

#### 4. Financial Review (1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010)

	Amount (HKD)
<b>Previous Balance on June 2009</b>	<b>704,218.08</b>
<b>Income (+)</b>	
A. Hong Kong Baptist University Research Committee (RC) standard allocation	100,000
B. Investment Interests/ Income Interests	35,234.35
C. Consultant/ Service Income	20,400
D. Income from selling CURS occasional papers and books sponsored by CURS	337
E. Transfer from Director's research accounts to support Centre staff	123,978.37
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b><u>279,949.72</u></b>
<b>Expenditure (-)</b>	
<b>A. Staffing</b>	
1. Full-time staff Salary supported by CURS account	30,030.96
2. Full-time staff Salary supported by Director's research accounts	123,978.37
<b><u>Subtotal of Staffing Costs</u></b>	<b><u>154,009.33</u></b>
<b>B. General Expenses</b>	
1. Computer expenditures and reference materials	6,203.2
2. Hospitality expenses	5,911.71
3. Photocopying	100
4. Postage	3,632.49
5. Printing and publication	6,083.00
6. Stationary	784.7
7. Fax and telecom	85.1
8. Travelling	400
9. Conference / Board meeting	15,556.49
10. Miscellaneous	575.3
11. Newspaper/ Periodical	1,224
12. Reference materials	2,531.25
13. Admin/ Service fee	2,043
<b><u>Subtotal of General Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>45,130.24</u></b>
<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>199,139.57</u></b>
<b><u>Total Income – Total Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>80,810.15</u></b>
<b><u>Balance Brought forward to Year 2010/2011</u></b>	<b><u>785,028.23</u></b>

## **5. On-going Activities and Future Development**

### **5.1 Conference on Migration Issues in China**

The Department of Sociology and the Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies of Hong Kong Baptist University jointly organize the “Conference on Migration Issues in China” on 24 August 2010 at Hong Kong Baptist University. Professor Donggen Wang acts as a member of the organizing committee of the conference. The conference examines the issues of economic and social integration based on the research experiences in China and the west, and compares the social and contextual factors that affect integration of migrants and immigrants. The Conference focuses on various critical issues relating to China's migration and social policies, such as rural to urban migration, work and employment of migrants and the inclusion of migrants. Scholars from Canada and North-western China will join with colleagues and students of HKBU to take part in the conference.

### **5.2 The 13th International Symposium on Coordination of Chinese Economic System**

A four-day conference of the 13th International Symposium on Coordination of Chinese Economic Systems will be held in Fudan University in Shanghai. CURS will co-organize the conference with the Hong Kong Society of Asia and Pacific Twenty-One, the Advanced Institute for Contemporary China Study at HKBU, and the Centre for Korean Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai. The main theme of the conference is on the economic cooperation in the East Asia.

### **5.3 International Conference on China Urban Development**

The Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP) at the University of Hong Kong and the Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) at Hong Kong Baptist University are co-organizing the “International Conference on China Urban

Development” on 7-8 December 2010 in Hong Kong. Professor Si-ming Li, Director of CURS, serves as the Co-chair of the Organizing Committee, and Professor Donggang Wang, Associate Director of CURS, serves as a Committee member. This conference seeks to provide a platform for scholars from various parts of the world to exchange views and experiences and grasp new trends of research. It also serves as an international forum to examine the challenges that China is facing and to find effective solutions to ensure sustainable urban development in China.

## **6. Overall Self Evaluations**

In the academic years 2009-10 CURS continued to build its national and international research networks in the pursuit of excellence in academic research and communication, and further established its position as an important hub for the study of China’s cities and regions.

In the year under review CURS began planning for a major international conference on Urban Development in China, to be jointly held by CURS and the Centre of Urban Planning and Urban Studies of the University of Hong Kong on 7-10 December 2010 to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the former and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the latter. The HKBU Research Committee has extended partial funding support for this event. Initial indications are that the conference will be attended by a large number of the world’s leading scholars on Chinese cities.

