

**Annual Report**  
**July 2006 – June 2007**

**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, 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 who come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds but who share a common interest in urban and regional research on China. It is the objective of CURS to further enhance Hong Kong'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: economic development, industry and finance, housing studies, transportation, land-use planning, social problems and social service provision, cultural landscape, 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 the founding of the Centre, Professor Li and his research team at CURS has 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, and the Urban China Research International Network of Cardiff University, Wales.

### 1.1 List of staff members

- **Professor Li, Si-ming** (*Department of Geography*), Centre Director  
Research interests: Urban; Housing; Regional Development
- **Dr Wang, Donggen** (*Department of Geography*), Associate Director  
Research interests: Transport Modelling
- **Dr Tang, Wing Shing** (*Department of Geography*), Chief Editor, CURS Occasional Paper Series  
Research interests: Urban Planning under Socialism
- **Mr Hou, Quan**, Research Assistant (2006-)

- **Miss Wu, Sui Ping**, Research Assistant (2007-)

## 1.2 List of research fellows

- **Dr Cheng, Yuk Shing** (*Department of Economics*)  
Research interests: China's Regional Growth Empirics and Economic Reforms (with special interest in rural and fiscal reforms); Hong Kong's Currency Board System and the Asian Financial Crisis.
- **Dr. Chew, Matthew M. T.** (*Department of Sociology*).  
Research interests: Cultural sociology, cultural policy, urban sociology, social theory, cultural studies
- **Professor Chiu, Sammy W. S.** (*Department of Social Work*).  
Research interests: Ageism and Social Policy; Youth Culture and Youth Policy; Social Ideology and Social Work; Health Care
- **Professor Chow, Larry C. H.** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Energy; Political
- **Dr Chu, Cindy Y. Y.** (*Department of History*)  
Research interests: Contemporary China; Chinese Foreign Relations; Sino-American Relations (Political and Cultural); Hong Kong Politics
- **Dr Chung, Him** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Regional Geography of China; Urban–Rural Relations; Rural Transformation
- **Dr Chung, Stephanie P. Y.** (*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
- **Dr Lai, Gina W. F.** (*Department of Sociology*)  
Research interests: Mental Health; Social Networks; Gender Studies
- **Professor Lee, Kam Keung** (*Department of History*)  
Research interests: History of Fujian and Taiwan; History of Chinese Revolution; History of Christianity in Modern China
- **Dr Ruan, Danching** (*Department of Sociology*)  
Research Assistant: Social Network Analysis; Comparative Sociology; Sociology of Chinese Societies
- **Dr Siu, Yat-ming** (*Department of Sociology*)  
Research interests: Fertility and Family Planning; Migration and Residential Mobility
- **Professor Wong, Kenneth K. K.** (*Department of Geography*)

Research interests: Environmental Studies

- **Professor Wong, Victor C. W.** (*Department of Social Work*)

Research interests: Health; Youth; Social Policy; Public Sector Management

- **Professor Yu, Xiaojiang** (*Department of Geography*)

Research interests: Regional Environmental Planning; Environmental Policy; Natural Resource Management in Southeast Asia; Social and Cultural Geography

- **Professor Zhou, Qiming** (*Department of Geography*)

Research interests: Geographical Information System

### 1.3 List of visiting scholars

- **Professor Li Xiumin** (*School of Economics, Northeast Normal University*)

Research interests: regional economics

- **Professor Perera Nihal** (*Department of Urban Planning, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University*)

Research interests: politics of space

## 2. Research activities conducted

In order to promote academic exchange and networking among scholars from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas who are interested in various aspects of China's urban and regional concerns, CURS actively organizes and sponsors international conferences, workshops, short courses and excursions.

### 2.1 Workshop/conference organization: The Transforming Asian City: Innovative Urban and Planning Practices (Hong Kong, May 3-5, 2007)

The Centre contributed HK\$30,000 to support this conference, which was held at Hong Kong Baptist University. The conference intended to make visible the transformation of space carried out by ordinary citizens and local institutions in Asian cities as part of carrying out their day-to-day practices. The larger goal was to develop a knowledge-base that can both provide alternative directions for research on Asian urbanization and to inspire innovative urban and planning practices in these cities. Hence, the main questions are:

- *What kind of spaces do the inhabitants of Asian cities create (negotiate) as part of developing their own social and cultural practices?*
- *How do they create their own "modernities" and identities?*
- *How do the Asian cities transform as part of people's interventions?*
- *What new approaches have the planners, institutions, and leaders developed?*

- What new concepts have the scholars developed to address these transformations?



Group photo of *The Transforming Asian City: Innovative Urban and Planning Practices* (Hong Kong, May 3-5, 2007)

The conference devoted a special session comparing urbanization and planning in China and India. It has provided a place for sharing of knowledge on urbanization and planning between Asian regions.

## 2.2 Seminar

The Centre and the Department of History co-hosted a seminar on 15 Mar 2007. The speaker, Prof. Hong Buren (洪卜仁, emeritus professor, Xiamen University), gave a talk on the multiple sources of the research on Xiamen's history at the invitation of Dr. Lee Kam Keung.



Prof. Hong Buren, Dr. Lee Kam Keung and the audience, 15 Mar 2007



The speaker, Prof. Hong Buren

### **2.3 Participation in international academic activities supported by CURS**

CURS extends limited conference grants to Centre Fellows to support international academic activities. Below were the activities supported over the academic year.



### *2.3.1 Professor Si-ming Li to the conference on “A quarter century of physical and institutional transformation in Urban China”, NUS, Singapore*

Prof. Li was invited as one of the distinguished speaker at the conference on *A quarter century of physical and institutional transformation in urban China*, which was held at National University of Singapore on 8-10 March 2007. The conference covered three major themes: institutional reform and urban transformation, urban transformation and planning practice and comparison between urban models in Singapore and China. Prof. Li Si-ming gave a speech on *Urban restructuring and changing patterns of commute in Guangzhou, 2001-2005: a first analysis*.

### *2.3.2 Professor Si-ming Li to the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Centennial Meeting 2007*

He was awarded a grant of HK\$ 8,000 to attend The Association of American Geographers (AAG) Centennial Meeting held at San Francisco on 17-21 March 2007. In this meeting Professor Li in conjunction with Prof. Huang Youqin of SUNY-Albany helped organize two paper sessions on Chinese cities. Prof. Li presented a paper entitled “Changing job and housing distribution under marketization in Chinese cities: a study of Guangzhou”. The paper sessions were well received.

During his stay at San Francisco, Prof. Li Si-ming was invited by the Survey Research Centre of the University of California at Berkeley to give a seminar based on the above-mentioned paper there on 19 April 2007. The seminar was attended by some 20 people from different academic units of Berkeley.

### *2.3.3 Dr Donggen Wang to the 11<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Transport Research, Berkely, US. June 24-28, 2007*

He was awarded a grant of HK\$ 5,000 to attend 11<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Transport Research held at Berkely on 24-28 June 2007. In this meeting Dr Wang in conjunction with Dr Li Jiukun co-authored and presented a paper entitled “Modeling the Impacts of Live-in Maid on the Engagement in Discretionary Activities of Household Heads”.

### *2.3.4 Mr. Quan Hou*

Mr. Quan Hou was granted an amount of HK\$ 3,000 to attend the 2nd International Conference on China’s Urban Development and Planning and the First International

Association for China Planning (IACP) Conference held at Beijing on June 9 - 11, 2007. The major conference themes included sustainable and harmonious urban development, changing economy, society and environment in the era of globalization. The topic of his presentation at this conference was *Economic efficiency of urban landuse and its change: a case study of the Pearl River Delta, China*.

## **2.4 Visiting scholars**

### *2.4.1 Visitor under the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia-HKBU Fellowship Programme for Scholars from China*

Under this programme, Professor Xiumin Li (李秀敏教授) of the Institute of Economics, Northeast Normal University spent a year with the Department of Geography, HKBU (September 2006 – August 2007) to conduct research on “The Critical Point of Agglomeration and Diffusion of Economic Centres of China” under the guidance of Professor Si-ming Li, Director of CURS. Professor Li was housed in the space currently allocated to CURS.

### *2.4.2 Prof. PERERA, Nihal (Fulbright Scholar)*

Prof. Perera Nihal of Department of Urban Planning, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University stayed at the Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University as a Fulbright Scholar during the academic year 2006-2007. He helped putting together the conference “The Transforming Asian City: Innovative Urban and Planning Practices” reported above.

## **2.5 Visitation**

### *2.5.1 Visitors from Guangzhou Association of Social Science*

Six scholars (Jiangtao Li, Zaigao Yang, Laiqing Chen, Jiayuan Du, Yang Yao) from Guangzhou Association of Social Science visited the CURS on 9 November 2006. They exchanged ideas with the Director, Prof. Si-ming Li, and the Associate Director, Dr. Donggen Wang, about the impacts the development of Shenzhen on Hong Kong.



Exchange ideas with the scholars from Guangzhou Association of Social Science, 9 Nov 2006



Exchange ideas with the scholars from Guangzhou Association of Social Science, 9 Nov 2006

### *2.5.2 Visitors from Taiwan National University*

Prof. Lan-hung Nora Chiang, our old friend, together with 10 graduate students and teaching staff from Taiwan National University visited CURS on 23 December 2006. Prof. Si-ming Li introduced the Centre to the guests. Selected CURS occasional papers were distributed to the visitors. Prof. Chiang presented special souvenirs from Taiwan to Prof. Li as well as the research assistant of the Centre.



