

School of Arts and Social Sciences
International Workshop
on Gender and the Urban in the 21st Century

HKMU + GenUrb Workshop

December 5–6, 2024 (Thursday and Friday)

The Jockey Club Council Chamber (A1216), 12/F, Main Campus,
Hong Kong Metropolitan University, 30 Good Shepherd Street,
Ho Man Tin, Kowloon, Hong Kong



CONVENORS

Professor Linda PEAKE, York University, Toronto
Dr Penn Tsz Ting IP, Hong Kong Metropolitan University

CO-CONVENORS

Professor Anindita DATTA, The University of Delhi
Dr Terence SHUM, Hong Kong Metropolitan University
Dr Xuying YU, Hong Kong Metropolitan University



For further information and registration.

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ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Workshop Description

To celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU), HKMU Scholars Dr. Terence SHUM, Acting Head of the Department of Social Sciences, Dr. Xuying YU, Head of the Department of Humanities, Language, and Translation, and Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP, Assistant Professor in the School of Arts and Social Sciences (A&SS), together with Professor Linda PEAKE, Director of the City Institute at York University (2013–2023), Toronto, and Professor Anindita DATTA, Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Delhi have organized this A&SS International Workshop on gender and the urban in the 21st century, which will focus on the intersection of urban studies and gender studies to explore how rapid urbanization in Asia and global cities elsewhere and new urban policy agendas have (re)shaped women’s urban worlds. The workshop will also zoom into the lives of women in different social classes to interrogate the ways in which urban development in tandem with global capitalism have affected people’s everyday lives within and across new urban geographies of inequality in society.

Objectives

The international workshop will enable scholars from the GenUrb project to meet with HKMU scholars. We aim to establish an academic network between HKMU scholars, GenUrb researchers and Chinese scholars based in cities in Mainland China, Hong Kong, India, Canada, and the USA. The workshop will also launch the edited volume, *Feminist Explorations of Urban China* (Routledge 2025), sponsored and supported by GenUrb.

The GenUrb Project Funding

The GenUrb project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Grant, “Urbanization, Gender and the Global South: A Transformative Knowledge Network” (GenUrb) (file number 895-2017-1011). This feminist comparative project brought together over forty international feminist scholars, addressing issues of urban place-making and poverty, drawing on data collected with women living in low-income neighborhoods located in six Global South cities—Cochabamba, Delhi, Georgetown (Guyana), Ibadan, Ramallah, and Shanghai.

WORKSHOP CONVENORS

Convenors: Professor Linda PEAKE, York University, Toronto
Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP, Hong Kong Metropolitan University

Co-convenors: Professor Anindita DATTA, The University of Delhi
Dr. Terence SHUM, Hong Kong Metropolitan University
Dr. Xuying YU, Hong Kong Metropolitan University

NETWORK

A two-day workshop focusing on the intersection of **gender studies** and **urban studies** that brings together researchers from HKMU, the GenUrb project, and scholars from universities in China:

Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong;
New York University Shanghai, Shanghai;
Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai;
Shanghai University, Shanghai;
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong;
The University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, Shanghai; and
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Suzhou.

Other scholars based in North America and India at:

The City University of New York, New York, USA;
The University of California, Los Angeles, USA;
The University of Delhi, Delhi, India;
S.S.V. College, Hapur, India; and
York University, Toronto, Canada.

Contacts

School of Arts and Social Sciences, HKMU

Website: <https://www.hkmu.edu.hk/as/>

GenUrb Project

Website: <https://genurb.apps01.yorku.ca>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GenUrbNetwork>

WORKSHOP TIMETABLE

December 5, 2024 (Thursday)

09:30 – 09:40	Registration and Reception	A1216, Main Campus
09:40 – 09:50	Opening remarks	A1216, Main Campus
09:50 – 09:55	Group Photo (I)	A1216, Main Campus
10:00 – 11:10	Panel I: GenUrb I	A1216, Main Campus
11:10 – 11:30	Break	Foyer 12/F, Main Campus
11:30 – 12:30	Panel I: GenUrb I	A1216, Main Campus
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch (By invitation)	Foyer 12/F, Main Campus
14:30 – 15:30	Panel II: GenUrb II	A1216, Main Campus
15:30 – 15:50	Break	Foyer 12/F, Main Campus
15:50 – 16:20	Panel II: GenUrb II	A1216, Main Campus
16:20 – 17:00	Open Discussion	A1216, Main Campus
17:00 – 19:30	Dinner (By invitation)	Super Star Chinese Cuisine, MOKO

