

Call for Papers
2016 UCRN Conference “China’s Urbanization in a New Era”
Xi’an Jiaotong University, China, June 28-30, 2016

The Urban China Research Network (UCRN) will have its next conference at Xi’an Jiaotong University (XJTU), China, on June 28-30, 2016. This conference is co-sponsored by XJTU’s Institute for Empirical Social Science Research (IESSR), the China Initiative at Brown University, and UCRN.

The conference organizing committee consists of Yanjie Bian (yjbian@mail.xjtu.edu.cn), Jieming Chen (jmchen@mail.xjtu.edu.cn), and Zai Liang (zliang@albany.edu).

Conference contact person is Ms. Xulei Ma, IESSR Secretary, email: iessr@mail.xjtu.edu.cn.

The theme of the conference is “China’s Urbanization in a New Era.” This refers to China’s urbanization, broadly defined, in the 21st century, with a focus on those issues arising from the most recent changes in urban China under current leadership. The conference would welcome papers from all perspectives including anthropology, economics, demography, geography, history, management, sociology, political science, public administration, urban planning and design, and urban studies.

Keynote Speaker of the conference is Professor John Logan, the founder of UCRN. Professor Logan will be speaking on the conference theme by sharing his insights into the issues and research topics of the ongoing processes of China’s urbanization.

The conference website is <http://ucrn2016.xjtu.edu.cn>. This is where you obtain information in greater detail about the conference. This website is the venue to which to submit your paper proposals; please read the following for paper submission rules. After January 31, 2016, the conference website will be open for conference registration, hotel reservation, and local tour plans. Accepted papers will be available from the conference website after May 15, 2016.

The conference hotel is Grand Nanyang Hotel, in which all conference sessions are organized and conference participants stay. This hotel is affiliated with XJTU, within a ten-minute walk to the campus. The hotel offers a negotiated discount rate of RMB 350 *yuan* or US\$ 60 for a standard room per night for conference participants. A standard room has either two single beds or a double bed. A more expensive 4-star hotel, Jianguo Hotel, can be arranged and its rate for a standard room is double the rate of the conference hotel. Those who choose to stay at the Jianguo Hotel need to take a 15-minute taxi ride to the conference hotel. Students may prefer to stay at a cheaper hotel, Kangqiao, another XJTU affiliated hotel. Kangqiao offers a negotiated discount rate of RMB 150 *yuan* for a standard room per night. After January 31, 2016, information about hotel reservation will be available from the conference website.

The conference registration fee is RMB 650 *yuan* or US\$ 100 charged to each conference participant. This fee covers three lunches, two dinners, and one conference banquet during the conference, and additional meal tickets will be available in a discount rate to the conference participants' guests for lunch (RMB 60 *yuan*), dinner (RMB 90 *yuan*), and banquet (RMB 120 *yuan*). The registration fees partly assist to cover other conference costs. The deadline to pay the conference registration fee is March 15, 2016, and an online payment method will be provided at the conference website after January 31, 2016.

The paper proposal submission deadline is January 1, 2016. Please submit your paper proposal to the conference website (<http://ucrn2016.xjtu.edu.cn>) or by email to iessr@mail.xjtu.edu.cn. Papers in English will be preferred, but papers in Chinese will also be considered. The proposed paper can take the form of a **full paper** or an **extended (3-4 page) summary** plus the main tables or figures on which the presentation will be based. The cover page of the paper proposal should include every author's name, institutional affiliation, mailing address, and email address. For a co-authored paper, the correspondence author must be identified for contact convenience. Papers with theoretical rigor and/or empirical richness will be given priority to be accepted for presentation at regular sessions, and papers not accepted for presentation may be included in a poster session. Decisions on acceptance will be announced by January 31, 2016.

The organization of sessions: There will be (A) regular sessions and (B) panels from doctoral student paper competition. The regular sessions are open for paper proposals from student and non-student researchers. We encourage former UCRN awardees to submit paper proposals to present their most recent research outcomes; a separate mailing will be sent to them. An UCRN board member or a senior researcher will be assigned to preside the sessions and discuss the papers. For panels from doctoral student paper competition, please read the following.

Panels from Doctoral Student Paper Competition: The 2016 UCRN Conference is continuing its series of conferences highlighting research by doctoral students. The first was held in 2002 in Hong Kong, and the most recent ones were at the University at Albany in 2014 and Brown University in 2015. UCRN counts on a core group of about 30 senior scholars from many disciplines who support the goal of encouraging the promising next generation of urban China research (see <http://mumford.albany.edu/chinanet>).

- Papers to be presented **will be selected competitively** by members of the UCRN international advisory board. Not more than 12 papers will be included, so that each presentation will receive full discussion and commentary by a selected mentor from the members of the UCRN Advisory Board.
- Selected students will be waived for conference fee and covered for up to three nights lodging and meals for presenters. Students' home institutions will be asked to pay the students' transportation expenses (this may be through a department or institute, a research grant, or other institutional funding sources). Institutional support is a prerequisite for this competition.

- The proposed paper should be submitted by email to iessr@mail.xjtu.edu.cn by **January 15, 2016**. Decisions on acceptance will be announced by January 31, 2016.
- The cover page of the paper should include the author's name, institutional affiliation, the program he/she is enrolled in, mailing address, and email address, plus the name and email address of the person who will send a recommendation letter on the student's behalf.
- **A recommendation letter from the student's adviser and/or unit head** should be addressed to the conference organizing committee including: 1) reasons why the paper merits consideration, and 2) affirmation that the student's institution will cover round-trip transportation between origin city and Xi'an if the paper is selected. The recommendation letter is the responsibility of the student and submitted along with the paper proposal.
- Eligible persons are students in any discipline relevant to urban China research and who have not received a PhD by December 31, 2015. UCRN members include many geographers, sociologists, planners, and historians, but other related fields are welcome.
- The paper must not have been published or accepted for publication at the time of submission. The paper must be **sole-authored** by the student, or if it is co-authored the other authors must also be students.
- Each selected paper will be assigned to a member of the advisory board for **commentary and suggestions for revision** both at the conference and afterwards. There is a possibility for publication at a later stage.
- Promising but incomplete proposals will be provisionally accepted and give a deadline for a more complete proposal with the assistance of advice from an assigned reader. The final version of accepted papers must be submitted by May 15, 2016. Papers will be posted on the conference webpage. Papers should be no longer than 8,500 words (including references and footnotes) with not more than 10 tables and figures.
- The UCRN Advisory Committee will identify **the best paper and the runner up**. These will be announced at the conference, and their authors will receive a free one-day tour to a local tourist site.