

The 33rd International Geographical Congress (IGC) of the International Geographical Union (IGU) will be held in Beijing, China, on 21-25 August 2016. We are seeking papers for the following sessions organised under the IGU Urban Commission and Population Geography Commission:

Enquiries for these sessions may be directed to session conveners. Please submit abstracts (not more than 250 words) through the conference website at <http://www.igc2016.org/dct/page/70047>. The deadline is Monday, 15 February 2016. Please note that: (i) titles should consist of no more than 20 words; (ii) no abbreviations are to be used in titles; and (iii) please be sure to include no more than 10 key words.

**China's Great Urban Transformation: Multidisciplinary Research on Urban China**(IGU Urban Commission)

Conveners:

Shenjing He, The University of Hong Kong, [sjhe@hku.hk](mailto:sjhe@hku.hk)

John Logan, Brown University, [John\\_Logan@brown.edu](mailto:John_Logan@brown.edu)

Under the confluence of globalisation and marketisation, China has been urbanising with unprecedented speed and scale since the late 1980s. Cities of different sizes and geographical locations are undergoing drastic transformation. Interdisciplinary research approaches and analytical perspectives have been widely employed in the field of urban China studies to measure the historical development, velocity and magnitude of urban transformation, to examine the political and social metamorphosis, and to make sense of the multiplex matrix of socio-cultural transformations at different scales. This session aims to provide a platform for researchers from different disciplines to discuss their latest research. We are open to a wide range of multidisciplinary research related to China's latest urban transformations, which include but are not limited to: land and housing (re)development; urban planning/governance; rural-urban migration; social and cultural transformation.

**Contested Social Spaces** (IGU Urban Commission)

Conveners:

Shenjing He, The University of Hong Kong, [sjhe@hku.hk](mailto:sjhe@hku.hk)

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The increasingly multi-layered social and ethnic patchworks have given birth to more intricate spaces in contemporary cities, which are prone to conflicts and contestations among various social groups. Different forms of enclaves emerge, and result in urban fragmentation and segregation. How to measure these new patterns and changes in urban fragmentation and potential contestations and make effective international comparisons? Under what conditions urban contestations occur and in which ways these contestation are connected with local and macro socioeconomic milieu, as well as urban forms? How to reconcile different interests of various actors in these urban spaces, and how to empower the local communities to avoid and cope with social contestations? What are the implications for social mix and social equality? This session calls for papers addressing one or more of the abovementioned broad questions in various contexts. Comparative studies are especially welcome.

### **Urbanization and Population Change in China: Parallels and Differences to the Developed World** (Population Geography)

Conveners:

Darren P Smith, Loughborough University, [d.p.smith@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:d.p.smith@lboro.ac.uk)

Shenjing He, The University of Hong Kong, [sjhe@hku.hk](mailto:sjhe@hku.hk)

Diverse processes of urban (and rural) change in China are increasingly being (re)conceptualized and (re)theorized in both population and urban studies (e.g. Wu, 2014). As academic scholarship on 'Transitional China' continues to flourish (e.g. Wang et al., 2015), this poses pressing questions about the salience of transposing dominant concepts and theories from the developed world to understand the demographic, population and other related changes in the Chinese context. This is exemplified by recent studies of gentrification (e.g. Ren, 2015), studentification (e.g. He, 2014) and counterurbanisation (Zhu et al., 2014; Wang and Shen, 2014) in China.

This session aims to explore the merits and limitations of transposing distinct concepts and theories to understand population and urban changes that are unfolding in the Chinese context. The session aims to consider similarities and differences of the impacts of processes of urban change, with a focus on the reproduction and/or reconfiguration of local population structures and dynamics. A diverse set of papers are sought that grapple with these issues, and shed light on the ways in which populations are being transformed in China by contemporary processes of urban change, such as the emergence of urban villages, gated developments and global footprints of large, multinational organisations.