December 6, 2024 (Friday)

09:30 – 09:55	Registration and Reception	A1216, Main Campus
09:55 – 10:05	Welcoming remarks	A1216, Main Campus
10:05 – 10:10	Group Photo (II)	A1216, Main Campus
10:15 – 11:10	Panel III: Special Topics on Gender and the Urban I	A1216, Main Campus
11:10 – 11:30	Break	Foyer 12/F, Main Campus
11:30 – 12:30	Panel III: Special Topics on Gender and the Urban I	A1216, Main Campus
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch (By invitation)	Foyer 12/F, Main Campus
14:30 – 15:00	Panel IV: Special Topics on Gender and the Urban II	A1216, Main Campus
15:00 – 15:20	Break	Foyer 12/F, Main Campus
15:20 – 15:50	Panel IV: Special Topics on Gender and the Urban II	A1216, Main Campus
15:50 – 16:45	Closing Keynote	A1216, Main Campus
16:45 – 17:00	Closing Remarks	A1216, Main Campus

PROGRAM

Date: Day 1, December 5, 2024 (Thursday)

Venue: The Jockey Club Council Chamber (A1216) 12/F, Main Campus

09:30–09:40	Registration and Reception
09:40–09:50	Opening remarks by Deputy Director of PSPRC and Acting Department Head, Department of Social Sciences Dr. Terence SHUM Chair: Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP
09:50–09:55	Group Photo (I)
Panel I: GenUrb I	
10:00–10:15	Introducing the GenUrb project and the edited volume, <i>Feminist Explorations of Urban China</i> (Routledge 2025) Prof. Linda PEAKE, PI of the GenUrb project Chair: Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP
10:15–11:10	Opening Keynote (40 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A) Prof. Yingchun JI and Prof. C. Cindy FAN Gender Dynamics of Hypergamy: Insights from Parents in Shanghai's Matchmaking Corner Chair: Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP
11:10–11.30	Break
	Presentations by urban feminist scholars based on the edited volume, <i>Feminist Explorations of Urban China</i> (Routledge 2025) (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A) Chair: Prof. Linda PEAKE

11:30–12:00	Dr. Lucetta Y. L. KAM Queer Exploration of a Mobile China: The Transnational Journey of Queer Women from China
12:00–12:30	Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP and Dr. Yu ZHANG The Female Genealogies of Grassroots Families: Mother–Daughter Relationships during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Shanghai’s Workers’ New Villages in the New Era
12:30–14:30	Lunch (By invitation)

Panel II: GenUrb II

	Presentations by urban feminist scholars based on the edited volume, <i>Feminist Explorations of Urban China</i> (Routledge 2025) (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A) Chair: Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP
14:30–15:00	Dr. Lena SCHEEN Memory in Action: Elderly Women Protesting the Demolition of a Temple
15:00–15:30	Dr. Xi LIU Class and Gender: The Deformation of Urban Space in Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction
15:30–15:50	Break
	Presentations by invited scholars (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A) Chair: Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP
15:50–16:20	Dr. Ling HAN The Politics of Gender Neutrality: Platform-based Food Delivery Workers Navigating Urban Spaces in Hong Kong
16:20–17.00	Open Discussion: <i>Feminist Explorations of Urban China</i> Chair: Prof. Cindi KATZ
17:00–19:30	Dinner (By invitation)

Date: Day 2, December 6, 2024 (Friday)

Venue: The Jockey Club Council Chamber (A1216) 12/F, Main Campus

09:30–09:55	Registration and Reception
09:55–10:05	Welcoming remarks by Acting Dean Prof. Eva Kit Wah MAN , A&SS, HKMU Chair: Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP
10:05–10:10	Group Photo (II)

