

**Annual Report**  
**1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004**

**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 with a view to 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.

CURS was founded with a major donation from Heung To Educational Fund secured by Professor C F Ng, President and Vice Chancellor of Hong Kong Baptist University. Over the past three years, CURS has received recurrent funding support from the University. Funding support for two consecutive years was also secured from the Urban China Research Network (UCRN) of the State University of New York at Albany. With this CURS played host to the international "Working Group on Urban Transformation in China and Reorganization of the State in an Era of Globalization" under the UCRN, with Professor Si-ming Li, Director of CURS, serving as one of the working group's co-coordinators. This international collaboration culminated in the holding of two major conferences on China's urban and regional transformation at HKBU, namely the UCRN conference on "Cities in China – the Next Generation of Urban Research" and the "International Conference on Globalization, the State and Urban Transformation in China", held respectively on 13-14 December 2003 and 15-17 December 2003. Details of these two conferences are provided below.

Research conducted by CURS 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. At the end of the academic year under review, Li received a grant of HK\$0.97 million from the Hong Kong Research Grant Council to conduct a study on Rising Homeownership and Emerging Patterns of Residential Differentiation in Chinese Cities.

## 1.1 List of Staff Members

- **Professor Li, Si-ming** (*Department of Geography*), Centre Director,  
Research interests: Urban; Housing; Regional Development
- **Dr Tang, Wing Shing** (*Department of Geography*), Chief Editor, CURS Occasional Paper Series  
Research interests: Urban Planning under Socialism
- **Miss Lau, Carmen K.M.** Research Assistant

## 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 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
- **Dr Chow, Larry C. H.** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Energy; Political
- **Dr Chow, Chun Shing** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Urban; Social; Culture
- **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
- **Dr 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

- **Dr Wang, Donggen** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Transport Modelling
- **Dr Wong, Kenneth K. K.** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Environmental Studies
- **Dr Wong, Victor C. W.** (*Department of Social Work*)  
Research interests: Health; Youth; Social Policy; Public Sector Management
- **Mr Woo, Tun Oy** (*Department of Economics*)  
Research interests: Economic Development Theories; Transitional Economics;  
Economic Development and Administration in China
- **Dr Zhou, Qiming** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Geographical Information System

Note: During the year Dr Yuk Shing Cheng of the Department of Economics joined the Centre as a centre fellow; at the end of the academic year Dr Chun Shing Chow and Mr Tun Oy Woo retired from the University.

## **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; CURS also extends limited financial support to research fellows as seed money for more extensive research projects and to participate in international academic activities.

### 2.1 Workshop or Conference Organization

#### ***2.1.1 ISPRS Workshop on Spatial Analysis and Decision Making (3-5 December 2003)***

This was a joint group workshop of International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) WG II/5 "Spatial Decision Support Systems" and WG II/6 "Spatial Analysis and Visualisation Systems". The objective was to provide a platform for scholars and professionals in the areas of spatial decision support systems, spatial analysis and spatial geovisualisation to exchange research ideas and interest, as well as to present newest research results in these areas, to discuss cutting-edge technologies, and to promote international collaboration in these fields.



Participants of the ISPRS Workshop



Dr. Jack Dangermond delivered the keynote speech

The workshop was held at HKBU on 3-5 December 2003, which was one of the high-profile workgroup meetings of International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). About 50 scholars from 11 countries and regions participated in the workshop and presented 35 papers. 30 selected manuscripts were peer-reviewed, revised, edited and included in a monograph entitled “Advances in Spatial Analysis and Decision Making” edited by Dr. Qiming Zhou and Dr. Wolfgang Kainz and published by Swets & Zeitlinger B.V., Lisse, the Netherlands in 2004. ESRI President Jack Dangermond presented the keynote address entitled “*GIS as a Decision Support Tool*” which expanded on the many uses of GIS in decision making for applications ranging from agriculture to risk management. For details of the workshop, please refer to Appendix I.

### ***2.1.2 “Cities in China – The Next Generation of Urban Research: Part 2” (13-14 December 2003)***

This conference was held at HKBU on 13-14 December 2003 with assistance of CURS. The annual conference was organized by the Urban China Research Network (UCRN) of SUNY-Albany to provide a platform for graduate students and young faculty members who won the UCRN Student and Young faculty Small Grant awards to present their research findings and to interact with leading scholars on China urban studies. In this year’s conference a total of 16 papers were presented. Some 30 renowned urban China scholars from all over the world acted as discussants and commentators. For details of the student meeting, please refer to Appendix II.

### ***2.1.3 Workshop on Transport Survey Methods (15 December 2003)***

The workshop was held at HKBU on 15 December 2003. This event intended to update participants with the latest developments in transport survey methods. More than 30 academics, postgraduates, practitioners and government officials attended the workshop. The talks covered revealed and stated preference methods, measurement issues, data collection methods, combination of data sources, sampling, data handling and so on. This workshop provided a good opportunity for students, researchers, and academics to be informed of advancements in survey methodologies. For details of the workshop, please refer to Appendix III.



