



Call for Papers:

Workshop

Chinese Urbanities – Relations between Space and Society

29./30. September 2017, Graduate School of East Asian Studies, Freie Universität Berlin

When we talk about urbanity, we need to engage in qualitative modes of description and analysis. Urbanization has to be understood not only as a reconfiguration of built space, but also as a far-reaching change in its social fabric. Studies of China's rapid urbanization during the last 30 years often emphasize its impressive quantitative aspects: The velocity of development, economic superlatives, and mega-urban areas are assumed to characterize this 'urban revolution.' Yet, how can we understand the shifts in the reciprocal relationship between urban space and urban society?

How does Chinese society change with and through urban space? Which actors play a role in the negotiations and processes that are involved in the production of space? How is space used and appropriated in everyday life, and, vice-versa, how do spatial formations influence the "urban way of life" (Louis Wirth)? On a more abstract level: Can we analyze urbanity in China with the existing theoretical toolkit of urban studies, or do we have to resort to describing uniquely Chinese urbanities?

This workshop focuses on the reciprocal relationships between space and society in smaller and bigger Chinese cities since the beginning of the reform and opening policies of the late 1970s. We welcome contributions from a broad range of disciplines and the participation of an interested audience. Thereby, we hope to provide a forum for dialogue between urban studies and research on China.

Application:

- Please email your **presentation proposal** (300 words maximum) or **register participation** at: urban-china-workshop@web.de
- The deadline for **proposal submission** is May 5.
- For **more information** about the workshop, please email the organizers at: urban-china-workshop@web.de

GEAS offers partial travel grants to PhD students who have no other sources of funding for travel expenses. When you submit your abstract, please inform us whether you would like to apply for travel funding.

Organizers:

Ryanne Flock (Modern East Asian Studies, Goethe Universität Frankfurt / Sinologie, Freie Universität Berlin)

Lisa Melcher (Graduate School of East Asian Studies, Freie Universität Berlin)