

2016 International Forum on

Frontiers of Political Geography

**GUANGZHOU
CHINA**



August 18 - 21, 2016

Sun Yat-sen University

NO 135, Xingangxi Road, Guangzhou, China

1. CONFERENCE TITLE

International Forum on Frontiers of Political Geography

IGU Commission on Political Geography Pre-Conference in Guangzhou 2016

2. SESSION TOPICS

We will organize paper sessions and welcome papers on the following three topics:

- (1) Frontiers in Political Geography
- (2) New Dynamisms of Borders in Asia
- (3) Territory and Governance

3. BACKGROUNDS

(1) East-West Dialogues on Frontiers in Political Geography

It has been long discussed that there is an academic hegemony of the West over the rest of the world. For political geography in particular, the majority of leading studies in the world has been conducted by scholars affiliated with a limited number of institutions in the West, especially in the USA and UK. However, this uneven structure of knowledge has its deficiencies. For example, the political processes in China happen in quite different linguistic/cultural/historical contexts from its Western counterparts and need to be approached from angles different from the dominant theories; the unrealistic imagination and interpretation of the Middle East and Far East also have great impact upon the political geographical research on the East. These misunderstandings can be partly ironed out through more dialogues and proper “translation”. Therefore, the closer academic exchange and collaboration between the East and the West are necessary. Such exchange and collaboration would form a platform for political geographers from different worlds to conduct better theoretical and empirical research.



Recently, China's growing national power, increasing involvement in international affairs, and rising status as a new geopolitical power have gained much international attention. There are a number of political geographers in the West who are concerned with political geographical processes in China. However, the current studies generally fail to give an in-depth examination of China's political, economic, and, above all, cultural particularities. Moreover, some misunderstandings, such as China Threat Theory, have become popular. There is thus an urgent need to establish an international research platform for communication between Chinese political geographers and the Western researchers.

In 2016, the International Geographic Congress (IGC) will be held in Beijing, China. This will be a perfect opportunity for the above-mentioned academic exchange between geographers from China and abroad. This forum, as a prelude of the IGC, aims at promoting academic exchange and mutual understanding, and hopefully establish a collaborative platform between Chinese and foreign political geographers. Papers for this session will be given by invited speakers across the world.

(2) New Dynamisms of Borders in Asia

Border, or border region, refers to an area constituted by a boundary/boundaries. Border studies have become one of the most flourishing fields in political geography. On one hand, border has an important effect on the flow of goods, migration, capital, and information. On the other hand, it plays a vital role in national security.

Although there is a large number of border studies in the literature, not much attention has been paid to the Asian world, which is reshaping and generating various borders with the rapid development of Asian countries. The US's "return to Asia Pacific" strategy also makes the border issue a potential trigger of regional territorial conflicts. Therefore, the reshaping of borders in Asia should be an important topic in current political geography. This session welcome all papers looking at shifts and transformations of frontiers and borders in both Asia and other areas.

Our conference venue, Guangzhou located in the south of Mainland China is a rapidly globalizing city and of great geographic proximity with Shenzhen/Hong Kong border region with a special historical background as a major river port city. On the other hand, with the gathering of African immigrants in Guangzhou, an intra-urban racial border is also forming within Guangzhou. Thus, the historical and contemporary location of Guangzhou makes this conference a perfect opportunity to discuss the dynamisms of border regions of (Southern) China and similar phenomena in Asia and beyond. We welcome papers that investigate new aspects of dynamic shifts and transformations of frontiers and borders. A one-day field trip to the Shenzhen/Hong Kong border region will be followed for a continuous discussion of these topics.

(3) Micro Territoriality and Urban Governance

Globalization and information technology revolution lead to enhanced mobility of population, capital, ideas information and changing social environment



accompanied by emerging problems. Urban space seems more fragmented, fragile and unfixable, which makes urban governance facing unprecedented challenges. "Territoriality" is core concept in political geography that has been widely used to affect social, political and economic organization. Echoing the increasing attention of urban governance in political geography, this session attempts to look into the connection of territoriality with urban governance.

This session aims to provide a platform for discussing the reconfiguration of territoriality and governance at urban scale. All topics related to this issue are encouraged, such as production/fix of urban activity spaces, identity formation of urban migrants, intra-urban spatial control of crime and human mobility, development of border region between cities, rescaling of urban spaces, surveillance of migrants, and other related topics. Given that rapid urbanization in China causes a variety of social problems, we hope this session can give us some clues to approach such problems.