Visitors from Taiwan National University, 23 Dec 2006



Prof. Chiang Lan-hung Nora and Prof. Li Si-ming, 23 Dec 2006

In addition to the above, Dr Yu-ling Song from Taiwan National University visited the Centre over the period 24 June to 28 June, 2007 to work with Prof Si-ming Li on a co-author piece titled “*Displacement, housing conditions and residential satisfaction: An analysis of Shanghai residents*”, which would appear as a CURS occasional paper.

### *2.5.3 Visitor from the University of Kitakyushu, Japan, 27-30 Dec 2006*

Prof. Xiao-ping Wang from the Business School of the University of Kitakyushu, Japan, visited Prof. Li Si-ming to discuss the editing and publication of the proceeding for the 11th International Symposium on Coordination of Chinese Economic Systems, which was held at Kitakyushu University, Japan on 9-12 December 2005. The volume, entitled *新世紀的東亞經濟合作* (Economic Cooperation in East Asia in the New Century) and co-edited by Xiao-ping Wang, Si-ming Li and Mee-kau Nyaw, was subsequently published by the China Review Press in August 2007 with partial funding support by CURS. (See below for details)

### *2.5.4 Visitors from University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, 27 June 2007*

Professor Thierry Sanjuan (程若望教授) from Prodig Geographical Research Unit of University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne visited the Centre on 27 June 2007. Prof Sanjuan's research interests are urban geography and geopolitics. As a geographer, Prof Sanjuan focuses on Southern and Eastern Asia, especially China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. During his visitation at the centre, Prof Thierry Sanjuan and Prof Si-ming Li exchanged information about their respective research units. Also discussed are possibilities of future co-operation.

## **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. An incomplete count shows that the total number of research projects is 26, and an amount of the supporting funding approximates HK\$7 million.

#### *3.1.1 The Maryknoll Sisters in Hong Kong, 1921-1969: Their Contribution in education, Social Services and Welfare*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Cindy Chu

Amount Awarded: HK\$470,000

Source of Funding: RGC (CERG)

Exercise Year: 2003-2007

### *Brief Introduction*

This project studies the history of the Maryknoll Sisters in Hong Kong from 1921-1969. The Maryknoll Sisters first arrived in the colony in 1921. Since then, they served the local people. They witnessed the problems of refugees and extreme poverty in the late 1950s and 1960s. 1969 was an important turning point in their mission, as their general meeting responded to the decisions of Vatican Council II (1962-1965) and encouraged the Sisters to engage in “non-institutional tasks”. After 1969, the Sisters no longer worked as “a single institutional force”; and at the same time, Hong Kong society became more prosperous and more capable in shouldering its own responsibilities.

### *3.1.2 Distortions in China's Rural Transition: an Investigation of “Villages-in-the city”*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Chung Him

Amount Awarded: HK\$ 117,400

Source of Funding: FRG

### *Brief Introduction*

Rural transition in China since 1979 has been subject to much scholarly attention. Debates and discussions have been centered on the county's rural urbanization strategy, small town development, rural-to-urban migration, township and village enterprises, and the emergence of functionally integrated zones. Notwithstanding the various insights they had on rural transformation, they are far from satisfactory as they presume that rural transition, in spatial and functional terms, must necessarily integrate the rural and urban areas. Consequently, many studies tend to focus exclusively on progressive changes, such as the rise in living standard of peasants and the flourishing of small towns, etc., while ruptures and discordances generated in the course of transition go largely unnoticed. This study argues that such negligence would essentially bias our understanding of the morphology of rural transition. Given China's extraordinary size and local diversities, these variances in development should hardly be ignored.

This study examines the spatial fragmentation resulted in the process of rural transition in China, focusing on the existence of ‘villages-in-the-city (*cheng zhong cun*)’ found mostly in city of Guangzhou (Southern China). ‘Villages-in-the-city’ are rural villages entrenched in the centre of an expanding city. The study is primarily interested in the kind of boundary politics between the urban and rural that give rise to

such a specific feature of spatial fragmentation, and the resultant impact on the contours of rural transformation. Unlike previous studies that mostly adopt a macroscopic view to delineate differing patterns of integration, this study takes a microscopic perspective to analyze the actual mechanism underlying the transitional process. Theoretically, this study questions the criticisms on urban-rural dichotomy as a concept to analyze rural development and urbanization and suggests that there is no linear process of rural transition.

### *3.1.3 Migration and Enterprise: A Business History of three Migrant Families in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore, 1860-2000*

Principal Investigator: Professor Stephanie Chung

Source of Funding: FRG

Starting Date: January 2006

Completion Date: January 2007

This project is an economic and historical study of three significant migrant merchant families in Southern China and Southeast Asia. The three cases I have selected are the Eu Tong Sen (余東旋), Loke Yew (陸佑) and the Run Run Shaw (邵逸夫) families, which have cultivated extensive business networks in Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai. The study will cut across the history of these three families, as well as the economic enterprises that they have built up (namely, the Eu Yan sang International (余仁生國際), the Cathay Organization (國泰機構), and the Shaw Brothers Organization (邵氏機構) under three generations of patriarchal leadership from the 1860s to the present.

### *3.1.4 Wedding Banquet in Chinese Societies and Social Capital in Action: Hong Kong as a Case Study*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Gina Lai

Source of Funding: FRG

Starting Date: March 2002

This study aims to explore how social capital comes to play in Chinese wedding banquets. As a major life event, wedding banquet serves as a critical occasion to reaffirm and renew one's personal networks, as well as to display in public the social standing of the families in society, as reflected in the statuses of participants attending the occasion. Two groups of participants are critical: the Master Witness

(Zheng-hun-ren) and invited guests. The Master Witness symbolically represents the highest possible status in the social hierarchy reached through the families' networks and, therefore, reflects the capability of the families' social capital. The presence of guests at the banquet affirms the extensity and volume of the uniting families' social capital. Yet, the actual processes by which the Master Witness and guests are identified and invited are little researched. We proposed a sample survey to collect information about 300 weddings in Hong Kong and in-depth interviews of a sub-sample of 30 couples for detailed information about each invited guests. Data to be collected would advance our understanding of how social capital operates in wedding banquets, and help elaborate the theory of social capital by putting it in the institutional and cultural context.

### *3.1.5 Social Networks and Marital Power: A Cross-sectional Study in Hong Kong*

Principal Investigator: Dr Lai, Gina Wan-foon

Co-Investigators: Dr Ruan, Danching; Dr Wong, Odalia

Amount Awarded: HK\$ 974,517

Source of Funding: RGC (CERG)

Exercise Year: 2002-2007

#### *Brief Introduction*

This proposal seeks funding to support a large-size survey on social networks and marital power in Hong Kong. Conjugal (in)equality has generally been understood as a result of intradyadic processes. The proposed study aims to broaden the understanding of marital relations by taking into account of marital partners' social networks, separate as well as joint. Two major issues are of concern here. First, how may the resource characteristics of partners' individual networks influence the structure of marital networks? Second, how may the structure of marital networks affect the distribution of marital power? Gender dynamics in the construction of personal networks will also be considered. Face-to-face interviews will be used to collect data from 800 couples. Integrating research literature in family and social network analysis, this proposed project will be the first study to systematically examine the relationship between social networks and marital power in Hong Kong. Further it will provide baseline data for future longitudinal investigations in marital relations. In addition, findings would serve as reference to which future studies in other Chinese societies and Western societies may be compared, thus contributing to comparative social research on social networks and marital relations.



### *3.1.6 Rising Homeownership and Emerging Patterns of Residential Differentiation in Chinese Cities*

Principal Investigator: Professor Si-ming Li

Amount Awarded: HK\$973,875

Source of Funding: RGC (CERG)

Exercise Period: October 2004 - September 2007

#### *Brief Introduction*

The twenty-plus years of housing reform in China has produced a complex mix of tenure modes, with various forms of homeownership now dominating the housing scene. This is a stark contrast to what it used to be as recently as in the mid 1990s when most urbanites rented housing from the work units and the housing bureau. Tenure switch is often accompanied by a change in residence, which is beginning to fundamentally alter the cellular urban structure that once characterized the Chinese urban geography. At the same time, economic liberalization and increasing presence of global economic forces have resulted in new forms of social differentiation.

The past decade witnessed the emergence and growth of a new urban middle class of professional and managerial workers. The past decade also witnessed growing disparities in the urban areas, with simultaneous formation of a class of urban bourgeoisie and an “underclass” of urban unemployed and transients: the tens of millions of workers laid off by the state enterprises and the much larger numbers of migrants from the rural areas seeking to find a living in the cities. Social class correlates closely with housing class, and social differentiation is both a cause and an effect of residential differentiation. This three-year study attempts to depict the rapidly changing socio-spatial mosaics in Chinese cities, focussing on the process of tenure and residential change. Both census information and data on residential histories generated by sample surveys will be employed to unravel the conditions under which tenure and residential change take place and analyse the resultant patterns of spatial differentiation as gauged by tenure composition and population mix. Fieldworks will be carried out in Guangzhou and Beijing to ascertain the patterns of spatial change. Factors operating at both the macro level, such as changes in the broader socio-economic contexts, and at the individual and household level, such as various life-course triggers that underlie the road to homeownership, will be studied.