In addition, CURS is joining force with the Advanced Institute for Contemporary China Studies of HKBU, the Hong Kong Society of Asia and Pacific Twenty-One, and Fudan University of Shanghai to hold the 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Coordination of Chinese Economic Systems on 8-9 November 2010 in Shanghai. The theme of this conference is on China and ASEAN 10, although there will be papers on Northeast Asia as well.

In the year CURS played host to Dr Elvin Wyly of the University of

British Columbia, who currently serves as co-editor of *Urban Geography*, a leading journal in geography and urban studies. In the coming year CURS will play host to Professor Ya Ping Wang of the Herriot-Watt University of Scotland, the home of the influential journal *Housing Studies*. Professor Wang is a world recognised scholar on China urban housing and is the book review editor of *Housing Studies*.

Previous conferences that CURS helped organize had resulted in a number of publications. The most recent one was the publication of 巨龍的蘇醒：中國改革開放三十年、港澳回歸、與東亞發展的新模式 (Awakening of the Dragon: China's Thirty Years of Opening and Reform, the Return of Hong Kong and Macau, and the New Model of Development in East Asia) by the University of Macau Press at the end of 2009. This volume was based on the Conference "China's 30 Years of Implementing Reform and Open-door Policies and China-ASEAN Relations" held at Hanoi in 2008 that CURS co-sponsored. In addition, under planning are two journal special issues, one for *Urban Geography*, and the other *GeoForum*, based on papers presented at the workshop "Enclave Urbanism as Problems or Solutions" held at Utrecht, the Netherlands on 11-13 June 2008, which CURS acted as a co-organizer.

The CURS occasional paper series was launched for quick dissemination of research findings and enhancing academic exchange. Most papers published under this series after revisions have subsequently found their way to major international journals and as book chapters. In the year a total of ten papers were published under the CURS occasional paper series, which continued to attract attention from scholars, academic institutes, government departments and the business sector.

The Director, Associate Director and fellows of the Centre were actively engaged in research and made constant appearance in international conferences. They were also rather successful in the bid for GRF, FRG and other competitive research grants and in getting their works published in leading journals and as books or book chapters by reputed publishing houses.

Irrespective of its size, CURS has since its founding made substantial impacts on the international academic arena in the realm of China urban and regional studies. In the years to come, given the University's increased emphasis on inter-disciplinary research, especially in response to recent policies initiatives promulgated by the University Grants Committee, the role of CURS as one of the research arms of the University will be enhanced further. We will maintain and further develop our good relations and collaborative efforts with different academic units of the University, particularly the Department of Geography, the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Advanced Institute for Contemporary China Studies, as well as academics and research institutes elsewhere in Hong Kong, on the mainland and overseas. Yet, finance and space are major constraints. The fame that CURS has successfully established and the total lack of space to accommodate research personnel and visiting scholars are particularly contrasting. It is hoped that the relevant authorities of the University can take note of this incongruence and provide CURS with more adequate space when the new building for Social Sciences is completed in 2012.

## **Appendix 1: Occasional Paper Abstracts, No. 89 – 99**

### Occasional Paper No. 89 (August 2009)

#### **Redevelopment of Industrial Land in Hong Kong: An Inter-district Analysis**

Joanna W Y Lee

Hong Kong has witnessed massive relocation of manufacturing industries and outflow of investment to the Pearl River Delta in the 1980s. The spatial outcome of this restructuring process is the physical and functional obsolescence of industrial land in Hong Kong. Given a scarcity of land resources, there is an increasing demand for redevelopment of vacant industrial land. Redevelopment requests for changes in uses have skyrocketed to a level that a comprehensive review on industrial land development is urgently needed.

The objective of this paper is to undertake an inter-district analysis by tracing both the Government initiatives and the market responses to the redevelopment of industrial land so as to explore the underlying mechanisms in affecting industrial land redevelopment in different development contexts. An attempt is made for mapping the industrial redevelopment process in three typical industrial areas in Hong Kong namely, Aberdeen & Ap Lei Chau; Kwun Tong South and Sha Tin & Fo Tan. It is found that location-specific factors are crucial in determining the nature and intensity of the redevelopment process.