4. ORGANIZER

School of Geography and Planning, Sun Yat-Sen University

5. CO-ORGANIZERS

International Geographical Union Commission on Political Geography

Association of Borderlands Studies

The Geographical Society of China

6. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

English, Chinese

7. DEADLINES

March 31, 2016, Registration deadline

May 31, 2016, Abstract/Paper Submission deadline

8. REGISTRATION FEE

(1) General participants: \$300 (or 1,500 RMB)



Which includes conference services, meals, refreshments, printed materials, and the half day fieldtrip in Guangzhou's old town area in the afternoon 18 August.

(2) Full paper-contributors who get 2 recommendation votes after the review of their papers will be granted a 50%-100% reduction of the registration fee.

(3) Student participants: \$100 (or 500 RMB).

9. SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Arrangement	Location
18 August	Whole day	Check in	Sun Yat-Sen University
	Afternoon	Downtown investigation	Guangzhou
19 August	Whole day	Academic meeting	Sun Yat-Sen University
20 August	Whole day	Academic field trip	Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong
21 August	Whole day	Move to Beijing	Shenzhen - Guangzhou- Beijing

10. ACCOMMODATION

International Conference Center, Sun Yat-Sen University

Single room 480 RMB per night

Double room 480 RMB per night

(Participants will be given the conference price discount)

11. CONTACTS

Conference Coordinators:

Yungang Liu(Sun Yat-sen University), liuyung@mail.sysu.edu.cn

Takashi Yamazaki (Osaka City University), yamataka@lit.osaka-cu.ac.jp

Conference E-mail: politicalsysu@gmail.com

Conference Website: <http://politicalsysu.com/>



Registration Form

(Please send this form to politicalsysu@gmail.com by March 31, 2016)

Name		Gender		Country or Area	
Affiliation				Title	
Telephone			Fax		
E-mail					
Address				Zip Code	
Paper title					
Paper Abstract (approx. 200 words)					
Presentation	Oral Presentation (); Commentary ()				
Session number					
Language	English (); Chinese ()				
Period of stay	From August_____ to August_____				
Room Preference	Single room (); Standard room (); No need ()				
Food Preference	Religion (); Vegetarian (); Normal ()				
Participation in field trip	18th (); 20th(); 21th(); NO ()				
Remarks					

Note: Please check “√” in the brackets where necessary.

Address: Sun Yat-sen University, NO 135, Xingangxi Road, Guangzhou, China,

Zip Code: 510275



FIELDTRIP

1) Historical town areas in Guangzhou

Duration: one afternoon (18 August)

Route: Yan Ning Road→Shangxiajiu→Dade Road→Beijing Road→Tianzi Marina
(Pearl River Night Cruise)

Fee: Free for participants



Yan Ning Road: it was built in 1931, and is known as "the most beautiful street in Guangzhou" because of its traditional style. It has the most complete arcade street in Guangzhou and tens of cultural relics. It was included into urban renewal planning in 2007.

Commercial Street of Shangxiajiu: it is one of three traditional commercial centers in Guangzhou. It is 1237 meters long. There are 238 kinds of commercial shops and thousands of local businesses there. After years' development, it gradually becomes a commercial pedestrian street with both Chinese and Western characteristics.

Beijing Road: it is located in downtown Guangzhou. It has multiple functions of cultural, entertainment, business. The average daily flow in Beijing Road is about 40 million people. It is also the most bustling commercial center in Guangzhou.



2) Boundary region of Shenzhen and Hong Kong

Duration: one day (20 August)

Route: Qianhai→Shekou→Futian→Luohu→Yantian

Fee: 700RMB (Which includes the transportation, meals, accommodation, English guides, printed materials, and insurance)



Qianhai Shenzhen-Hongkong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone:

it is located in the west of Shenzhen Nanshan Peninsula. Qianhai is adjacent to Hong Kong International Airport and Shenzhen airport. You can arrive at the airports in Shenzhen within 10 minutes and arrive in the central of Hong Kong within half an hour. It is planned to be the China's Manhattan by 2020.

Luohu Port: Luohu port links Hong Kong and the mainland China. Currently, it is the second largest passenger entry and exit land border checkpoints in China. It is also the first window opened for foreign exchanges. Most foreigners enter mainland China from this port before the reform and opening.

Chung Ying Street: it is located within the border town of Sha Tau Kok (Hong Kong) and Shatoujiao (Shenzhen). All kinds of shops along the Chung Ying Street are bounded by "boundary monument" in the middle of the street. One side of the street



belongs to Hong Kong and the other belongs to Mainland China. Although it is just less than 0.5 km long and less than 7 meters wide, various products from other continents can be seen here. Since one needs a special license to get into the frontier area, Chung Ying Street is called 'The SAR of SAR'.

3) Transfer from Shenzhen to Beijing by High Railway

Duration: one day (21, August)

Route: Shenzhen→Beijing

Fee: 1000RMB (Which includes the transportation, meals, printed materials, and insurance)