Panel III: Special Topics on Gender and the Urban I

10:15–11:10	GenUrb Keynote (40 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A) Prof. Anindita DATTA and Prof. Swagata BASU Theorizing Women’s Work as Citymaking in Asia Chair: Prof. C. Cindy FAN
11:10–11:30	Break
	Presentations by invited scholars (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A) Chair: Prof. C. Cindy FAN
11:30–12:00	Dr. Dongjing KANG Beyond the Spectrum of the Demoness and the Goddess: Explore Rural Tibetan Women’s Understanding of Domestic Violence amidst #LhamoAct in Southwest China
12:00–12:30	Dr. Kai Khiun LIEW Unexpected Alternative Sojourns: <i>Little Women</i> and <i>Ajoomma</i> in K-Dramaland’s Transnational Cityscapes
12:30–14:30	Lunch (By invitation)

Panel IV: Special Topics on Gender and the Urban II

	Presentations by invited scholars (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A) Chair: Dr. Kaby KUNG
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14:30–15:00	Dr. Arbitor MA The Gender of CEOs and the Firms' Cost of Finances
15:00–15:20	Break
15:20–15:50	Prof. Jeff MASKOVSKY Engendering the Urban Commons: Lessons from AIDS Activism in Philadelphia
15:50–16:45	Closing Keynote (40 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A) Prof. Cindi KATZ (Member of GenUrb's International Advisory Board) The Contours of Change: Social Reproduction, Gender, and the City Chair: Prof. Anindita DATTA
16:45–17:00	Closing Remarks Dr. Xuying YU Chair: Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP

HKMU SCHOLARS

Prof. Eva Kit Wah MAN, Acting Dean

Professor Eva Kit Wah MAN received her PhD in Philosophy and Chinese Studies from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and she studied Art History for her postgraduate degree at the University of Victoria, BC Canada in the 1990s. Her research expertise lies in philosophy of art, comparative aesthetics, gender and cultural studies and Neo-Confucian philosophy. She has published 41 books including single authored and edited academic anthologies and creative writing, over 100 entries in refereed and indexed academic journals and book chapters. Her GRF grants include research projects in Hong Kong Visual Arts History, Hong Kong Dance History and Choreography Studies, and Aesthetic Discourses in Contemporary China. She was a Fulbright Scholar affiliated at the Chinese Studies Center of UC Berkeley, a life fellow of the Clare Hall College of the University of Cambridge, UK, AMUW endowed professor at the Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, US and Kiriyaama endowed Professor at the Center of Pacific and Asia Studies at the University of San Francisco, US. She is currently serving on the editorial board of 7 international academic journals. She is Emeritus Professor in Humanities at Hong Kong Baptist University. During her long years' service at HKBU, she was the Head of Humanities and Creative Writing, Acting Director of the Academy of Visual Arts, Executive Associate Dean of Graduate School and Director of the Academy of Film. She was an awardee of President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Scholarly Work and President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Service at HKBU and an awardee of Outstanding Performance in Public Service conferred by the Home Affairs Bureau of HKSAR. She is now serving at Hong Kong Arts Development Council chairing the Committee of Art Criticism, a member of the Acquisition Committee of M+, and a Board member of Tai Kwun Arts and Heritage Company run by the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Dr. Terence SHUM, Deputy Director of PSPRC and Acting Head of the Department of Social Sciences

Dr. Terence SHUM is Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences and Deputy Director of Public and Social Policy Research Centre. He is also the Program Leader of Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honors (JUPAS Code: JS9009). Dr. Shum is an anthropologist whose ethnographic interests lie in Asia, particularly with ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, China and Thailand. His research interests include a number of migration and development issues such as refugees, migration and border governance, identity, home-making, social integration, and multiculturalism. Dr. Shum has successful records in obtaining research grants from Hong Kong Research Grants Council. His recent publications include: *Housing and ageing policies in Chinese and global contexts: Trends, development and policy issues* (co-edited with Prof. Charles CL Kwong, Springer), *Diaspora aesthetics: Music performance and practices of belonging among the South Asians in Hong Kong (South Asian Diaspora)*, *Performing culinary diaspora: Food practices and culinary encounters of South Asians in Hong Kong (Journal of Intercultural Studies)*, and *Asylum-seeking journeys in Asia: Refugees in Hong Kong and Bangkok* (Routledge). From 2014 to the present, Dr. Shum's research work has received external funding support in excess of HK\$2.9 million (as Principal Investigator).