### *3.1.7 The Emergence of Neighbourhood-Based Virtual Communities in Urban China*

### *under Housing Reform*

Principal Investigator: Professor Si-ming Li

Amount Awarded: HK\$100,000

Source of Funding: FRG

Exercise Period: September 2006 - August 2007

### *Brief Introduction*

Since the 1980s China has introduced a series of housing reforms to transform the state-subsidized housing provision system into a market-based one. The abolishment of “welfare allocation of housing” in 1998, in particular, has compelled urban residents to enter the housing market and effectively turned them to become property owners. However, faced with all sorts of irregularities and uncertainties under economic transition, people have had a hard time to fully account for the costs and benefits in housing consumption. Just like their counterparts elsewhere, Chinese homebuyers have resorted to take various actions to overcome problems encountered in housing consumption. Housing consumption behaviour of urban residents in transitional China has received increasing attention from scholars in recent years. This study tries to bring one important recent development – the virtual community phenomenon – into the picture. Specifically, the study attempts to identify in concrete ways how virtual communities have been used by urban residents to deal with the complex situation of the housing reform, analysing the extent to which urban community formation is tied to the phenomenon of virtual community development and how residents have made use of neighbourhood-based virtual communities to launch individual as well as collective actions to improve their positions as home buyers and home owners. The empirical portion of the research will be based on a study in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province. The study will employ multiple methods, using data derived from questionnaire surveys, quasi-ethnographic observations, and in-depth interviews. The present work will approach the interrelated topics of virtual community and community formation at both the level of the community and at the level of the individual and individual household.

## **3.2 Project Initiations**

### *3.2.1 A comparative study of ‘villages in the city’ in urban China*

Principal Investigator: Dr Chung, Him

Amount Awarded: HK\$473,120  
Source of Funding: RGC (CERG)  
Exercise Year: 2007-2009

### *Brief Introduction*

This research aims to provide definitive knowledge on ‘villages in the city’ (cheng zhong cun) in urban China both theoretically and empirically. Villages in the city as distinct landscapes have attracted scholarly attention but these landscapes have been loosely understood to be deviations in land use, or residential spaces in the urban landscape which have been developed by neither private developers nor former work units. This perception is problematic because (a) it fails to go beyond the physical characteristics of these landscapes; and (b) it overlooks the interactions of social forces that have been involved in the construction of particular urban spaces. This project investigates the differences between comparable cases of ‘villages in the city’. It seeks to demonstrate the particularity of these places, to explain how different human practices have produced them, and to show how these places exemplify wider processes of the construction of ‘place’ generally in China’s era of reform. The main methodology used in this research will be empirical analysis in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Beijing. Both primary and secondary data will be collected. First hand information will be collected through a series of interviews with residents of settlements within the noted cities.

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

Principal Investigator: Prof Li, Si-ming  
Amount Awarded: HK\$785,200  
Source of Funding: RGC (CERG)  
Exercise Year: 2007-2009

### *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, large numbers of inner-city dwellers have been relocated to outlying suburbs consequent upon redevelopment projects. Complicating the matter are the millions of migrants seeking fortunes in the city who are trapped in the “villages-in-the-city”. The almost perfect match between job and housing

distributions characterizing 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, 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 have 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.

### *3.2.3 The Green Infrastructure Network in Kowloon Peninsula, Hong Kong: A Connectivity Analysis of Urban Green Spaces*

Principal Investigator: Prof Wong, Kenneth Koon-kwai

Amount Awarded: HK\$459,540

Source of Funding: RGC (CERG)

Exercise Year: 2007-2009

#### *Brief Introduction*

Urban green spaces are crucial features in livable cities today. Furthermore, the benefits and opportunities offered by individual green spaces can be improved if they could be linked together by a network of connectors. This interconnected network of green spaces is known as a ‘green infrastructure network’ or GIN, and it consists of hub, site and link components. The GIN allows people to be aware of the benefits and opportunities of urban green spaces in contemporary cities; recognizes the desires to address both natural and human needs; provides a logical, scientific-based framework to analyze the connectiveness of urban green spaces; and promotes the creation of sustainable cities. The aim of this study is to create a workable green infrastructure framework of the Kowloon Peninsula, Hong Kong. It is argued that this framework will assist landscape designers, managers and users in the evaluation of the uses and benefits of urban green spaces in Hong Kong. Additionally, it will contribute to the theoretical development in landscape ecology and landscape planning fields by introducing a human dimension to the green infrastructure and connectivity analysis.

### *3.2.4 Remote sensing change detection and spatio-temporal analysis on environmental impacts by the expansion of irrigated farmland expansion in aridzone of China*

Principal Investigator: Prof Zhou, Qiming

Amount Awarded: HK\$317,000

Source of Funding: RGC (CERG)

Exercise Year: 2007-2009

#### *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 constraints of water resource, environmental vulnerability and sustainability of the growth.

#### *3.2.5 Young people entrapped in social withdrawal: disengagement versus reengagement in the light of social exclusion*

Principal Investigator: Prof Wong, Cheong-wing

Amount Awarded: HK\$583,950

Source of Funding: RGC (CERG)

Exercise Year: 2007-2008

#### *Brief Introduction*

Youth's reaction to life events or crisis in the form of social withdrawal or disengagement is arguably a social process, which is shaped, amongst other factors, by a set of social norms regarding so-called normal pathway of development, and equally important by the disadvantaged socioeconomic circumstances in the form of social exclusion. With the use of surveys, case studies and interviews, the research

study will inquire into four interrelated areas, namely, a) the prevalence of social withdrawal among young people aged 12-24; b) the nature, extent and social processes of social withdrawal and disengagement on relational, cultural and institutional levels; c) the patterns and processes of activities pursued by young people and the responses and actions taken by the significant others at times of withdrawal and reengagement respectively; and finally d) the tactics and strategies employed by social workers in reengaging young people, and the challenges confronted. Both the subjective and structural dimensions of disengagement and the informality and formality of reengagement attempts and measures are deemed important if the phenomenon is to be critically examined and the needs of this vulnerable youth group satisfied.

### **3.3 Research outputs of CURS fellows**

CURS research fellows continued to perform very satisfactorily on the research front. An incomplete count shows that in the year under review CURS fellows authored or edited more than 4 books/journal special issues, 32 journal articles, 3 book chapters and 20 working papers and delivered more than 37 presentations in conferences held locally and overseas. Below is a list of research outputs over the Academic Year 2006-2007.

#### **Cheng, Yuk Shing**

##### **Journal articles:**

(with Li Sung-ko) (2006) "Income inequality and efficiency: a decomposition approach and applications to China," *Economics Letters*, 91(2006):8-14.

(with Li Sung-ko) "A metafrontier production function analysis of China's city economies," in *Economic Transition, Growth and Globalization in China*, edited by Yanrui Wu, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, England, 2006, Chapter 6, pp.109-120.

- (2006) "China's Reforms of Rural Credit Cooperatives – Progress and Limitations," *Chinese Economy*, published by Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, July-August 2006 39(4):25-40.

#### **Chew, Matthew M. T.**

##### **Journal articles:**

- (2007) "Contemporary re-emergence of the *qipao*: political nationalism, cultural

production, and popular consumption of a traditional Chinese dress” *The China Quarterly* 189: 144-161.

**Conference papers:**

- (March 2007) “Symbolic consumption of dress and new urban spaces of nightlife in contemporary China”, paper presented at workshop on “Bodies and Urban Spaces”, 10 March 2007, Lingnan University, Hong Kong.

- (September 2006) “Stratification of hybrid clubcultures across the border of Shenzhen and Hong Kong”, paper presented at International Symposium on Contemporary Asian Modernities, 9-10 Sept. 2006, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong.

**Working papers:**

- (2006) “Policy implications of massively multiplayer online games for Hong Kong”, Occasional Papers no. 176, October, 2006. Hong Kong Institute of Asia Pacific Studies.

**Chu, Cindy Y. Y.**

**Books**

- (2007) *The Diaries of the Maryknoll Sisters in Hong Kong, 1921-1966*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

- (2007) 《關愛華人——瑪利諾修女與香港（1921-1969）》（香港：中華書局）

**Journal articles:**

- (July 2006) “Days in Maryknoll”, *Maryknoller*, July 2006, p. 1.

- (2006) “A Review of Karen J. Leong’s *The China Mystique: Pearl S. Buck, Anna May Wong, Mayling Soong, and the Transformation of American Orientalism*”, *Journal of Chinese Studies*, no. 46 (2006), pp. 459-64.

**Conference papers:**

- (May 2007) “The United Front Policy of the Chinese Communists in Hong Kong during the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945),” paper presented at the “International Conference on ‘Foreign’ Communities, Immigration, and Influence in Modern Asia”, Hong Kong, 26 May 2007.

- (April 2007) “The Diaries of the Maryknoll Sisters in Hong Kong,” paper presented in “Meeting of East-West Culture: Conference in Celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rev.

Robert Morrison's Arrival in China and the Fifth Conference on the History of Christianity in Modern China", Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, 26-28 April 2007.

- (February 2007) "The Maryknoll Sisters in Hong Kong, 1921 to the Present", paper presented in the Seminar on "History of Religious Orders and Missionary Congregations in Hong Kong," organized by the Centre for Catholic Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 25 February 2007.

- (November 2006) 〈瑪利諾修女與香港 (1921-1969)〉, 香港中文大學天主教研究中心講座, 「教會與歷史」系列, 2006 年 11 月 9 日。

- (July 2006) "Stanley Civilian Internment Camp during Japanese Occupation," paper presented at the International Symposium 2006 "Border Crossing People and Law: Cases in Shanghai, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore," organized by Waseda University, Japan, 29 July 2006.

### **Chow, Larry C.H.**

#### **Journal article:**

- (November 2006) "Power Market Reform in Asian Countries", *Energy Policy*, 34(16):2439-2600.

