

IVR 2019 · Special Workshop 106 · Thursday 11 July in the morning

## **Contemporary Spatial Justice in Urban China: Theoretical Review, Case Studies and Legal Critique**

**Total time: 4 hrs**

Contemporary China has many faces in its daily developments, among which urbanization deserves more intellectual endeavours. Since its grand project of reform and opening started in 1978, contemporary China has experienced marketization, remarkable economic achievements, and the establishment of a socialist legal system. These three dimensions closely associate with the ongoing process of urban transformation, which involves not only the new cities and their administrators but also the increasing urban dwellers and their claims.

Meanwhile, scholarly attentions on 'law and space' have risen only very recently in Chinese scholarship. As a working group, we have successfully launched the very first round of discussions on 'law and space'; online and well participated, in Chinese legal scholarship in early 2018. For IVR 2019, we aim to further our work in particular on spatial justice in post-1978 China. Our proposed workshop would provide a theoretical review, case studies and legal critique in the following sections:

Workshop Chair: Prof. ZHU Jie (vice dean, School of Law, Wuhan University, China)

1. Legal Philosophy for Anthropocene (assoc. Prof ZHU Mingzhe, China University of Political Sciences and Law, China)
2. An unsettled legal theory of spatial justice (Dr YANG Jingzhe, University of Overseas Chinese, China)
3. The changing boundaries of Chinese cities in the 1980s and 1990s (Mr ZHANG Guanchi, Harvard Law School, USA)
4. Monitoring administrative barriers to the Beijing-Tianjin-Hubei coordinated development (Mr HUA Weijian, School of Law, Wuhan University, China, co-authored with Prof ZHU Jie)
5. Lilong 里弄 in modern Shanghai and its preservation in the legal and realistic context (Ms ZHU Kaiyi, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands)
6. Accessing the urban developments in the perspective of law and geography (Mr HUA Weijian, Wuhan University, China)
7. Million mansions for the poor? 广厦为寒士? : The right to shelter, land policy and demolition conflicts in urban China (Dr ZHAI Han, Wuhan University, China )
8. Questions and open discussions: this section welcomes any participant that is interested in any part of this workshop with any question or comment. You can contact Dr ZHAI Han ([hzhai@outlook.com](mailto:hzhai@outlook.com)) beforehand or just walk in our workshop on 11 July 2019.

Departure from incompatibility between the existing spatial theories and the Chinese urbanization practice, we examine and evaluate the Chinese cases in both city planning and historic building preservation. We inquire the historical, legal, and cultural factors behind the scene, with special concerns on the hidden structure of the ownership from an evolving socialist legal system. It is argued that proper solutions shall embrace accountability and transparency public mobilization and participation under the general rule of law and the Chinese constitutional features.