

Call for papers

2018 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting

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Politics, Governance and its mechanism in China's urbanism

Organizers

Yanpeng Jiang (The University of Hong Kong)

Nalini Mohabir (Concordia University)

Renfeng Ma (Ningbo University)

Over the last three decades, urban growth through the exploitation and development of land lies at the heart of the Chinese urbanization model. It is not surprising, therefore, that scholars writing on China have turned to growth machine theory and urban regime theory in order to make sense of what is happening in Chinese cities and to relate this to trends elsewhere. However, "as a theoretical rejoinder to dominant 'Western' urban theories and discourses, scholars working in the context of the global south have often underscored the local uniqueness and particularities of their respective cities as a way to 'speak back' to Western theorization" (Pow 2012, p. 47). China's economic and political governance suggest different pathways to urban spaces and resources. Yet arguments about socio-political specificities should not isolate China and Chinese cities from debates about urban change, at the very least to ensure China does not become merely a series of fascinating or exceptional case studies. At the same time, it is important that China not be seen simply as a variant of dominant North American norms. In this panel, we strive to bridge the gap between the Western theory and China's urbanism theoretically and empirically. We propose to examine the difficulties that are faced in transporting theoretical constructs out of their original U.S. context and explore in more detail the work of urban scholars who have transposed them onto a Chinese setting.

We will be organizing one or more paper sessions at next year's AAG on 'understanding urban China'. The paper sessions will serve as a platform to exchange scholars' thoughts and ideas regarding urban China to gain a better understanding of the political / governance mechanisms behind China's urbanism, and to develop a timely overview of new theoretical, methodological and empirical developments in the study of China's urbanization.

We welcome theoretical and empirical debates, as well as papers examining methodological challenges in approaching China's urbanism. We seek to develop a Special Issue on regional comparative urbanism from papers that participate in this session. Papers may focus on, but are not limited to:

- o Stakeholders and their mechanisms within Chinese mega urban projects
- o Land development and land-based urban growth in China's cities
- o Urban policy and governance strategies in the process of China's rapid urbanization

- o Mapping and other governance among the key stakeholders
- o Financialization of urban projects

- o Urban investment and development

- o Gentrification and urban renewal

- o Politics and contestations in Chinese urban development

Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words to following AAG guidelines to Yanpeng Jiang (yanp.jiang@gmail.com), Nalini Mohabir (nalini.mohabir@concordia.ca), and/or Renfeng Ma (marenfeng@nbu.edu.cn) by October 23th at the latest.