Participants of the Workshop on Transport Survey Methods

### ***2.1.4 International Conference on Globalization, the State, and Urban Transformation in China (15-17 December 2003)***

This conference was jointly organized by CURS, the Department of Geography of HKBU and UCRN. The International Centre for China Development Studies (ICCDs) of the University of Hong Kong co-organized this event. The Research Committee of HKBU provided a conference grant to support the holding of the conference. Financial support was also secured from the Hong Kong Society of Asia and Pacific Twenty One and the HKBU China Studies Course Advisory Committee. Professor Si-ming Li served as the chair of the Conference Organizing Committee, and Dr. Wing-Shing Tang of HKBU, and Dr. Carolyn Cartier of the Department of Geography, University of Southern California, served as the co-chairs.

The conference proved exceedingly successful. More than 100 scholars from the United States, Australia, Canada, Britain, Continental Europe, Singapore, Japan, the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong with disciplinary backgrounds spanning the entire spectrum of social sciences: geography, sociology, political science, economics, urban planning, population studies, social work, etc. took part in the conference. The 19 paper sessions



and some 80 presentations examined diverse aspects on globalization, the State, and urban transformation in China. They also formed the basis of a number of book projects under planning. The holding of this conference further established the position of HKBU as a major centre of China urban and regional research in the world. For details of the conference, please refer to Appendix IV.



Professor Neil Smith gave the keynote speech



Participants of the Conference

### ***2.1.5 The 9th International Symposium on Coordination of Chinese Economic Systems [第九屆中華經濟協作系統研討會] (10-11 January 2004)***

The symposium took place in Shanghai on 10-11 January 2004. The Joint Social Sciences Association of Shanghai (Shanghai Shehui Kexue Lianhui, JSSAS; 上海市社會科學界聯合會) co-host this event with the Hong Kong Society of Asia Pacific Twenty One (AP 21; 香港亞太二十一學會). CURS co-organized this conference.

The theme of the symposium was “Regional Economy: China’s Opportunities, Challenges, and Prospects” (區域經濟：中國面臨的機遇、挑戰與前景). The main topics were discussed included:

1. World Regional Economic Development under Economic Globalisation
2. Experience of Mega-city Regions in the World
3. The Impacts of Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) on Cross Straits and Hong Kong and Macau Regional Cooperation
4. Regional Economic Development in China – Cases and Comparative Analysis

Yangtze Delta and the Pearl River Delta Region, and also CEPA featured prominently in this conference. About 80 scholars from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, mainland China and Japan participated in the 3-day conference. A total of 40 papers were presented. Professor Mee Kau Nyaw of Lingnan University and Professor Si-ming Li of HKBU are currently collating the papers presented for an edited volume. For details of the

meeting, please refer to Appendix V.

## 2.2 Summer Excursion Class

### ***2.2.1 Geography of Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta (19 May – 3 June 2004)***

CURS played host to a group of students from the University at Albany, SUNY led by Professor Christopher J. Smith. CURS organized a series of lectures and fieldtrips on Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta over the period 19 May - 3 June, 2004 for the group. Dr. Eddie C.S. Chow, Dr. Him Chung, Miss Limei Li, Professor Si-ming Li, Dr. R.B. Owen, Dr. Donggen Wang and Dr. K.K. Wong lectured on economic development, history and culture, and physical geography and environments of Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region. The fieldtrip component included one-day trips to Tolo Harbour and the Hong Kong Housing Authority, Hong Kong's industrial districts and the Hong Kong Museum of History and a six-day trip to the Pearl River Delta from 29 May to 3 June 2004. The latter covered the cities of Shenzhen Dongguag, Guangzhou, Shunde and Zhuhai. For details of the class, please refer to Appendix VI.



Group photo taken in Dongguan



Lecture at Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou



A visit to KELON Enterprise, Shunde

### 2.3 Visitor and Seminars

During the academic year under review, CURS played host to a large number of visitors, in addition to those who attended the four December 2003 conferences.

#### ***2.2.1 Professor Daming Zhou, Department of Anthropology, Zhongshan University***

Professor Zhou gave a seminar entitled “*The Survival Mode of the Non-fully Employed Workers at the Pearl River Delta*” (珠江三角洲散工的生存模式) on 15 April 2004 at HKBU.

#### ***2.3.2 Dr. Henry Wai-Chung Yeung, Associate Professor of the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore***

Dr. Yeung is conducting a major international research project that examines how leading Asian firms internationalise and perform in the global economy. The project involves personal interviews conducted with the top 50 firms in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea. CURS was delighted to play host to Dr. Yeung during his stay in Hong Kong in early summer, 2004. During his stay at HKBU, Dr. Yeung presented a seminar entitled “*Hybrid Capitalism: Chinese Business in a Global Era*” on 18 May 2004.

#### ***2.3.3 Dr. Carolyn Cartier, Associate Professor of the Department of Geography, the University of Southern California***

Dr. Cartier spent three weeks at CURS to continue her collaborative project with Professor Si-ming Li on “Urban Transformation in China and Reorganization of the State in an Era of Globalization”. During her stay, Dr. Cartier delivered a lecture entitled “*China Study and Critical Geography*” on 17 June 2004.

