



Understanding different levels of segregation in urban China: a comparative study among 21 cities in Guangdong province

Research Talk Summary

It has been suggested that more globalized cities are more polarized and segregated than other cities. However, this is mainly evidenced by advanced capitalist cities and other selected developed cities, while less developed cities are clearly under-researched. This paper draws on both developed and less developed cities in Guangdong province, and asks how socio-economic segregation levels differ among cities of varying economic development levels. We find that, contrary to expectation, less developed cities are showing higher levels of segregation than well-developed cities. We suggest that the key contributing factor is that the well-developed cities in Guangdong province are characterized by manufacturing-dominant economic structures and industrialization-based economic transformation. Correspondingly, their occupational structures are predominantly characterized by employees with a recent agricultural background; the restructuring process is therefore dominated by professionalization of the lower class. The stronger and faster industrialization and professionalization processes produce lower segregation levels in those more developed cities.

This seminar series is co-organized by CHUD (Center for Housing & Urban Development), GeoSAT (Center for Geospatial Sciences, Applications and Technology), and TAMIDS-DAL (Design and Analytics Lab for Urban Artificial Intelligence @ Texas A&M Institute of Data Science).

Speaker's information



Dr. Qiong He is a Post-doctoral Fellow in Social Infrastructure for Equity and Wellbeing (SIEW) Lab at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) since summer 2022. She obtained her PhD from Urban Geography, University of Amsterdam. Before that, she studied at Nanjing University and Renmin University of China for her Master and Bachelor degrees, respectively. Her research interests focus on education and housing inequality, gentrification and suburbanization as well as residential segregation. She also successfully finished a seed fund on residential practice of Chinese migrants in the Netherlands, funded by Centre for Urban Studies, University of Amsterdam.

Time: 10:00-10:30 a.m. US Central Time (Thursday, July 13st, 2023)

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