#### **Conference papers:**

- (September 2006) "Environmental Regulation in the Future Electricity Market in Hong Kong", paper presented at the Panel on Economic Services of Legislative Council, Hong Kong, 25 September 2006.

- (September 2006) "Changes in the Efficiency of Energy Use in Hong Kong, 1990-2005", paper presented at the Forum entitled "Energy Management to Boost Economic Growth – Lighting Technology and Applications" Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong, 28 September 2006.

- (December 2006) "泛珠三角區域中心城市科技諮詢合作與發展", 發表于"泛珠三角區域中心城市科技諮詢合作與發展論壇 —— 城市能源科技會議", 澳門, 8-11 December 2006.

- (February 2007) "Major Changes in the Energy Economy of Hong Kong, 1990-2005", paper presented at "The 30th Conference of the International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE)", Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand,



18-21 February 2007.

**Chung, Him**

**Journal articles:**

- (2007 "The Change in China's State Governance and Its Effects upon Urban Scale", *Environment & Planning A*, 39(4):789-809.

**Conference paper:**

- (June 2006) "Villages in the city – urban quarters with Chinese characteristics", paper presented at the Forth Meeting of East Asian Regional Conferences in Alternative Geography (EARCAG), National Taiwan University, Taiwan, 24-30 June 2006.

**Lai, Gina W. F.**

**Book chapters**

(with Chan Kwok-bun and Ko Yiu-chung) (2006) "Institutional Context and Stress Appraisal among Life Insurance Agents." Pp. 146-166, in Chan, Kwok Bun (ed.), *Stress and Coping among Professionals*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers.

(with Chan Kwok-bun and Ko Yiu-chung) (2006) "Coping Resources, Coping Strategies and Work Stress among Six Professional Groups: A Comparative Analysis." Pp.202-240, in Chan, Kwok Bun (ed.), *Stress and Coping among Professionals*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers.

**Journal articles:**

(with Chiu, Warren C.W., C. Harry Hui) (2007) "Psychological Ownership and Organisational Optimism amidst China's Corporate Transformation: Effects of an Employee Ownership Scheme and a Management-Dominated Board," *International Journal of Human Resource Management* 18:303-320.

(with Rance P.L. Lee) (2006) "Market Reforms and Psychological Distress in Urban Beijing," *International Sociology* 21:551-579.

(with Yat-Ming Siu) (2006) "Residential Mobility and Social Capital in Urban Shanghai," *Asian Journal of Social Science* 34:573-599.

**Conference papers**

- (2007) "Shared Social Life and Access to Social Capital among Married Couples", paper presented at International Sunbelt Network Conference, Corfu, Greece, May 1-6, 2007.

- (2006) “Network Integration and Social Support: A Study of Married Couples in Hong Kong”, paper presented at the 2006 NACSA mini-conference, Montreal, Canada, August 10, 2006.

- (2006) “Network Effects of Marriage: A Gender Comparison”, paper presented at the XVI World Congress of the International Sociological Association, Durban, South Africa, July 23-29, 2006.

### **Lee, Kam Keung**

#### **Book:**

(與湯紹源、梁家麟合編) (2007) 《中華本色——近代中國教會史論》(*China's Indigenization: Essays on the History of Christianity in Modern China*) (香港：建道神學院)，445 頁。

#### **Book chapter:**

- (2007) 〈近代華人教牧的誕生——王煜初牧師的生平及其思想〉(*The Birth of Chinese Pastors in Modern China – The Life and Thoughts of the Rev. Wong Yuk-Cho*)，載於《中華本色——近代中國教會史論》，頁 155-172。

#### **Journal articles:**

- (2006) 〈香港基督教才子——歐陽佐翔牧師(1919-2002)的生平與事奉〉(*A Gifted Writer in Hong Kong Christian Circles: The Life and Works of the Rev. C.C. Au Yeung*)，〈近代中國基督教史研究集刊〉(*Journal of the History of Christianity in Modern China*)，第 7 期 (2006/07)，頁 68-75。

- (2006) 〈二十世紀中國的歷史教學法——朱際鑑(1914-1992)生平及其著述〉(*Historical Teaching Methods in 20<sup>th</sup> Century China – The Life and Works of Prof. Zhu Ji Yi*)，〈中學歷史教學〉(*History Teaching in Middle Schools*) (2006 年 10 月)，頁 4-8。

#### **Conference papers:**

- (June 2007) “The Rise of Modern Education in Hong Kong during the Latter Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (十九世紀下半葉香港新式教育的興起)”，paper presented at the International Conference on History and Society of Hong Kong, organized by Lingnan University, 7-8 June, 2007.

- (April 2007) “The Beginning of Protestant Missions to China: A Case Study of Chaozhou (基督教入華的預備時期——以潮汕開教為例)”，paper presented at the Conference in “Celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rev. Robert Morrison’s Arrival in

China and the 5<sup>th</sup> Symposium on the History of Christianity in Modern China 自西徂東——馬禮遜牧師來華二百週年紀念暨第五屆近代中國基督教史研討會, organized by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Baptist University, 26-28 April 2007.

- (November 2006) 〈從省港澳地域觀察孫中山的求學與革命〉 (Dr. Sun Yat-sen's School Days and Revolutionary Activities in Canton, Hong Kong and Macau), paper presented at 「孫中山誕辰 140 周年學術討論會」, 中國社會科學院舉辦, 中山, 2006 年 11 月 6 至 8 日。

- (November 2006) 〈國父之大學時代師友史料探析〉 (Historical Materials of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Teachers and Friends during His College Day), paper presented at 「羅香林教授百年誕辰國際學術研討會」, 香港大學、珠海書院等合辦, 2006 年 11 月 4-5 日。

- (August 2006) 〈西學搖籃——清季香港雙語精英的誕生〉 (Cradle of Western Learning – The Rise of the Bilingual Elite of Hong Kong in Late Qing), paper presented at 「西學與清代文化」, 中國人民大學等合辦, 2006 年 8 月 21-23 日。

### **Li, Si-ming**

#### **Journal Special Issue:**

- (with Huang, Youqin) (2006) *Theme Issue on Urban Housing in China, Housing Studies*, 21(5).

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#### **Journal articles:**

- (with Lau, K.M.) (2006) “Commercial Housing Affordability in Beijing, 1992-2002”, *Habitat International*, 30(3): 614-627.

- (2006) 〈“泛珠三角”：一國之內的經濟區域化？〉, 《城市規劃》, 第 227 期, 頁 51-56。  
653-670.

- (with Huang, Youqin) (2006) “Urban Housing in China: Market Transition, Housing Mobility and Neighbourhood Change”, *Housing Studies*, 21(5): 613-623.

- (with Li, L.) (2006). “Life Course and Housing Tenure Change in Urban China: A Study of Guangzhou”, *Housing Studies*, 21(5): 653-670.

- (with Yi, Z.) (2007) “The Road to Homeownership Under Market Transition: Beijing,

1980-2001”, *Urban Affairs Review*, 42(3): 342-368.

- (with Yi, Z.) (2007) “Financing Home Purchase in China, with Special Reference to Guangzhou”, *Housing Studies*, 22(3): 409-425.

- (with Wong K. K.) (2007) “Urbanisation et risques environnementaux dan le delta de la rivière des Perles (Urbanization and Pearl River Delta’s Changing Aquatic Environment)”, *Hérodote: revue de géographie et de géopolitique*. 125: 105-126.

- (2007) <京、沪、港、台高等教育机构的研究表现, 1994-2005: SCI 和 SSCI 资料分析。 > 《清华大学教育研究》, 第 2 期, 頁 90-97。

- (2006) “Review of Aprodicio A Laquian: Beyond Metropolis: The Planning and Governance of Asia’s Mega-Urban Regions”, *Housing Studies*, 21(5): 789-791.

#### **Conference papers:**

- (March 2007) “Urban Restructuring and Changing Patterns of Commute in Guangzhou, 2001-2005: A First Analysis”, paper presented at International Workshop on “A Quarter Century of Physical and Institutional Transformation in Urban China”, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 8-10 March 2007.

- (April 2007) “Changing Job and Housing Distributions under Marketization in Chinese Cities: A Study of Guangzhou”, paper presented at the 2007 Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, USA, 17-21 April 2007.

#### **Tang, Wangshing**

##### **Journal articles:**

- (2006) “Planning Beijing Strategically: ‘One World, One Dream’ ?” , *Town Planning Review*, 77: 257-282.

- (June 2007) 〈公屋發展到保育政策的創意霸權〉, 《信報》, 2007 年 6 月 11 日。

##### **Conference papers:**

- (June 2006) (with Chan K.H.) “Space, power and street sleepers in Hong Kong”, paper presented at the Fourth Meeting of East Asian Regional Conferences in Alternative Geography (EARCAG), held at National Taiwan University, Taipei, 24-30 June, 2006.

- (June 2006) (with Chan, K.C. and Wong, K.P.) “Working class geographies and urban

redevelopment in an industrial township in Hong Kong”, paper presented at the Fourth Meeting of East Asian Regional Conferences in Alternative Geography (EARCAG), held at National Taiwan University, Taipei, 24-30 June, 2006.

- (June 2006) (with Man, P.Y.) “The freedom of shopping’ – the commodification of public street in Hong Kong”, paper presented at the Fourth Meeting of East Asian Regional Conferences in Alternative Geography (EARCAG), held at National Taiwan University, Taipei, 24-30 June, 2006.