#### ***2.3.4 Dr. Youqin Huang, Assistant Professor of Department of Geography and Planning, University at Albany, SUNY***

Dr Huang was one of the winners of Women’s International Science Collaboration (WISC), awarded by the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) this year. With this support she spent approximately one month (late May to late June, 2004) as a research associate of CURS to explore collaborative research possibilities with Professor Si-ming Li on urban housing in China.

## 2.4 Participation in International Academic Activities

CURS extends limited conference grants to Centre Fellows to support and encourage participation in international academic activities. An amount of HK\$5,000 is available to each fellow over the three-year period September 2001 – August 2004. In the year under review the following grants were awarded.

**2.4.1 Professor Si-ming Li** was awarded a grant of HK\$4,000 to attend The Association of American Geographers (AAG) Centennial Meeting held at Philadelphia on 14-19 March 2004. In this meeting Professor Li in conjunction with Dr Youqin Huang of SUNY-Albany helped organize two paper sessions on China's urban housing and presented the paper "Life Course and Housing Tenure Change in Urban China: A Study of Guangzhou", which he co-authored with Miss Limei Li. Professor Li and Dr Huang are trying to put together papers presented in these sessions and papers delivered earlier in the CURS conference on *Globalization, the State, and Urban Transformation in China* for a special journal issue.

**2.4.2 Professor Si-ming Li and Miss Carmen K M Lau** were given a grant of HK\$1,000 to pay the registration fee for attending the Conference *Housing and Social Development: Emerging Theoretical Issues in Asia-Pacific* organized by the Asia-Pacific Network for Housing Research (5-6 February 2004, Hong Kong University). In this conference they presented a paper entitled "*Housing Affordability in Beijing: 1992 to 2001*".

**2.4.3 Dr. Him Chung** was given a grant of HK\$5,000 to attend "*The Third East Asian Regional Conferences in Alternative Geography (EARCAG)*" (5-9 August 2003, Tokyo and Osaka, Japan). In the conference he presented a paper entitled "*The Other Urbanisation in China – The Persistence of Villages-in-the-cities*".

### 3. Research Projects / Publications

#### 3.1 Research Projects

The following are some of the projects on China's urban and regional change that CURS Fellows undertook in year July 2003- June2004:

##### 3.1.1 **Modelling Multi-Faceted Activity and Travel Choices: Extending and Validating the Stated Preference Approach**

*Investigator:* Dr Donggen Wang

*Co-investigator:* Professor Si-ming Li

*Funding Support:* HKD 463,817 from the Hong Kong Research Grant Council Competitive Earmarked Research Grant (CERG) (*HKBU2018/00H*) and HKBU Faculty Research Grant (FRG.) (*FRG/98-99/II-34*).

This research project develops a model that predicts individuals' change in their daily activity patterns and travel behaviour, should changes in urban transportation systems be introduced. The model is developed using interactive computer experiments, allowing for stated preference, stated tolerance, stated adaptation and stated prospect data. A by-product of the research is a new and improved interactive computer experiment that can be used for examining users' response to environmental changes.

Research outputs under this project:

- **Donggen Wang** and Siming Li (2004) "Socio-Economic Differentials and Stated Housing Preferences in Guangzhou, China". *Habitat International* (in press).
- **Donggen Wang** and Siming Li (2004) "Housing Choice in a Transitional Economy: the Case of Beijing, China". *Environment and Planning A*. Vol. 36, No. 1, pp. 69 – 87.
- **Donggen Wang**, Jiukun Li and Harry Timmermans, (2003), "Measuring Bifurcation Points in Choice Behavior: Principles and Illustration". *Environment and Planning A*. Vol. 36, No. 6, pp. 1125-1138.
- **Donggen Wang** and Jiukun Li, (2002) "Handling Large Numbers of Attributes and/or Large Numbers of Levels in Conjoint Experiments". *Geographical Analysis*. Vol.34, No.4, pp.350-362.

### 3.1.2 From Danwei-to Owner-Occupation: An Analysis of China's Changing Urban Housing Tenures Using Retrospective Life Histories

*Investigator:* Professor Si-Ming Li

*Co-Investigator:* Dr. Donggen Wang

*Funding Support:* HKD79,400 from HKBU Faculty Research Grant (FRG.) (FRG/02-03/II-54).

In the West, homeownership has been seen as the ultimate housing career. Interestingly enough, in “socialist” China, a major objective of the urban housing reform, which began in 1979, is to privatise the housing stock and promote homeownership. While the reform in the earlier years met with strong resistance and could only proceed at a slow pace, in more recent years China has apparently succeeded in embarking on a fast-track reform course. The past few years, in particular, has witnessed rapid increases in the homeownership rate. While there have been studies trying to depict urban China's complex tenure composition and the salient factors that govern the tenure switch, these studies are invariably based on cross-sectional data and, as such, say very little about how the changing policy and social and economic contexts have effected tenure change. The present work seeks to conduct a longitudinal analysis of China's road to homeownership, making use of retrospective life history data collected in 2001 in the cities of Beijing and Guangzhou. Note that these two are cities contrast each other with respect to the planned- versus market-economy continuum. In addition to estimating the rate of homeownership as it varied over time and relate these to changes in the broader socio-economic contexts, the study will also analyse the life-course factors that underlie road to homeownership in contrasting and changing policy environments at the level of the individual using hazards models.