Dr. Xuying YU, Head of the Department of Humanities, Language and Translation

Dr. Xuying YU is an Associate Professor in the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Hong Kong Metropolitan University. Her research interests include Chinese science fiction, modern Chinese intellectual history, and Taiwanese literature. Dr. Yu has published several research papers in leading Chinese journals and contributed book chapters to volumes published by Palgrave and Routledge. She has successfully secured research grants from various sources. Her projects encompass studies on Chinese ecological science fiction, critical reflections on Anthropocene in Chinese science fiction, the May Fourth Movement and Chinese Enlightenment, as well as dystopia and anti-utopia in Chinese science fiction.

Dr. Kaby KUNG, Director of the Research Institute for Digital Culture and Humanities

Dr. Kaby KUNG is an Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, and the Director of the Research Institute for Digital Culture and Humanities at Hong Kong Metropolitan University. Her research interests include Chinese Feminism, Chinese-Western Comparative Literature, Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature and Film, Chinese Diasporic Writing and Film, and Digital Humanities. She is the editor of *Reconceptualizing the Digital Humanities in Asia: New Representations of Art, History, and Culture* (2020).

Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP is an Assistant Professor at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, and a core member of the SSHRC-funded partnership project “Urbanization, Gender and the Global South: A Transformative Knowledge Network” (GenUrb). Her research interests include gender and women’s studies, urban studies, migration studies, and affect theory. Her research has been published in *Emerging Media*, the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, the *Journal of Gender Studies*, and the *Journal of Urban Affairs*. Ip is the first author of *The Ordinary Women: Qualitative Research on Workers’ New Villages in Shanghai* (2021, in Chinese, with Yu Zhang and Xi Liu) and the editor of *Feminist Explorations of Urban China* (2025). Collaborated with professors and students at Hong Kong Metropolitan University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Ip is the Director of the feminist research platform “HEResearch: Global Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series.”

Dr. Kai Khiun LIEW is a scholar of transnational popular culture and media studies between East and Southeast Asia. Such includes that of the regional circulation of Transnational Chinese popular culture (from Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan) as well as the Korean Wave. Amongst topics within this area includes that of fandom, concert ethnography, Inter-Asia references of media texts, and social media. Dr. Liew is currently an Assistant Professor with Hong Kong Metropolitan University.

Dr. Arbitor MA is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences at Hong Kong Metropolitan University. His research interests include corporate finance, managerial governance, public policy, and housing market. He is also the project leader of the HKMU Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) Price Index.

KEYNOTE LECTURES

Gender Dynamics of Hypergamy: Insights from Parents in Shanghai's Matchmaking Corner

Prof. Yingchun JI, Yue LIU, and Prof. C. Cindy FAN

Abstract

The present Chinese society is at the crossroads of demographic and marriage transitions, when women have surpassed men in educational attainment and many women have become high achievers in income, occupation, and wealth. To understand the gendered dynamics underlying China's female hypergamy tradition, we conducted participant observation at the People's Square Matchmaking Corner in downtown Shanghai and semi-structured interviews with forty-two parents. We have found that men's families continue to support female hypergamy and traditional gender division of labor at home and in the labor market. They seem to hold an invisible "glass ruler" to judge whether women's personal achievements, such as education, work and income, as favorable or unfavorable attributes in the marriage market. Yet, women's families are more reflective and critical about traditional gender roles and mate sorting pattern. We thus discovered a hidden story behind traditional female hypergamy. It is more likely driven by men and their families—with their persistent expectations and mindset about women's caregiving and subordinate roles—than by women and their families' desire to pursue men's socioeconomic status and wealth.