### Occasional Paper No. 90 (August 2009)

#### **上海外商投資環境評價的歷史比較研究**

陸緋雲

中國改革開放三十年來，外商投資對中國的經濟發展產生重要的推動作用，這在中國經濟重鎮的上海表現尤其顯著，通過研究外商在上海投資狀況的發展變化，可以折射出中國經濟社會發展變化的脈絡。本文試圖通過對上海的外資企業（資金來自境外、國外）對其投資環境

滿意度的調查，瞭解與揭示上海在改善投資環境方面所做的努力、產生的變化及其原因。本研究採用同樣的問卷表在 1993—1994 年及 2005—2006 年兩個時間段，在上海通過多種管道對外企進行隨機抽樣，並把 94 年的統計資料作為縱向比較的基點，通過縱向歷史比較研究發現，十多年以來上海以完善的基礎設施、便捷的交通和充沛的資訊等吸引了更多的外商前來投資合作，外商對上海投資環境的滿意度使他們在上海尋找長期而穩定的投資機會，這也是上海經濟快速、持續發展的保證。

Occasional Paper No. 91 (August 2009)

### **Recreation Conflict Perceptions of Urban Park Visitors: A Case Study of Tuen Mun Park, Hong Kong, China**

Koon Kwai Wong, Xiaojiang Yu

Recreation conflicts are common in urban parks and the problem has escalated in recent years in Hong Kong. A typical example of such conflict was the dispute between music performers and other park visitors and residents in the vicinity of Tuen Mun Park in recent years. However, issue of recreation conflict in urban park has been grossly under-researched. Hence, this study applied Jacob and Schreyer's (1980) theoretical framework to analyse recreation conflicts of park visitors in Tuen Mun Park, Hong Kong. The findings showed that park visitor's recreation conflict can be explained partially by applying Jacob and Schreyer's model. Resource specificity and lifestyle tolerance were found to be significant in affecting people's recreation conflict perception. The findings will inform government departments to revise park management policies and practices to minimize conflicts and to promote the optimal use of outdoor recreational spaces in Hong Kong.

Occasional Paper No. 92 (November 2009)

## **Evolving Residential and Employment Locations and Patterns of Commute under Hyper Growth: the Case of Guangzhou, China**

Si-ming Li

Chinese cities have experienced rapid growth and restructuring in recent times. This paper examines the evolving residential and employment locations and the changes in the patterns of commute in Guangzhou, China. Tabulations derived from household surveys conducted in 2001 and 2005 show rapid suburbanisation of both residence and employment. Intra-zone traffic today dominates the commuting scene in both the central core and the suburbs. The mean commute distance and mean commute time have increased, but the increases were quite modest. Estimation of residential and employment density gradients reveal differential decentralisation of different population groups. Multivariate analysis indicates that commute distance generally increases with income and occupational status. Males in Guangzhou used to have appreciably shorter commutes than females; but the difference has decreased in recent years, suggesting convergence in commuting behaviour between the Chinese and western cases.

Occasional Paper No. 93 (November 2009)

## **Community Type, Gateness and Neighbourhood Experiences: A Study of Guangzhou, China**

Si-ming Li, Yushu Zhu and Limei Li

The past two decades witnessed unprecedented urban growth in China, amidst the transition from a socialist central-planned economy to a socialist market economy. This, together with a land tenure system reflecting institutionalized urban-rural divide, has produced community and housing types characterized by distinct socio-occupational mixes and built-environment features. Using data from a household survey conducted in Guangzhou, this paper analyses the interrelationship between neighbourly relations and community attachment, on the one

hand, and neighbourhood satisfaction, on the other, and examines how such relationships are conditioned by the built environment of the residence. The results show that local networks are generally weakened in commodity housing enclaves. However, commodity communities exhibit higher community attachment and satisfaction, even though gating appears to have minimal effects on community attachment.

Occasional Paper No. 94 (November 2009)

### **Housing and Urban Development in Hong Kong: Political Economy and Space**

Si-ming Li

In stark contrast to the popular image of Hong Kong as an exemplifier of laissez faire capitalism, in land and housing the Hong Kong government has always been an active and influential player. In this paper I try to show how government policies have helped shape an apparent paradox: the coexistence of an exceedingly high land and housing price regime and one of the largest public housing programmes in the world. In particular, I try to illustrate how this development is intricately linked to Hong Kong's rather unique suburbanisation experience, namely, contained suburbanisation under the New Town Development Programme (NTDP). The paper concludes by highlighting the changing housing policy discourses since the 1997 handover.