#### Research outputs under this project

- **Si-ming Li** and Wu, F. (Guest eds.) (2004) “Theme Issue: Residential Mobility and Housing Choice in China”, *Environment and Planning A*, 36 (1).
- **Si-ming Li** and Wu, F. (2004) “Contextualizing Residential Mobility and Housing Choice: Evidence from Urban China”, Introduction to the Theme Issue on Residential Mobility and Housing Choice in China, *Environment and Planning A*, 36(1): 1-6.
- **Si-ming Li** (2004) “Life Course and Residential Mobility in Beijing, China”, *Environment and Planning A*, 36(1): 27-43.

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

*Investigator:* Dr. Gina Lai

*Co-Investigator:* Dr. Danching Ruan and Dr. Odalia Wong

*Funding Support:* HK\$974,517 from Research Grants Council (RGC) (HKBU2032/02H), 2003-2005

Conjugal (in) equality has generally been understood as a result of intradyadic processes. The study aims to broaden the understanding of marital relations by taking into account of martial partners' social networks, separate as well as joint. Two major issues are of concern here: i) how may the resource characteristics of partners' individual networks influence the structure of marital networks? ii) how may the structure of martial networks affect the distribution of marital power? Gender dynamics in the construction of personal networks will also be considered. Integration research literature in family and social network analysis, this proposed project will be the first study to systematically examine the relation 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 martial relations.

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

*Investigator:* Dr. Gina Lai

*Funding Support:* HK\$143,360 from HKBU Faculty Research Grant (FRG) (FRG/01-02/II-21), 2002-2004

The study aims to explore how social capital comes to play in Chinese wedding banquets. As a major life even, the wedding banquet serves as a critical occasion to reaffirm and renew one's personal networks, as wee as to display in public the social standing of the families in society. Two groups of participants are critical: the Master Witness (shen-hun-ren) and invited gusts. 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.

### **3.1.5 The Composition of Education Elite in China – The Case of Peking University**

*Investigator:* Dr. Danching Ruan

*Co-investigator:* Dr. James Lee and Dr. Shanhua Yang

*Funding Support:* HK\$50,000 from HKBU Faculty Research Grant (FRG) (FRG/02-03/I-10), 2002-2004

The proposed project asks a simple question – who are the students at Peking University, one of the two most prestigious universities in China? To answer this question, the project will examine the admission records of Peking University undergraduate students admitted between 1994 and 1998. The central issue to be explored is the influence of the family origin on a person's chance to become a student of Peking University – that is the extent to which having parents of high social and economic status increases one's chance to become a member of the educational elite in China. Other influencing factors such as residential location and gender will also be examined. The project will fill in a gap in research on educational elite in China. It will contribute to the understanding of educational stratification in China and the understanding of social stratification and social mobility in general. The proposed study will also serve as a pilot study for a large-scale study on the composition of the educational elite in China from 1949-1998.

### **3.1.6 Social Capital and Social Inequality – A Study of Rural Migrants in Shanghai**

*Investigator:* Dr. Danching Ruan

*Co-investigator:* Dr. Wang Feng, Dr. Xuejing Zuo and Dr. Gina Lai

*Funding Support:* HK\$794,000 from Research Grants Council (HKBU 2142/03H), 2003-2005

The proposed project seeks funding to conduct a survey in Shanghai, China. The purpose of the project is to explore the social world of the rural migrants in urban China. Specifically, it aims to study how the migrants are connected with each other and with urban residents, and how such connections affect their occupational and income achievement. Specifically, the study will explore the extent of economic segregation between rural migrants and urban residents. Then,



it will examine the social network patterns of the rural migrants and compare them with those of the urban residents in order to explore the extent of social segregation between rural migrants and urban residents and the extent of differential possession of social capital between the two groups. Finally, the study will try to see to what extent differential possession of social capital between the rural migrants and urban residents contributes to the economic inequality between the two groups. By studying the social networks of the migrants, particularly their ties to the local community, the proposed study will fill a research gap in the studies of migrants in urban China, in the studies of international migration, and in the studies of the role of social capital in creating social inequality among social groups.

### **3.1.7 Space of Negotiation and Population Displacement in Urban Redevelopment Projects**

*Investigator:* Dr. Wing Shing Tang

*Funding Support:* HK\$145,600 from HKBU Faculty Research Grant (FRG) (FRG/03-04/II-30), 2003

It is the objective of this research to uncover the empirical realities of the effects of urban redevelopment on population displacement. The latter is an imminent issue in Hong Kong nowadays, when the city is undergoing economic restructuring and many of its communities are experiencing physical dislocation as the result of the implementation of many measures to meet the challenge. To achieve this objective, we need to situate the whole discussion on more structural forces underlying redevelopment. Since relatively few existing research draw on power relations and space, this project proposes to understand the issue at two interrelated levels. Conceptually, it comprehends the way urban order is defined in these redevelopment projects within the prevailing social relations of building provision and, then, the way the marginalised urban residents, both as an individual and as an organisation, negotiate that order by, possibly, deploying place and space. We theorise this understanding by the concept of spaces of negotiation within the perspective of colonial governmentality. Redevelopment projects are conceived as power networks, which demarcate spaces into ones of prescription and negotiation. This conceptual discussion is then elaborated with an intensive study of a neighbourhood, where urban redevelopment projects have already been undertaken.