Professor Yingchun JI is the Eastern Scholar Professor at the School of Sociology and Political Science at Shanghai University. As a family sociologist and social demographer, Ji obtained her PhD in the Sociology Department at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her interests include family sociology, social demography, gender, health studies, and quantitative and mixed methods. She has published in journals in multiple disciplines, including sociology, family studies, population studies, and health studies. Through empirical-based research, she seeks to conceptualize and theorize family and gender dynamics in transitional societies such as China. One of her goals is to integrate literature on gender, family, and health studies, applying gender perspectives and family theories to health research. Her current research projects include the reinstitutionization of marriage in China, gender dynamics in transitional China, and China's recent two-child family policy.

Professor C. Cindy FAN is UCLA's Vice Provost for International Studies and Global Engagement, Professor of Geography and formerly Associate Dean of Social Sciences. As UCLA's senior international officer, she oversees the university's global partnerships, twenty-seven interdisciplinary research centers, and eight degree programs within the International Institute. She received her PhD from the Ohio State University and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Bristol. Fan has numerous publications on migration, gender, and regional development in China, including the pioneering book *China on the Move*. She has received the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award and major research grants from the Henry Luce Foundation, Andrew Mellon Foundation, and National Science Foundation, and is an elected member of the National Academy of International Education.

Theorizing Women's Work as Citymaking in Asia

Prof. Anindita DATTA and Prof. Swagata BASU

Abstract

In this keynote presentation, the authors, both feminist geographers, draw on their recent and ongoing work to make a case for theorizing women's work as an essential component of citymaking within Asian contexts. They argue that cities within Asia provide for a specific labor extractive context resting upon the prevailing socio-cultural setting, and a history of colonialism. Such a setting allows for a constant extraction of women's waged, care and sexual labor. In fact, it is women's work, that links bodies, households, neighborhoods and communities across the city's breadth and beyond, much like a connective tissue and hence an essential component of citymaking.

Professor Anindita DATTA is Professor at the Department of Geography, University of Delhi and Past Chair, IGU Commission on Gender and Geography. She is the first Asian (and Indian) woman to be elected as Vice President, IGU. Her work focusses on gendered and epistemic violence, feminist dissidence, spaces of resistance and geographies of care. Prof. Datta has successfully introduced new curriculum in the area of geography of gender, published consistently in internationally known peer reviewed journals with an interdisciplinary perspective, served as member International editorial boards for *Gender, Place & Culture* and *Social & Cultural Geography*. Prof. Datta has been invited as visiting faculty to the Department of Gender Studies, Lund University, Sweden under the Linnaeus Palme program, has held an Erasmus Mundus fellowship and been invited to deliver talks and keynotes at the Royal Geographical Society and Institute of British Geographers, UK, NTNU Norway, University of Bordeaux, France, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, NIAS and University of Copenhagen, Denmark, University of Groningen, the Netherlands, Nara Women's University, Japan among others. She is currently Associate Editor of *Dialogues in Human Geography*; IGU deputy representative to the Standing Committee on Gender Equality in Sciences; and recipient of the 2023 Jan Monk Service Award for her contributions to feminist geography. Her recent books include *Gender Space and Agency in India: Exploring Regional Genderscapes* and the co-edited volumes *Elgar Handbook on Gender and Cities*, *Bridging Worlds Building Feminist Geographies* and *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Feminist Geographies*. A soldier's daughter, Anindita grew up in different cantonment towns and has travelled continuously across India leaving her with a finely honed spatial imagination that throws up startling insights in her explorations of space and place. She sees no contradiction in her role as mother of three and hands on feminist geographer.

Professor Swagata BASU is Professor and Head of the Department of Geography at SSV College, Hapur, India. Swagata's research interests are in the areas of Violence against Women (VAW) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), as well as issues related to women's rights to the city. Swagata works closely with women's organizations that are associated with women's livelihood issues in low-income urban neighborhoods. Swagata is currently a member of the Steering Committee of the International Geographical Union's Commission for Gender and Geography. Swagata has published her research in many national and international journals, edited books, and presented her research at various international conferences in India and abroad.

