

Sustainable urban infrastructure and social inclusion
–improving choice and wellbeing in UK and Chinese cities

Invitation to participate in a workshop at the University of Westminster, London, 1–3 December 2016

This call is an invitation to early-career researchers (doctoral and postdoctoral) from Chinese and UK universities to participate in a workshop on sustainable infrastructure and cities, and present a paper. The workshop is relatively small-scale, and focused on interaction between early-career and senior participants from a wide range of disciplines. There is no admission fee, and meals will be covered for those accepted. Accommodation expenses for those travelling from out of London will also be covered.

The workshop is funded by the Newton Fund, British Council.

Early-career researchers include PhD students and those who have obtained their PhD in the last 10 years. To apply, please send a title and abstract to: Professor Johan Woltjer, j.woltjer@westminster.ac.uk.

Application deadline: 31 October 2016

Workshop theme

This workshop investigates how cities and urban infrastructures offer choice and wellbeing. In cities, wellbeing is often limited for economically vulnerable groups following, for example, poor accessibility and arrangements for citizen involvement. The workshop addresses issues of social sustainability in cities and specifically how a variety of infrastructures in cities offer choice. The focus overall is on cities and urban life in China and the UK and an investigation of cases and policies.

Example questions for debate will be: What are the main challenges facing our cities and infrastructures? Do we have effective policy tools in place to deliver wellbeing and sustainability? What benefits should urban infrastructure deliver for more vulnerable groups? How can they participate, benefit or even buy-in? How can urban infrastructure design and planning actively incorporate liveability and wellbeing criteria? Another important question for debate will be: what are the key opportunities and challenges facing policymakers, and what are the prospects for delivering a more inclusive model of urban infrastructure development in China and the UK?

Workshop format

The program is designed to facilitate presentations over a period of three days. It starts on the morning of 1st December, and sessions end in the afternoon of the 3rd. The program will follow a plenary format, and will include active participation by early stage researchers through case-studies, talks, meetings with senior researchers, and contributions to discussion. The sessions highlight presentations, interactive discussion, and plenary lesson-drawing for improved policy making. The

workshop will include paper writing by a selection of participants at the workshop, leading to an edited book published by an internationally recognized publisher.

Organisers

The workshop is building on an existing partnership between the University of Westminster and the University of Peking. Senior researchers involved are: Pengjun Zhao (Professor of Urban and Transport Planning, Peking University), Changchun Feng (Professor of Economic Geography, Peking University), Bin Lu (Professor and Head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Peking University), Nick Bailey (Professor of Urban Regeneration, University of Westminster), Simon Joss (Professor of Science & Technology Studies, International Eco-Cities Initiative, University of Westminster), Johan Woltjer (Professor of Urban Infrastructures, University of Westminster).