Occasional Paper No. 95 (December 2009)

### **How large has the gate of Chinese hukou system been opened?—managing and controlling the exploding metropolis**

Limei Li, Si-ming Li and Yingfang Chen

The hukou system is the most important institution to determine the urban citizenship of Chinese people. It has well adapted itself with times and remained potent after several waves of reform. The paper tracks the change in the registered population of selected cities in the past 30 years to analyse how large the gate of the hukou system has been opened and

under what circumstances urban citizenship is conferred to the migrants in Chinese metropolis, with special reference to Shanghai. Facing the flooding migration, the Shanghai Municipal Government has introduced a residence card system without challenging the existing hukou system. Blended new wine in an old bottle, a hierarchical structure of population registration and management has been set up leading to a complex system of citizenship stratification.

Occasional Paper No. 96(December 2009)

### **Unity is strength: the emergence and use of online neighbourhood forum in transitional urban China**

Limei Li, Si-ming Li

By examining the practice of urban homeowners that employ Internet technologies to improve their position in both home purchase and management, the study analyses the emergence and use of online neighbourhood forum in transitional urban China. The paper argues that the neighbourhood forum provides a platform within which information exchange, organization of collective action, and community building take place simultaneously. In the course of both online and offline interaction, residents have adopted four kinds of strategies: common grievance, common threat, common amenity, and common attribute.

Occasional Paper No. 97(December 2009)

### **Economic Integration between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta at a Crossroads: Mega-Urban Development under One Country, Two Systems**

Si-ming Li

Hong Kong's investments in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) have played an instrumental role in China's re-entry to the world economy and exports-based industrialization. Yet in recent years the Guangdong Provincial Government has tried to drive the Hong Kong-based industries away from the PRD under the policy of "double shifts". The current

world financial crisis in particular has knocked the death knell for large numbers of Hong Kong-based industrial firms, resulting in massive lay-offs and aggravating the already strangled labour relationships. The present paper tries to provide hints at answering the following questions: Do the current difficulties signify the end of coordinated economic development between Hong Kong and the PRD? Are there comparative advantages of the Greater PRD Region under “One Country, Two Systems” when competing with other mega-urban regions of the country?

Occasional Paper No. 98(December 2009)

### **Housing Inequality in Urban China: Guangzhou 1996 and 2005**

Si-ming Li

Based on household surveys conducted in the City of Guangzhou in 1996 and 2005, this paper examines the changes in the extent and nature of urban housing inequality upon the cessation of the welfare allocation of housing in the southern gateway to China. The result shows that the overall level of housing inequality has remained quite stable. Both continuities and changes are revealed for the factors behind the differences in housing consumption. In particular, household income has assumed much greater importance. However, variables characterizing social and housing stratification in the former socialist planned economy, such as membership in the CCP and hukou status, continue to affect access to housing resource.

Occasional Paper No. 99(December 2009)

### **《市區重建策略》檢討：「久在樊籠裡，復得反自然」**

鄧永成

本文從歷史地理的維度，指出現今香港以發展交換價值為圭臬的市區重建困局，皆源自一個 1970 年代開始形成的土地發展體制，在過去三十多年主宰本地發展而造成的。土地發展體制霸權在過去之所以能夠延續，皆因運用技術、理性及程序，把市區變成為發展的前沿，製造分化性差異，以及「殖民化」日常生活所致。要打破這個困局，必

須破舊立新，認認真真構思新思維，建設香港城市的烏托邦，而不是故弄玄虛，巧立名目，或東施效顰，企圖修修補補舊有體制了事。宜消除正在延伸的土地發展體制霸權，配合城市視角，省卻在技術、理性、程序等討論打滾，回歸日常生活，增加創造性差異。這，正正是這次《市區重建策略》檢討給與我們的真正歷史任務。

# ANNUAL

# REPORT



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