The Contours of Change: Social Reproduction, Gender, and the City

Prof. Cindi KATZ

Abstract

Social reproduction is a geographically and historically differentiated process encompassing the production of a stratified labor force and the cultural forms and practices that create and maintain its differences while making them common sense. It involves both the sensuous labor of everyday life and the structured practices that unfold in dialectical relation to production. These material social practices take place across geographic and temporal scales, encompassing daily and generational relations that are as much intimate as global in their effects and charge. Social reproduction also involves the reproduction of the material grounds and conditions of production, including the built environment, the conservation of environmental resources and the concerns of environmental justice. The work of social reproduction is racialized, gendered and class specific, and is accomplished within a contested and shifting amalgam that includes the family, household, state, workplace, and institutions of civil society including schools, courts, and prisons. My presentation will offer a critical discussion of these concerns, with particular emphasis on gender and the city, drawing connections among sites and practices that foster healthy, housed, and secure social reproduction.

Professor Cindi KATZ is Professor of Geography, Women's and Gender Studies, and American Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Her research concerns social reproduction, the production of nature, the workings of the security state in everyday environments, the privatization of the public environment, the cultural politics of childhood, and the intertwining of memory and history in the geographical imagination. She has published widely on these themes as well as on social theory and the politics of knowledge. She is the author of *Growing up Global: Economic Restructuring and Children's Everyday Lives* (2004) which won the American Association of Geographers Meridian Book Award for the Outstanding Scholarly Work in Geography. She is the editor (with Janice Monk) of *Full Circles: Geographies of Gender over the Life Course* (1993), *Life's Work: Geographies of Social Reproduction* (with Sallie Marston and Katharyne Mitchell) (2004), and *The People, Place, and Space Reader* (with Jen Jack Giesecking, William Mangold, Setha Low, and Susan Saegert) (2014). The 2024 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Honor and the 2021 recipient of Distinguished Scholarship Honors from the AAG, Katz held a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University (2003-4), and the Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship in Gender Studies at Cambridge University (2011-12). She is working on two book projects: *Childhood as Spectacle* and a collection of her writings on social reproduction tentatively titled *Vagabond Capitalism: Social Reproduction in Crisis*.

PANELS (DAY 1, DECEMBER 5, 2024)

Queer Exploration of a Mobile China: The Transnational Journey of Queer Women from China

Dr. Lucetta Y. L. KAM

The mobility of LGBTQ+ people around the globe has accelerated in the past 30 years. The typical mobile queer subject in public imagination and scholarly discussion is always male. There is a growing body of work on transnational Chinese and in the spotlight are affluent mobile Chinese with “flexible citizenship” and international students from China. While gender has been highlighted by some scholars as an important factor in transnational mobility, sexuality is always overlooked in transnational Chinese studies. In this chapter, I look into these two under-studied areas to study queer Chinese women’s transnational mobility in the context of post-socialist China and queer globalization. This chapter is based on the interviews of thirty “mobile queer women” in China and Australia between 2015 and 2018. I examine the intersection of sexuality, gender, and transnational mobility, with a focus on queer women’s mobility and immobility, in terms of geography and culture, in both their home and host societies. Areas of investigation include their network capital in their home and the host societies, their changing relationship with family in China, and the formation of subjectivity in the process of transnational mobility.

Dr. Lucetta Y. L. KAM is Associate Professor at the Academy of Language and Culture at Hong Kong Baptist University. She is the author of *Shanghai Lalas: Female Tongzhi Communities and Politics in Urban China* (HKU Press, 2013; Chinese edition 2015). Her publications on gender and sexuality in China, queer studies of Hong Kong, queer migration of Chinese women, and Sinophone queer female fandom in East Asia are included in various journals and edited books. Her current projects are the transnational mobility of queer women from China and Hong Kong and queer Asian popular culture.

The Female Genealogies of Grassroots Families: Mother–Daughter Relationships during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Shanghai’s Workers’ New Villages in the New Era

Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP and Dr. Yu ZHANG

Shedding light on grassroots families, this chapter studies the mother–daughter relationship, in tandem with the COVID-19 pandemic in Shanghai, with a focus on the socialist Workers’ New Villages (WNV), the low-income neighborhoods perceived as ghettos by the local dwellers. This chapter draws on an ethnographic study of six life histories with three pairs of mothers and daughters, as well as COVID-19 diaries written by five of the research participants. All women in the study endure different kinds of life challenges, including cancer, domestic violence, and unemployment. Based on the fieldwork materials, this chapter examines how the global pandemic has interrupted grassroots women’s everyday life through the lens of Lefebvre’s theorization on everydayness. This chapter discerns that the socialist infrastructure, established since the 1950s, persists in these villages, albeit China’s neoliberal shift. These “socialist remnants,” for instance, the neighborhood

committees and the block leader system, have functioned as a supportive network for the elder women during these difficult times, wherein the younger generation is found struggling more than their mothers in the face of the global pandemic.