- (June 2006) (with Chan, K.W.) “Examine the new rationality of governmentality of the H.K. Government to discipline pig farmers by using the Yuen Long District as a case study”, paper presented at the Fourth Meeting of East Asian Regional Conferences in Alternative Geography (EARCAG), held at National Taiwan University, Taipei, 24-30 June, 2006.

- (November 2006) “Chinese ‘urban studies’ is dead: long live Chinese urban studies!”, paper presented at the Board Meeting of International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Oxford, UK, 9-11 November 2006.

- (December 2006) “改革後的中國城市發展”, paper presented at the 5th Conference on Social Indicators Studies in Chinese Societies, Hong Kong, 8-9 December 2006.

- (December 2006) “Redevelopment and the displacement of the working class in Hong Kong”, paper presented at Urban Research Plaza Week, Osaka City University, Osaka, Japan, 18-22 December 2006.

- (June 2007) (with Cartier, Carolyn) “Public space and the Chinese city”, paper presented at the International Conference on Globalization and Transformation of Megacity, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China, 22-23 June 2007.

### **Wang, Donggen**

#### **Journal articles:**

- (with Wang, Danny Tan and Zhao, Simon Xiaobin) (2007) ”’Information Hinterland’  
- A Base for Financial Centre Development: The Case of Beijing Versus Shanghai in China”, *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*, 98(1): 102-120.

- (with Law, F.Y.T.) (2007) “Impacts of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) on times use and travel behaviors: a structural equations analysis”,

*Transportation*, 34(4):513-527.

**Conference papers:**

- (April 2007) "Activity and Time Use in Virtual and Physical Spaces", paper presented at 2007 Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, USA, 17-21 April 2007.

- (June 2007) (with Li Jiukun) "Modeling the Impacts of Live-in Maid on the Engagement in Discretionary Activities of Household Heads", paper presented at the 11th World Conference on Transport Research, San Francisco, USA, 24-28 June 2007.

**Wong, Koon Kwai, Kenneth**

**Conference papers:**

- (April 2007) "The Transformation of Urban Public Spaces in Beijing", paper presented at 2007 Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, USA, 17-21 April 2007.

**Working Papers:**

- (September 2006) "The Emerging Urban Open Space System in Northern Kowloon, Hong Kong: Preliminary Analysis", Occasional Paper, No. 69, Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University.

- (2007) "Park Visiting Habits of Hong Kong People: A Preliminary Analysis of the Telephone Survey Data", Occasional Paper, No. 73, Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University.

**Yu, Xiaojiang**

**Journal articles:**

- (with Uddin, S.K. and Taplin, R.) (2006) "Advancement of renewable in Bangladesh and Thailand: Policy intervention and institutional settings", *Natural Resources Forum*, 30:177-187.

**Zhou, Qiming**

**Journal articles:**

- (與顧娟、陳軍、張宏偉) (2006) 〈基於高解析度全色遙感影像的城鎮居民地提取方法研究〉，《2005 年土地學會學術年會論文集：新技術在土地調查中的應用於土地科學技術發展》，北京：地質出版社(CD-ROM)。

- (與顧娟、陳軍、張宏偉) (2006) 〈基於建築物邊緣線特徵的居民地自動識別方法

研究》，《中國測繪 2006 年綜合性學術年會論文集》(CD-ROM)。

- (with Liu, X. and Sun, Y.) (2006) “Terrain Complexity and Uncertainties in Grid-based Digital Terrain Analysis”, *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, 20(10): 1137-1147.

- (with Gu, J., Chen, J. and Zhang, H.) (2006) “A Texture-based Approach for Extracting Residential Areas from High-resolution Imagery”, in Zhang, L. and Chen, X. (eds.), *The Proceedings of Geoinformatics 2006 Conference: Remotely Sensed Data and Information*, Proceedings of the International Society for Optical Engineering, 29-30 October 2006, Wuhan, 6419: 1-9.

- (with Hou, Q.) (2006) “Landuse Change Detection Using Remotely Sensed Imagery for Regional Sustainable Development”, *Journal of Geospatial Engineering*, 7(2): 1-9.

#### **Conference papers:**

- (August 2006) “The value-added service of geo-spatial information” (“地球空间信息的增值”), paper presented at the Workshop on the Development Strategy of Industrializing Geo-spatial Information Technology in Beijing (北京地球空间信息技术产业化发展策略研讨会), Beijing, China, 4 August 2006.

- (December 2006) “GIS and its contribution to a digital Macau”, paper presented at the ESRI China (HK) Workshop, Macau, 12 December 2006.

- (May 2007) (with Qian, Jing) “Monitoring and modelling the built-up area expansion in China’s aridzone”, paper presented at the 15th International Conference on Geoinformatics (Geoinformatics’ 2007), Nanjing, China, 25-27 May 2007.

#### **Ruan, Danching**

##### **Conference papers:**

- (May 2007) “The social support of rural migrants in Shanghai--a preliminary report”, paper presented at the International Social Network Conference, May, 2007 Corfu, Greece.

(with Gina Lai) (December 2006) “The social capital of rural migrants in Shanghai--preliminary report”, paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Hong Kong Sociological Association, December, Hong Kong.

**Working Papers:**

- (with Lee, Rance P.L., G. Lai) (2006). "Primary Network Support and Emotional Distress in Hong Kong and Beijing." Occasional Paper No. 171, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

**Wong, Victor C. W.****Journal Papers:**

(with Ying, W.F.S.) (2006) "Social withdrawal of young people in Hong Kong: A social exclusion perspective", *Hong Kong Journal of Social Work*, 40(1/2):61-92.

- (2006) "Human dignity and welfare systems: a book review", *Hong Kong Journal of Social Work*, 40(1/2):157-159.

(with Wong, L.W.K.) (2006) "Management of stigma and disclosure of HIV/AIDS status in healthcare settings", *Journal of Health Organization and Management*, 20(2):95-114.

**3.4 CURS 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 2006 - June 2007, a total of 12 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 2.

**List of CURS Occasional Papers Published, July 2006-June 2007**

No.	Title	Author
65	The Impacts of Domestic Helpers on Hong Kong People's Activity and Travel Behavior	Donggen Wang (July 2006)
66	Ethnicity and Residential Mobility in Hong Kong: Analysis of the 2001 Population Census	Eddie Chi-Man Hui, Si-Ming Li, Francis Kwan-Wah Wong,



		Zheng Yi & Ka-Hung Yu (July 2006)
67	香港城市發展與房地產業關係初步分析	沈建法、黃葉芳 (August 2006)
68	城際合作的時空落差及其制度障礙的地理：北臺都市區域在亞太地區形成的畸形準城市國家	藍逸之、李建平 (August 2006)
69	The Emerging Urban Open Space System in Northern Kowloon, Hong Kong: Preliminary Analysis	Koon-kwai Wong (September 2006)
70	The Gradualist Transition to Homeownership: Implications for Wealth Redistribution	Si-ming Li (September 2006)
71	金融中心城市的競爭與合作- 兼論香港作為國際金融中心的地位 Competition and Cooperation between Financial Centres: A Study on the Status of Hong Kong as an International Financial Centre	徐江 (October 2006)
72	Fragmentation or Integration? A Study of Chongqing, the Largest City of China	Si-ming Li, Yim-ha Leung and Zheng Yi (December 2006)
73	Park Visiting Habits of Hong Kong People: A Preliminary Analysis of the Telephone Survey Data	Koon Kwai WONG (January 2007)
74	Does <i>danwei</i> promote jobs-housing balance and shorten commuting? a study of Beijing	Donggen Wang, Yanwei Chai (March 2007)
75	中國人文地理與知識的三足鼎——初探 80 年代後中國人文地理發展的歷史底蘊	陳劍青、鄧永成 (May 2007)
76	超越中環價值的歷史地理觀——回溯「沙田價值」	鄧永成、陳劍青、王潔萍、郭仲元、文沛兒 (June 2007)
77	The Tsuen Wan Seven Street Redevelopment Project: A Factual Account	Wing Shing Tang and Tammy Kit Ping Wong

#### 4. Financial review (1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007)

CURS receives a standard annual allocation of HK\$100,000 from the University's Research Committee. Over the year CURS also received an award of HK\$150,000 from the RC a result of its good performance in the Research Centre Assessment Exercise of 2006-07. A grant of HK\$75,000 was secured from the Research Committee to support the holding of the conference "Urban Land and Housing in China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". In addition the Faculty of Social Sciences through the CERG Incentive Award Scheme extended funding support of HK\$50,000 to the

Centre. Funding support from the University is supplemented by research grants secured by the Centre Director and auxiliary incomes, including investment incomes based on the donation of Heung To Education Foundation and incomes generated from previous activities.

With the RC Research Centre Assessment Award and the CERG Incentive Award Scheme funding, in Academic Year 2006-07 CURS managed to undertake quite a wide range of academic activities, including sponsoring international conferences and workshops, publishing the occasional papers, sponsoring fellows to attend conference within and outside Hong Kong, providing seed money for research initiatives, and support two book projects, one of which involving grants given to individual contributors for data collection and hiring research assistants.