### **3.1.8 Decentralization and Regional Distortions in Chinese Industry - Efficiency and Equity Implication**

*Investigator:* Dr. Yuk Shing Cheng

*Funding Support:* HK\$437,040 from Research Grants Council (*HKBU 2010/02H*), 2002-2004

A key feature of China's economic reform is the decentralization of economic power to the local governments. Efficiency and equity implications of the decentralization have been subjects of concern. Regarding efficiency, whether the decentralization has positive or negative impact on the economy has been under heated debate. Some studies characterize the decentralized system as market-preserving federalism, under which competition among local governments has helped to improve economic efficiency. Critics of the Chinese reform, however, point out that local governments have created new distortions when they attempt to capture and protect rents that are implicit in the remaining distortions of the incomplete reforms. Efficiency losses thus resulted. Concerning equity, the decentralization reform has curtailed the ability of the central government in redistributing resources across regions. The consequence is a widening regional disparity. However, the sources of the regional disparity have not been well understood. In this context, the project aims to investigate two empirical issues. Applying recently developed non-parametric methods to Chinese provincial and sectoral data of China's industries, we attempt to (1) quantify the inefficiencies that have arisen from the regional distortions; and (2) examine the disparity in industrial productivity growth across provinces during the reform period.

### **3.2 CURS Research Grants**

CURS currently provides seed money to support Centre fellows to launch new research initiatives. A maximum of HK\$10,000 is available to each fellow within the three-year period AY 2001/02-2003/04. Over the year under review, one such grant was given:

**3.2.1 Dr. Stephanie Po-yin Chung** was granted HK\$10,000 to support her project "Migration and Enterprises: an empirical study of three Chinese migrant families in South China and Southeast Asia, 1860-2000".

This project is an ethnographic, economic and historical study of three significant migrant merchant families active in South China and Southeast Asia. They are the Eu Tong Sen (余東旋) and the Loke Yew (陸佑) families from Guangdong, and the Run Run Shaw (邵逸夫) family from Zhejiang. The study is cut across the history of these three families, as well as the economic empires that they built up in Asia (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 1860 to the present. The three families are closely connected, through marriage, friendship and business partnerships among themselves, and have successfully built up their business networks in the complex political and economic environment in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and China.

The study begins with the questions of how Chinese business/family survived in the changing political, economic and social environment in Southeast Asian and Southern China over the past 150 years. The upward mobility of these three migrant families will illustrate how western colonialism, nationalism in Southeast Asia and China's open door policy reshaped the economic and cultural environment in the region. The confrontation of the East-West economic systems has made South China and Southeast Asia the frontier par excellence for the Chinese migrants who serve as the economic middlemen (as well as the cultural brokers) between the westerners and the indigenous population. The project, therefore, will benefit from the rich collection of archives and business records in Singapore, Penang, Hong Kong, Canton and Shanghai.

A central theme of the research is to examine whether and how the Chinese ethnic and family organization provided a framework for modern business (particularly when they are engaging themselves in such culturally sensitive commodities as Chinese medicines and Chinese movies) in the region. The findings will provide the basis to examine the institutional/cultural strength and weakness of Chinese family as a transnational company. The different legal and currency systems of South China and Southeast Asia also highlight the importance of Hong Kong as the meeting point of the two systems. The study will make a difference to the way the history of the region can be understood.

### 3.3 CURS Fellows' Research Outputs

An incomplete count shows that a total of 45 journal articles, book chapters and working papers were published by CURS' fellows under the review period:

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

- 與李崇高合撰 (2003) 〈中國地方分割的效率損失〉，載《中國社會科學》，第1期 (總第139期)，頁64-72。

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

- (Sept 2003) "Themes in Current Asian Energy", *Energy Policy*, No. 11, Vol. 31, 1047-1049.
- (Guest Editor of Special Issue) (Sept 2003) "Themes in Current Asian Energy", *Energy Policy*, No. 11, Vol. 31, 1047-1179.

#### **Chow, Chun Shing**

- (July 2003) "Cultural Diversities and Tourism Development in Yunnan province, China", *Occasional Paper 36*, Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, 1-19.