	Amount (HKD)
<b>Previous Balance on 30 June 2006<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>713,765.78</b>
<b>Income (+)</b>	
A. Hong Kong Baptist University Research Committee (RC) standard allocation	100,000.00
B. Award to CURS by the RC in view of the result of 2006-7 Research Centre Assessment	150,000.00
C. CERG incentive scheme	50,000.00
D. Conference Grant given by RC to support the conference “Urban Land and Housing in China in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century”	75,000.00
E. Income from Selling Occasional Papers	3,253.50
F. Investment Interests / Income Interests	142,328.79
G. Transfer from Director’s research accounts to support Centre staff	256,212.67 <sup>2</sup>
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b><u>776,794.96<sup>3</sup></u></b>
<b>Expenditure (-)</b>	
<b>A. Staffing</b>	
1. Full-time Staff	254,737.67
2. MPF for Staff	1,475.00
<b>Subtotal of Staffing Costs</b>	<b><u>256,212.67</u></b>
<b>B. General Expenses</b>	
1. Accommodation	-54,844.50
2. Computer Expenditures and Reference Materials	19,265.32
3. Hospitality Expenses	3349.90

4. Photocopying	1,053.30
5. Postage	6,845.60
6. Printing and Publication	30,898.00
7. Stationery	1,509.00
8. Conference Grants to Centre Fellows and other travelling expenses	36,522.70
9. Fund Transfer Out (to Geography Department to support the conference “The Transforming Asian City” and to History Department to support a seminar on Xiamen City)	27,000.00
10. Grant to Contributors of the Book Project on Contemporary China	110,000.0
11. Miscellaneous	13,409.97
<b>Subtotal of General Expenses</b>	<b><u>195,025.29</u></b>

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<b><u>Total Expenditure (A+B)</u></b>	<b><u>451,237.96</u></b>
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<b><u>Total Income – Total Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>325,557.00</u></b>
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<b><u>Balance Brought forward to Year 2007/2008</u></b>	<b><u>1,039,322.78</u></b>
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Note:

1: The accumulation from CURS-PRIVATE FUND 40-38-160 (HK \$683,776.95) and previous CURS-ALLOCATION from RESEARCH COMMITTEE 38-10-160 (HK \$29,988.83).

2: This refers to expenditures derived from incomes listed above. Over the period under review, staffing expenditure for RAs was covered by two research project funds: 1). CERG project No. HKBU2135/04H (#32-04-135) awarded to Professor Si-ming Li contributed HK\$226,377.00; and 2). FRG project No FRG/05-06/II-47 (#30-05-247) contributed HK\$29,835.67.

## **5. On-going activities and future development**

### **5.1 Joint project on environmental impacts of urbanization in China’s arid zone: Co-training of PhD student**

The project, “Use of Remote Sensing for Urbanization and Its Environmental Impact Study in Arid Zone of China”, is jointly conducted by CURS and the Xinjiang Institute of Geography and Ecology (XIGE). Professor Qiming Zhou of HKBU and Professor Chen Xi of XIGE are the joint coordinators. Under this project HKBU and XIGE jointly train a doctorate student, Miss Jing Qian, to study Xinjiang’s

urbanization using remote sensing and GIS technology. A workshop will be held in December 2007 in conjunction with the Conference “Urban Land and Housing in China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” to be reported below.

## **5.2 Multi-City Survey Project on Housing and Residential Change in China**

Over the years CURS has pioneered micro-analysis of urban housing and residential change in China in collaboration with a number of academic institutions on the mainland and overseas. The latter include, *inter alia*, Dr Sun Yat-Sen University, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, the Population Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Brown University, University at Albany, Cardiff University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. A team of scholars from the above universities and research institutes is now joining force and pool together large-scale household survey data from a number of major Chinese cities, Guangzhou, Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing to be specific, with funding coming from the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong, the Social Science Research Council of the United Kingdom and Brown University. The aim is to undertake comparative studies on various aspects of urban change in China: migration, land tenure reform, neighbourhood change, housing consumption and residential change, and economic and political processes affecting China’s urban transformation. This project constitutes one of CURS’s focussed research areas. Currently involved in this multi-disciplinary project are Fellows from the Geography and Sociology Departments. It is envisaged that economists will be brought to the team in future.

This multi-city study project, of course, represents the Centre’s own effort, but to some extent it is also an outgrowth of its former collaboration with UCRN. Workshops have been conducted previously in conjunction with the previous UCRN conferences in Hong Kong and Shanghai (in December 2004 and August 2005, respectively) and also with the Association of American Geographers Annual (AAG) Annual Conference in Chicago (March 2006) and the HKBU Department of Geography’s conference on “Changing Geography in a Diversified World (June 2006, see Section 2.1.5 above) to unify the questionnaire and the sampling strategies employed, and to preliminarily exchange research findings by members of the research team. Websites have been established by CURS and also by Brown University to propagate the project and to bring other interested scholars to the research team. Research outputs based on the surveys to date included two special issues on China urban housing and residential change in top-notch urban studies journals edited by Professor Si-ming Li and his international collaborators:

1. *Theme Issue on Urban Housing in China. Housing Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 5, 2006. Guest Edited by Si-ming Li and Youqin Huang.
2. *Theme Issue: Residential Mobility and Housing Choice in China. Environment and Planning A*, Vol. 36, No. 1, 2004. Guest Edited by Si-ming Li and Fulong Wu.

It is anticipated that over the next two to three years members of the international research team will either independently or jointly further explore the data that we have collected. Related to the project is a major international conference on Urban Land and Housing in China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (see below).

### **5.3 International Conference on Urban Land and Housing in China in the 21st Century**

China is undergoing unprecedented urban transformation, or, rather, urban revolution, as its scale and pace are unparalleled in world development history. Underlying this phenomenal transformation process are reforms in the system of urban housing provision and the urban land tenure system. These reforms have immense implications for all aspects of housing consumption: where one lives, including the kind of neighbourhood where the residence is located, how much and in what tenure form housing is consumed, and, in the case of homeownership, how the purchase is financed. The reforms, especially the introduction of paid transfer of land use rights in 1988, also impinges heavily on the form and pace urban expansion, such as the proliferation of development zones on the urban fringe, and urban redevelopment, including the redevelopment of work-unit compounds. This, in turn, affects how jobs are distributed over the urban space.

The Centre is currently organizing a major international conference at Hong Kong Baptist University on 13-15 December 2007 to analyse in both theoretical and empirical terms and from various disciplinary perspectives the importance of urban land and housing issues in China's current development. The "Multi-City Survey Project" research team will play a crucial part in this conference. Three of the research institutes or bodies involved in the project, namely, the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies of Sun Yat-sen University, the Spatial Structure in the Social Sciences of Brown University, and the School of City and Regional Planning of Cardiff University, will collaborate with the Centre and act as co-organizers of the conference.

Major topics to be investigated in the conference include, *inter alia*, the political economy of the urban real estate market, housing and residential change, differential suburbanization of jobs and residence and implications for spatial mismatch, housing finance, and the socio-cultural meanings of the urban built environment. Professor Deborah Davies of Yale University, Professor Xiaopei Yan of Sun Yat-sen University, who is currently Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen City, and Professor Laurence Ma, Professor Emeritus of Akron University, will address the keynote speeches. The paper sessions will be organized with a view that they will form a basis for book projects or journal special issues.

A grant of HK\$75,000 has been secured from the University's Research Committee to support the holding of the conference. The Centre has also secured funding support of HK \$100,000 from the Shui On Group.

#### **5.4 Publication of the proceedings of the Kitakyushu conference on Coordination of Chinese Economic Systems**

Professor Xiaoping Wang of the Business School, the University of Kitakyushu, Professor Si-ming Li, Director of CURS, and Professor Mee-kau Nyaw, Vice President of Lingnan University co-edited the proceedings for the 11th International Symposium on Coordination of Chinese Economic Systems, which was held at Kitakyushu University, Japan on 9-12 December 2005. The proceedings, entitled 《新世紀的東亞經濟合作》 (Economic Cooperation in East Asia in the New Century) and published by the China Review Press, went to print in August 2007. The Centre extended a sum of HK\$20,000 to cover part of the publication cost.



Cover-page of the book 《新世紀的東亞經濟合作》  
(*Economic Cooperation in East Asia in the New Century*)

### 5.5 Book project on Contemporary China

CURS is currently working with Hong Kong Education Press to edit a new volume on Contemporary China. It can be seen as the continuation of the book 《中國社會發展：香港學者的分析》 (Social Development in China: Analysis of Hong Kong Scholars), co-edited by Prof. Si-ming Li, Dr. Yat-ming Siu and Tai-kei Mok (Hong Kong Education Press: 1995). The new volume deals with the following themes: the rise of China, labour relations, grassroots election, entry to the WTO, industry reform, social stratification, popular culture, women issues, population, medical care, elderly, social assistance, environment, energy, regional economic development, urbanization, urban housing reform, transportation and rural China.

The 20 contributors are mostly teaching faculty of Hong Kong Baptist University, but there are also contributors from the Northeast Normal University and Nottingham Trent University. It is expected that the first draft of the book will come out at the end of September 2007.

To assist the authors to undertake the project, the Centre extends a research grant of up to HK\$10,000 per chapter to the authors. A total of 130,000 have been granted to 13 contributors: Dr. Cheng Yuk-shing, Dr. Ruan Danching, Dr. Lai Gina, Prof. Chen Feng, Dr. Matthew Chew, Dr. Sammy Chiu, Dr. Ting Wai, Dr. Chan Chak Kwan, Dr. Wang Donggen, Prof. Li Xiumin, Prof. Wong Kenneth K. K., Dr. Yu Xiaojiang and Dr. Chan Hing Lin. The list of chapters and authors are provided in Appendix 1.