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### 3.4 CURS Occasional Paper Series

To facilitate academic exchange and to disseminate research findings in the quickest manner, CURS has launched an occasional paper series. Dr Wing Shing Tang serves as the Chief Editor of the series. Authors of CURS Occasional Papers include Centre's fellows and other staff members of HKBU, as well as scholars of other academic institutions in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and overseas. In the period July 2003 - June 2004, a total of 12 occasional papers were published. Topics range from tourism development, transportation, residential mobility, housing, migration, etc. in mainland China, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. The paper abstracts are available on the CURS website ([www.hkbu.edu.hk/~curs](http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~curs)). Below is a list of CURS Occasional Papers published over the period (See Appendix VI):

No.	Title	Authors
36	Cultural Diversities and Tourism Development in Yunnan Province, China	Chun-shing Chow (July 2003)
37	The Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge Controversy and Hong Kong's Hub Position	Si-ming Li (July 2003)
38	From Multiculturalism to Hybridity: The City as a Site for Inner Deliberations	Kwok Bun Chan (July 2003)
39	Life Course and Residential Mobility in Guangzhou	Si-ming Li & Donggen Wang (August 2003)
40	Market Reforms and Mental Health in Urban Beijing	Gina Lai & Rance P.L. Lee (September 2003)
41	Public Environmental Attitudes in China: Some Early Empirical Evidence	Yok-shiu F. Lee (November 2003)
42	Commercial Housing Affordability in Beijing, 1992-2001	Ka Man Lau & Si-ming Li (February 2004)
43	Residential Mobility and Urban Change in China: What have we learnt so far?	Si-ming Li (February 2004)
44	From Tung Tau to Shek Kip Mei: Squatter fires, geopolitics and housing interventions in Hong Kong in the 1950s	Alan Smart (March 2004)
45	中國區域發展與省際人口遷移：第四次和第五次人口普查資料分析比較	李思名 (March 2004)
46	Spaces of Globalisation: Institutional Reforms and Spatial Economic Development in the Pudong New Area, Shanghai	Andrew M. Marton & Wei Wu (March 2004)
47	Migration and Enterprises – Three Generations of the Eu Tong Sen family in Southern China and Southeast Asia, 1822-1941	Stephanie Po-yin Chung (April 2004)



#### **4. International Academic Networking**

Ever since its founding in 2001, CURS has been able to establish strong international academic links, and through these links to develop possibilities of international collaborative research on major policy and theoretical concerns of China's urban and regional development and transformation, especially in light of the impacts of globalization.

##### 4.1 Working Group on "Urban Transformation in China and Reorganization of the State in an Era of Globalization"

The working group draws its core members from Hong Kong, the United States and Mainland China. It was established under the Urban China Research Network (UCRN) of the State University of New York at Albany (SUNY Albany). Professor Si-ming Li of HKBU and Dr. Carolyn Cartier of University of Southern California, serve as the co-chairs of the Working Group.

It is the objective of the Working Group to make a major contribution to the analysis of China's urban transformation in the context of cultural and economic globalization, and the examination of how the Chinese states tries to re-organize itself spatially in order to react to and accommodate this phenomenal spatial transformation process. There are three key research themes, namely: (i) to theorize urban restructuring and state reorganization in China through the globalization debates and scale relations; (ii) to empirically analyze how the intersections between domestic economic restructuring and globalizing process have affected the development of the urban hierarchy and agglomerations in China; and (iii) to examine local conditions of urban transformations as they are impacted by economic restructuring and the forces of political and cultural globalization. The Working Group was later subdivided into three subgroups, each focussing on a specific research theme.

Group members associated with each of the three themes assess the status of the literature on their specific theme, and devise a collaborative research plan that both encompasses and facilitates their own expertise, while also propels new questions and research goals generated by the agenda of the larger working group. Participants in the working group bring different kinds of expertise, including facility in social theory, planning and spatial data analysis. Thus the working group is distinctive not only in the conceptual quality and originality of its ideas, but also in bringing together people with different kinds of research perspectives.

The three-year research of the Working Group culminated in the holding of International Conference on Globalization, the State, and Urban Transformation in China held at HKBU on 15-17 December 2003. (See Section 2.1.4 above) Prior to the holding of this major conference a meeting of the Theory Subgroup was held at Santa Monica, California on 14-15 February 2003 to address theoretical questions concerning the application of scale theories in the Chinese context.

Ten workshop participants discussed and debated these topics. Mr. Tan Wing Shing, CURS fellow, attended the workshop and presented the paper of “State/space and Urban China: Towards a New Spatial Governmentality” At the conclusion of the workshop, all participants agreed to revise their papers for the coming Hong Kong conference-International Conference on Globalization, the State, and Urban Transformation in China.

#### 4.2 Other Networking Activities

Over the period under review CURS as a research unit as well as individual research fellows of CURS were active in cultivating international academic exchange. The visits of Drs Henry Yeung, Carolyn Cartier, Christopher Smith, Youqin Huang and Daming Zhou were reported above. Also reported was the summer course offered to students of SUNY-Albany. In addition to the above a number of major international research endeavours were initiated over the period and these will be reported in Section 6

## 5. Financial Review

### 5.1 Financial Summary (1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004)

	Amount (HKD)
<b>Income (+)</b>	
A. Balance brought forward to 1 July 2003 <sup>1</sup>	552,844.83
B. Hong Kong Baptist University <sup>2</sup>	100,000.00
C. General Income <sup>3</sup> and Income from Souvenir Sales	14,942.22
D. Transfer from Specific Fund <sup>4</sup>	5,960.00
E. Investment Interest / Income Interest	62,482.90
F. Unrealized Investment Gain	43,167.70
G. Income from the International Conference on Globalization, the State and Urban Transformation in China <sup>5</sup>	42,464.06
<b><u>Total Income (A+B+C+D+E+F+G)</u></b>	<b><u>821,861.71</u></b>