Contributors' meeting, 10 Jan 2007



## **6. Overall Self Evaluations**

The past academic year proved a highly fruitful and rewarding year for CURS. The Centre scored very high (4.75 out of a maximum of 5.0) in the recent Research Centre Assessment Exercise conducted by the University's Research Committee, and was subsequently awarded a sum of HK\$150,000. Various it also secured funding support of HK\$50,000 from the Faculty of Social Sciences under the CERG Incentive Scheme.

With somewhat improved funding because of the awards, in the year under review CURS was able to undertake and complete quite a large number of research projects and other academic activities. In particular, it completed one book project and initiated another one. The volume on East Asia Economic Cooperation was a joint project involving scholars from Japan, Hong Kong, the mainland, Taiwan and Vietnam. The volume on Contemporary China, the contributors of which are mostly CURS research fellows, will demonstrate to the outside world the University's position as a leader centre of China research, and help illustrate the platform function that CURS pledges to serve. Adding to its publication list of course are the CURS occasional papers. In the year under review a total of 12 occasional papers were published, with contributors from within and outside of the University.

To continue to strengthen its role as an international research hub, CURS sponsored a conference on "The Transforming Asian City" and paper sessions on urban China in the American Association of Geographers Annual Conference held at San Francisco in April 2007. As a natural extension of the Multi-City Survey Project, which is a major international research endeavour with investigators from Hong Kong, the UK, the US and mainland China, CURS began to plan for the "International Conference on Urban Land and Housing in the Twenty-First Century", which will be held at the University on 13-15 December 2007.

Individually, research fellows of CURS, including the Director, Associate Director and others, excelled in many respects. In the year under review CURS research fellows published some 4 books/journal special issues, 32 journal articles and 3 book chapter. Altogether they successfully secured five CERG projects, with a total funding exceeding HK\$2 million.

Clearly, the overriding concerns in the coming academic year are, firstly, to complete the Contemporary China book project and, secondly, to successfully hold the aforementioned conference. Regarding the latter, many of the world's leading scholars,

in addition to those involving in the Multi-City Survey Project, have registered for the conference. It is expected that a number of book projects or journal special issues will come out of the conference's paper sessions. Efforts will be made to facilitate their publication.

## **Appendix 1: List of chapters and authors of the book project on Contemporary China**

Chapter 1 Rise of China	Ting, Wai
Chapter 2 Labour relations in China	Shi, Huanggao and Chen, Feng
Chapter 3 grassroots-election	Chen, Feng
Chapter 4 China and WTO	Cheng, Yuk Shing
Chapter 5 Industry reform in China	Chan, Hing-lin
Chapter 6 Social stratification	Ruan, Danching
Chapter 7 dress in China	Chew, Matthew
Chapter 8 women under economic reform	Lai, Gina
Chapter 9 Birth plan in China	Siu, Yat Ming
Chapter 10 Medical system reform	Wong, Victor
Chapter 11 中國都市的長者照顧問題	Chiu, Sammy
Chapter 12 China social assistance	Chan, Chek Kwan
Chapter 13 Environmental problems & sustainable development	Wong, Koon Kwai
Chapter 14 Energy	Yu, Xiaojian & Wong, Koon Kwai
Chapter 15 Analysis on the Regional Economic Development	Li, Xiumin
Chapter 16 Urbanization	Li, Si-ming
Chapter 17 Urban Housing in China	Li, Si-ming and Li, Limei
Chapter 18 Transport development in China	Wang, Donggen
Chapter 19 Rural China	Chung, Him

## **Appendix 2: Occasional Paper Abstracts, No. 65-77**

### Occasional Paper No. 65 (July 2006)

#### **The Impacts of Domestic Helpers on Hong Kong People's Activity and Travel Behavior**

Donggen Wang

Household responsibilities such as maintenance and childcare not only induce activities and travel but also impose time constraints on individuals' participation in discretionary activities and associated travel. Instead of sharing household responsibilities, household members may hire domestic helpers or live-in maids to take some or most of the household maintenance activities and childcare. This is a common practice in some Asian cities such as Singapore and Hong Kong. The presence of live-in maids in households may lead to changes in many aspects of households and individuals' activity-travel behavior: destination, timing, duration, etc. Would the release from household maintenance activities leads to more or less out-of-home activities and travel? Despite of the significance of this issue, to my knowledge, there is hardly any research on this topic reported in the literature. In an attempt to answer this research question and to make a contribution to the literature on the relations between household responsibilities and activity travel behavior, this paper presents some empirical evidence on how the presence of live-in maids in households affect the activity-travel behavior of the male and female household heads. The data are derived from the 2002 Travel Characteristic Survey of Hong Kong. The structural equation modeling framework is used to study the effects of live-in maids on the participation in out-of-home activities. We found that the presence of live-in maids significantly increase the time spent for subsistence activities by female head. As expected, it significantly reduces the probability of male and female heads to implement maintenance activities. Apart from these generation and replacement effects, we also find that the presence of live-in maid may increase the participation in joint discretionary activities, but reduce the individual discretionary activities of male and female heads. The findings of this research provide a new perspective to the understanding of the relationships between household responsibilities and activity and travel behavior.

**Ethnicity and Residential Mobility in Hong Kong: Analysis of the 2001 Population Census**

Eddie Chi-Man HUI, Si-Ming LI, Francis Kwan-Wah WONG, Zheng YI & Ka-Hung YU

Hong Kong is the most internationalized of Chinese cities. While 95 percent of Hong Kong's population is Chinese, ethnic minorities together number more than 300,000. Moreover, the Chinese population in Hong Kong is not homogenous. Recent in-migrants from the mainland, who are moving to Hong Kong at a rate of 150 per day, are quite different from the locals or those who were born or have spent most of their life in this former British colony and now special administrative region of China. Using a micro-data file derived from the 2001 Population Census, this paper investigates the major determinants of residential mobility among Hong Kong's different ethnic/cultural groups: local Hong Kong Chinese, recent in-migrants from the mainland, and non-Chinese Hong Kong residents. The results show that households comprising recent immigrants from the mainland and those comprising non-Chinese members have much higher mobility propensities than local Hong Kong Chinese. This difference holds after controlling for source of housing provision (private Vs public) and tenure (owned Vs rented). Socio-economic factors such as household income and household size have vastly different effects on different ethnic/cultural groups. For instance, for households living in public housing, income has a positive and statistically significant effect on residential mobility for both locals and non-Chinese households, but its effects on recent mainland migrant households is negative and yet significant. Such differences in mobility behaviour are likely to be institutionally-induced, and reflect the different housing choice sets faced by the different ethnic/cultural groups.

Occasional Paper No. 67 (August 2006)

**香港城市發展與房地產業關係初步分析**

沈建法、黃葉芳

香港是亞太地區著名的世界城市，城市發展雖然歷經起伏，但從歷史發展角度看，香港從小漁村發展成世界著名的大城市，總體上是一個很成功的實例。1997年香港回歸中國不久，香港即受到亞洲金融風暴的衝擊，海外資金撤離香港，股

市、樓市大跌，市場、消費者信心乃至政府財政收入都嚴重削弱。從 2003 年年中以來，香港加強與中國內地的經濟合作，強化其金融、貿易、物流與旅遊等服務中心的角色，城市經濟走出谷底，穩步反彈，樓市、股市穩中有升，繁榮的市場景象重現香港。

香港的房地產是城市經濟的重要組成部分。1980 年代以來，隨著服務業成為香港經濟的主導成分，房地產業的地位日益重要，並同金融業緊密結合。金融業、地產業成為香港經濟的重要支柱。香港高昂的地價與樓價會否影響城市的競爭力？房地產業同香港城市經濟表現的關係如何？二者相互匹配嗎？本文將依據有關資料作一個初步分析。

#### Occasional Paper No. 68 (August 2006)

### **城際合作的時空落差及其制度障礙的地理：北臺都市區域在亞太地區形成的畸形準城市國家**

藍逸之、李建平

隨著全球化的現象在 1990 年代以後對都市地理、空間規劃與發展政策的交互衝擊日益加深，除了在 1990 年代初期探討的全球城市/世界城市的論述之外，自本世紀開始，對於全球城市區域的討論也開始興起於學術文獻當中。這些文獻中，除了對空間形式上的關注之外，更重要地，對於都市區域的治理形式或規劃合作的議題也開始大量被各方學界提出。然而，以台北市為核心所構成的北臺都市區域之發展經驗而言，這方面的討論仍屬少數。至於北臺都市區域的跨界合作模式，其實也僅是近來方興未艾的政策活動。事實上，其成因並非是北臺都市區域無法作為一個全球城市區域，也並非是台北市無法作為一個全球城市；本文申論真正的主因乃係在於北臺城市區域在跨界合作治理上面臨的兩種困境：（一）垂直的跨梯層困境：1990 年代末期開始，中央—地方國家間的對抗；（二）水平的層級內困境：北臺都市區域內部縣市的激烈競爭。基於這兩種張力間的交互影響，致使北臺都市區域在資源合作上缺乏實際的行動量能。而空間規劃活動，為了規避政治議題的複雜性，也僅將跨界合作限於一些傳統的實質建設計畫議題上。為了討論以上的立場，本文分成三部分來分別陳述，其一，對於北臺都市區域是否是一個全球城市區域，從文獻的辯論中進行回顧。其二，回顧並申論 Friedmann (2002) 所提的「準城市國家」(quasi city-state) 準則，以及城際合作實際上在亞太區域普遍面臨的現實問題。其三，根據北臺都市區域實際面臨的政治張力，評析北臺都市區域現有的合作策略是否可作為一個可治理的準城市國家，及其空間治理畸形化的原因。

**The Emerging Urban Open Space System in Northern Kowloon, Hong Kong:  
Preliminary Analysis**

Koon-kwai Wong

There is an increasing awareness of the need to incorporate urban open spaces into city development policies, especially in compact Asian cities such as Hong Kong. This paper intends to adopt the 'link-hub' network model to examine the existing urban open space in the northern Kowloon area of Hong Kong. The integrated urban open space (IUOS) system provides a logical, scientific-based framework that will enable us to strategically evaluate the multiple-uses and values of urban open spaces. This paper addresses the fragmentation of urban open space development and the absence of hierarchy in the design and planning of urban open spaces. Little has been done thus far to comprehensively document the urban open spaces of Hong Kong, and there is little attempt to link these discrete, isolated spaces together into an integral whole. This paper aims to fill this void. The IUOS system model stresses the integrity and quality of the urban environment, and it contributes to good civic design that is so critical to the overall livability of the city.