<b>Expenditure (-)</b>	
<u>A. Staffing</u>	
1. Full-time Staff	70,095.36
2. Part-time Helper(s)	15,032.85
3. MPF for Staff	3,638.71
<b>Subtotal of Staffing Costs (A1+A2+A3)</b>	<b><u>88,766.92</u></b>
 <u>B. Grants to Research Fellows</u>	
1. Research Grant ( <i>Remark: max. \$10,000 for each fellow per 3-year period: from 2001/2002 to 2003/2004</i> )	
I) Dr. Chung, Stephanie P.Y. <sup>6</sup>	10,000.00
2. Conference Grants ( <i>Remark: max. \$5,000 for each fellow per 3-year period: from 2001/2002 to 2003/2004</i> )	
(I) Professor Li (AAG Centennial Meeting, 14-19 March 2004)	1,000.00
(II) Professor Li (APNHR Conference, 5-6 February 2004)	4,000.00
(III) Dr. Chung, Him (EARCAG, 5-9 August 2003)	5,000.00
<b>Subtotal of Grants to Research Fellows (B1+B2)</b>	<b><u>20,000.00</u></b>

C. Academic Activities

1. Summer Excursion Class

(I) Travelling	106.25
(II) Miscellaneous	57,348.10
(III) Accommodation	45,238.50

**Subtotal of Expenses related to academic activities (C1)** **102,692.85**

D. General Expenses:

1. Computer Expenditure and Reference Materials	3,206.00
2. Fax and Telecom	502.93
3. Hospitality Expenses	2,653.90
4. Travel Insurance	738.49
5. Maintenance Fee	400.00
6. Photocopying	2,000.00
7. Postage	8,678.70
8. Printing and Publication	5,374.00
9. Stationery	2,500.00
10. Fund Transfer Out (10% of Administration Fee)	1,494.22

**Subtotal of General Expenses**  
**(D1+D2+D3+D4+D5+D6+D7+D8+D9+D10)** **27,548.24**

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**Total Expenditure (A+B+C+D)** **239,008.01**

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**Balance Brought forward to Year 2003/2004** **582,853.70**  
**(Total Income - Total Expenditure)**

Note:

- 1: The accumulation from CURS-PRIVATE FUND 40-38-160 (HK\$ 514,440.28) and CURS-ALLOCATION FM RESEARCH COMMITTEE 38-10-160 (HK\$ 38,404.55).
- 2: Research grant of \$100,000.00 per year from Hong Kong Baptist University is renewable for AP 2003/2004. This grant reached #38-10-160 on 27 April 2004.
- 3: HK\$ 10,966.74 was the reimbursement of the Pearl River Delta Fieldtrip fee for Summer Excursion Class from Dr. Carolyn Cartier and her students.
- 4: Income was generated from providing service for drawing four maps for David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI).
- 5: Actual net income from holding the International Conference on Globalization, the State, and Urban Transformation (See Section 5.2 for details).
- 6: As reported in Section 3.1, Dr. Stephanie Po-yin Chung was granted the CURS' research seed money of HKD 10,000 to support her project entitled "Migration and Enterprises: an empirical study of three Chinese migrant families in South China and Southeast Asia, 1860-2000", starting from August 2003 to September 2004.

5.2 Financial Summary of the International Conference on Globalization the State, and Urban Transformation in China<sup>1</sup>

	Amount (HKD)
<b>Income (+)</b>	
A. Sponsor from HKBU Research Committee	60,000.00
B. Sponsor from HKU	30,000.00
C. Donation <sup>2</sup>	40,000.00
D. Conference Registration Fee	167,233.13
E. Income from selling Conference Proceedings	300.00
F. Accommodation Income	27,140.24
G. Fund Transfer from the Centre's Private Fund <sup>3</sup>	150,000.00
<b><u>Total Income (A+B+C+D+E+F+G)</u></b>	<b><u>474,673.37</u></b>
<b>Expenditure (-)</b>	
A. Accommodation	95,700.00
B. Audio-visual Supplies	985.00
C. Honorarium/ Per Diem	5,000.03
D. Hospitality	76,855.30
E. Miscellaneous	1,252.90
F. Photocopying	2,058.70
G. Postage	773.30
H. Poster	675.00
I. Printing/ Publication	16,684.00
J. Stationery	7,983.10
K. Staff Salary	14,333.33
L. Student Helpers	18,677.41
M. Travelling	24,477.93
N. Fund Transfer Out to Specific Fund <sup>4</sup>	1,512.65
<b><u>Total Expenditure (A+B+C+D+E+F+G+H+I+J+K+L+M+N)</u></b>	<b><u>266,968.65</u></b>
<b><u>Expected Balance (Total Income – Total Expenditure)</u></b>	
	<b><u>207,704.72</u></b>

<b>Actual Net Income</b>	
A. Expected Balance (+)	207,704.72
B. Fund Transfer Out to Specific Fund <sup>5</sup> (+)	1,512.65
C. Transfer HK\$ 150,000 Back to the Centre's Private Fund <sup>6</sup> (-)	150,000.00
D. Transfer 10% of Income from Registration Fee and Selling Proceedings to HKBU (-)	16,753.31
<b><u>Actual Net Income (A+B)-(C+D)</u></b>	
	<b><u>42,464.06</u></b> <sup>7</sup>

Note:

1: This account RC-INTERNAT'L CONF ON GUST IN CHINA 40-47-049 was started at October 2002.