**The Gradualist Transition to Homeownership: Implications for Wealth  
Redistribution**

Si-ming Li

China, after more than quarter century of reform, has joined the rank of Great Britain, the United States and other advanced market economies to become a nation of homeowners. This chapter examines in detail the ownership transformation in urban China, trying to identify the major gainers and losers in different phases of the reform. Data from three large-scale household surveys, two of which were conducted in 2001 in the cities of Beijing and Guangzhou, and the third was conducted in Guangzhou at the end of 2005, are employed to elicit the tenure switch trends in post-reform urban China. The chapter argues that the structure of inequalities in the socialist period has in fact strengthened under market transition in conjunction with the sale of reform

housing and subsequent conferment of full ownership rights to the buyers.

Occasional Paper No. 71 (October 2006)

**金融中心城市的競爭與合作 – 兼論香港作為國際金融中心的地位**

徐江

有意成為國際金融中心的中國城市越來越多，客觀地為本地金融服務定位的城市卻少之又少。真正的國際金融中心到底具有哪些素質？本文分析了倫敦、紐約崛起為國際金融中心的歷程、至今保持競爭優勢的原因，以及他們與周邊的競爭與合作態勢。以此為背景，本文比較了香港金融中心的地位。主要結論有三。第一，香港並非全球或亞洲金融中心，其國際化程度遠遜於倫敦與紐約。它充其量只是中國的國際金融中心。第二，金融中心城市的競爭與合作關係在國際、區域與國內三個層面上表現出不同的特徵。國際金融活動與全球交易市場並購熱潮進一步使得這種關係處於激烈變動之中。第三，一個國家往往只有一個核心金融中心。這個核心中心的增長具有逐漸強化的趨勢，但這並不是以其他城市的滯脹為代價。這些結論對分析香港與中國內地城市在金融服務方面的關係有很大啟示作用。

Occasional Paper No. 72 (December 2006)

**Fragmentation or Integration? A Study of Chongqing, the Largest City of China**

Si-ming Li, Yim-ha Leung and Zheng Yi

Chongqing was designated as the fourth centrally-administered municipality of China in 1997. Since then it has shouldered the responsibility to develop the west, to resettle more than one million Three Gorges residents, and, at the same time, to act as the economic growth pole in the upper reach of Yangtze River. This is not easy. Chongqing has inherited large numbers of armament industries and other heavy industries from the past, making it the largest heavy industrial base in the southwest. Most of these industries are state-owned enterprises with out-dated facilities. This industrial pattern co-exists side by side with a vast rural area in which 15.32 million farmers struggle to make their ends meet. A dual spatial structure exists in the largest city in China. To integrate the two spaces, the rich city and the poor village, the Chongqing Municipal government has paid strenuous effort to urbanize the region,



transfer redundant farm workers and alleviate poverty. However, the effort is hampered by the city's past industrial development. Moreover, the current large-scale projects are economically feasible only with the support of the central government. Whether the development of Chongqing can be sustainable or self-perpetuating is highly questionable.

Occasional Paper No. 73 (February 2007)

### **Park Visiting Habits of Hong Kong People: A Preliminary Analysis of the Telephone Survey Data**

Koon Kwai WONG

This paper reports the preliminary findings of a telephone survey conducted in November 2005, in which 758 Hong Kong citizens aged 10 and above were successfully interviewed. The survey found that there were slightly more infrequent park users than frequent park users in Hong Kong. Notably, about 8 percent of the respondents said that they never visit parks. Of the 43 percent of frequent park users, many of them were either elderly or adolescence. The survey also revealed that many users only visited parks that were near their homes and spent a very short time there each time. The most appealing activities for park users were to do exercise and take leisurely walks. It is important to note that the dominant barrier that deterred people from going to park was the "lack of time to go". Obviously, this is a reflection of the lifestyle of Hongkongers, where typical working hours are long. The findings contributed to a better understanding of current park visiting habits of people in Hong Kong, and re-affirmed the desire of urbanites to have more greenery in the park. This suggested that park authorities need to review its current park design and management policies to better meet the needs of their users. Moreover, in response to the challenges caused by declining birth rates and the upsurge of the aging population in recent decades, Hong Kong needs to have a comprehensive strategy to provide urban parks for the use and enjoyment of all of its citizens.

Occasional Paper No. 74 (March 2007)

### **Does Danwei Promote Jobs-Housing Balance and Shorten Commuting? A Study of Beijing**

Donggen Wang, Yanwei Chai

Because of the significance of commuting to daily trip making and traffic congestion, the travel between home and workplace has been a topic of research for decades. Since commuting is resulted from the separation between work place and residential place, jobs-housing relation is long considered one of the major determinants of commuting patterns. The relationships between jobs-housing relation and commuting patterns have been extensively studied. There are, however, hardly any conclusive findings. This paper reports a study of a case where jobs and housing are well-balanced in compounds. It is well known that the jobs-housing relation in China had been dictated and is still largely influenced by the so-called Danwei system, in which work units provide employees housing at places close to or even in the same location of the workplace. We believe that such physical relation between workplace and residential place may lead to the commuting patterns largely different from that observed in the West and thus a study on the relations between the two may enrich the literature on commuting behavior. More importantly, we intend to argue that the reform of the Danwei system has led to spatial restructuring of Chinese cities, increased transport demand and traffic congestion. To that end, we apply the structural equation models to investigate the interactions between sources of housing (provided by work unit or not), jobs-housing relation, transport mode and commuting time. The sample involves 736 employed heads of households, which is derived from a survey conducted in Beijing in 2001. The results show that workers living in houses provided by Danwei have shorter jobs-housing distance, higher propensity towards using non-motorized transport mode and shorter commuting duration. This finding seems in agreement with the hypothesis that jobs-housing balance leads to shorter commuting time. We argue, however, that while the Danwei system was able to balance the ratio between jobs and housing almost perfectly and thus the demand for transportation is contained, the sacrifices, however, are people's preferences and tastes towards residential location and commuting choices. It is also suggested that the spatial restructuring of Chinese cities resulted from the reform of the Danwei system is another important contributor to the ever deteriorating traffic conditions in Beijing and other Chinese cities.

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中國人文地理與知識的三足鼎——初探 80 年代後中國人文地理發展的歷史底蘊  
陳劍青 鄧永成

本文回顧了中國歷來的人文地理發展，帶出我們要理解 80 年代的人文地理學，並不能忽略歷史脈絡與「舊有」傳統的延伸。故此，本文藉著探索中國人文地理學這一條特殊的、有異於西方的道路，試圖再述中國的人文地理發展。政治性、實踐主義與現代性三種「傳統」的角力，編織了中國獨有的知識系譜。而正正是這中國人文地理與知識的「三足鼎」，成為了我們理解現代人文地理學發展的基本前提。

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### **超越中環價值的歷史地理觀---回溯「沙田價值」**

鄧永成 陳劍青 王潔萍 郭仲元 文沛兒

本文藉著考察一面香港城市發展中的歷史地理維度，試圖回應當下有關香港價值的討論。左右著香港城市發展的，並不只是近年學者所重複宣示的「中環價值」，也未必是強調價值的多元化就能化解的問題。靠著再敘述過去城市發展的歷史空間，本文帶出地理觀的回歸，就是討論香港價值議題的關鍵。另一方面，文中回溯了殖民時代建立新市鎮中製成的「沙田價值」，以改造城市空間的手段塑造了香港「新人類」的價值——相信專業形象、強調「理性」、抱有公民自豪感 (Civic Pride)。他們經歷了數十年的空間生活實踐，這種根深柢固的價值更投射在今天各種城市發展的議題上，由從前「空間塑造價值」發展到今天「價值塑造空間」。最後，文章更針對「沙田價值」對社會公義的影響，令城市問題更形複雜，弱勢聲音更被埋沒。

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### **The Tsuen Wan Seven Street Redevelopment Project:**

#### **A Factual Account**

Wing Shing Tang and Tammy Kit Ping Wong

In 1990, Seven Streets in Tsuen Wan town centre were announced as a Comprehensive Development Area, awaiting for redevelopment. In 2002, these streets disappeared from the map, and in their replacement is the erection of Vision City, a new, middle class, residential real estate property, in 2006. This redevelopment project has, surprisingly, received little attention in the literature. It is the objective of

this paper to document the factual details about this redevelopment. It describes how the working class neighbourhood of Seven Streets had evolved over time, why and how it was identified as a redevelopment project within the broader context of Hong Kong's development, how the responsible redevelopment agents of the project practised, how the land was requisitioned and the residents and property owners were involved, and, finally, how Vision City was projected into people's mind. The paper finally outlines some implications for further theoretical research.