2: HK\$ 20,000 donation was come from China Studies Course Advisory. The other HK\$ 20,000 was come from the Hong Kong Society of Asia and Pacific Twenty One.

3: HK\$ 150,000 transferring from the Centre's Private Fund was to paying the expenses of the Conference in advance.

4: 10% of registration fee from October to December in 2003.

5: Reimbursement of 10% of registration fee from October to December in 2003.

6: HK\$ 150,000 was transferred back to the Centre's Private Fund Account (40-38-160) on 28 June 2004.

7: HK\$ 42,464.06 is the net income from the Conference. The money was put into the Centre's Private Fund Account (40-38-160) on 28 June 2004 (See Section 5.1).

## **6. Future Year Plan (2004/2005)**

### 6.1 UCRN Student Meeting

In Section 2.1.2, the Urban China Research Network (UCRN) Student Meeting - "*Cities in China – The Next Generation of Urban Research: Part 2*" is reported. UCRN is currently planning to organize the next Student Meeting again at our University in December 2004. The meeting will last for two days. Again, presenters will be graduate students and young faculty members who have won the UCRN Small Grant award; prominent scholars in China's cities will be there to comment on the young scholars' research.

### 6.2 Joint project on environmental impacts of urbanization in China's arid zone

This project is jointly conducted by CURS and the Xinjiang Institute of Geography and Ecology (XIGE). Dr Qiming Zhou of HKBU and Professor Chen Xi of XIGE are the joint coordinators. While urbanization on the eastern coast of China has been widely studied, relatively little work has been done in the west. The objective of the project is to examine urbanization and ecology in Western China using both remote sensing technology and GIS. Under this project HKBU and XIGE will jointly train doctorate students to study Xinjiang's urbanization using remote sensing and GIS technology. In August 2004 Dr Zhou and Professor Si-ming Li visited XIGE to finalize the logistics and to identify further collaborative possibilities between HKBU and XIGE. This project is supported in part by the Hong Kong Research Grant Council Complete Earmarked Research Grant (CERG) (Project: "Use of Remote Sensing for Urbanization and Its Environmental Impact Study in Arid Zone of China", HK\$ 283,000, HKBU 202604) and in part by XIGE.

The results of this study will provide an objective platform on which business and investment decisions can be made for environmentally-sound development.

### 6.3 Three-city study on China's urban spatial structure and residential mobility

This collaborative study is currently being put forward by Professor John Logan, Brown University, and a large number of international scholars for grant submission to the National Science Foundation of the United States. Included in the research team, among others, are Dr Fulong Wu of Southampton University, Dr Youqin Huang of the University at Albany, Dr Weiping Wu of Virginia Commonwealth University, Professor Xiaopei Yan of Sun Yat-sen University, Professor Hanlong Lu of the Social Academy of

Social Sciences and Professor Si-ming Li of HKBU. Professor Li will oversee the conduct of household surveys in the cities of Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai,

6.4 CERG project on “Rising Homeownership and Emerging Patterns of Residential Differentiation in Chinese Cities” (HKBU2135/04H)

Principal Investigator: Professor Si-ming Li

Amount Granted: HK\$970,000

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.



## **7. Overall Self-Evaluation**

In the year under review, CURS undertook and initiated a number of activities, such as the UCRN meeting, the International Conference on Globalization, the State, and Urban Transformation in China, the summer excursion class and the joint project with Xinjiang Institute of Geography and Ecology, which have since strengthened CURS' position as an international academic platform for China urban and regional research. Fellows of CURS have been active in participating in international academic conferences and have been successful in securing major research grants, including the two CERG grants mentioned above, and in publishing research results in some of the most reputed academic journals. Given the amount of resource at CURS' disposal, the accomplishments that we have achieved over the year cannot be described as small.

Since its establishment, authors of the occasional paper series include the Centre's fellows and other staff members of HKBU. CURS has been rather successful in bringing in scholars from Hong Kong, the Mainland, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other places to contribute to it; CURS occasional papers have drawn increasing attention of the international academic community.

In future we shall be more proactive in securing research money and funding support for conference and workshop organization, not only from the University and from the Research Grant Council, but more importantly also from the private sector. We also contemplate bidding for government and other consultancy projects, which will allow us to generate enough incomes for further development. But this requires the availability of full-time research personnel, which in turn requires availability of adequate funding support in the first place – the budget for a post-doc research fellow easily exceeds HK\$500,000 p.a. The question is one of chicken and egg. We hope that the Research Committee can provide us with further guidance on how we can proceed on this front.