Dr. Penn Tsz Ting IP is Assistant Professor at the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, and a core member of the SSHRC-funded partnership project “Urbanization, Gender and the Global South: A Transformative Knowledge Network” (GenUrb). Her research interests include gender and women’s studies, urban studies, migration studies, and affect theory. Her research has been published in *Emerging Media*, the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, the *Journal of Gender Studies*, and the *Journal of Urban Affairs*. Ip is the first author of *The Ordinary Women: Qualitative Research on Workers’ New Villages in Shanghai* (2021, in Chinese, with Yu Zhang and Xi Liu) and the editor of *Feminist Explorations of Urban China* (2025). Collaborated with professors and students at Hong Kong Metropolitan University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Ip is the Director of the feminist research platform “HEResearch: Global Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series.”

Dr. Yu ZHANG is the Executive Director of the Gender and Culture Research Center and Associate Professor at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology. Zhang has obtained her PhD from the School of Social Sciences at Fudan University. She was a post-doctoral fellow at the School of Sociology and Public Policy at Fudan University. She was a visiting scholar at the Centre for Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of Michigan, USA. She is a council member of the Shanghai Institute of Women’s Studies. Her research interests include communities and women in urban development.

Memory in Action: Elderly Women Protesting the Demolition of a Temple

Dr. Lena SCHEEN

Globalization and the privatization of land and housing have caused some of the greatest disappearing acts in cities around the world. With the demolition or gentrification of each neighborhood and the displacement of its community, local culture and historical memory are being erased. Elderly working-class women, in particular, are among the most precarious and hardest hit victims of this global process. This chapter follows a group of elderly women in Shanghai who gather twice a month at the place where, twenty years ago, a temple was located, to burn sacrifice money, incense, and candles, protesting the temple’s demolition. While the temple building is gone and the women are violently silenced by the city’s authorities, this chapter will argue that the public gathering of the women constitutes a political act of making reappear what has disappeared and that their rituals and storytelling are not just a form of resistance but also memory in action.

Dr. Lena SCHEEN is an Associate Professor of Global China Studies at New York University Shanghai. Her research explores the social and cultural impact of fast urbanization, focusing on Shanghai and storytelling. She is the author of *Shanghai Literary Imaginings: A City in Transformation* (AUP, 2015) and the co-editor of *Boredom, Shanzhai and Digitisation in the Time of Creative China* (with Chow Yiu Fai and Jeroen de Kloet, 2019) and *Spectacle and the City: Chinese Urbanities in Popular Culture and Art* (with Jeroen de Kloet, 2013).

Class and Gender: The Deformation of Urban Space in Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction

Dr. Xi LIU

China's rapid modernization and urbanization since the 1980s have given rise to a range of social problems, leading to marked divisions between rural and urban areas, and within the urban space itself. This transformation has created complex social hierarchies based on various social factors including education, profession, wealth, and lifestyle, and other social resources. Drawing on the contemporary Chinese sci-fi works of Chen Qiufan and Hao Jingfang, particularly *Waste Tide* and "Folding Beijing," this chapter explores how these speculative narratives reveal the challenging experiences of various social groups in a changing urban landscape. By blending imaginative storytelling with realistic portrayals, these sci-fi works offer insights into the problems of class disparity and gender inequality in contemporary China. This chapter argues that post-2000 Chinese science fiction, as represented by these two works, artistically exposes the classed and gendered distinctions in today's deformed Chinese urban space, highlighting the intersectional social issues that China needs to address in the twenty-first century.

Dr. Xi LIU (Ph.D, FHEA) is an Associate Professor at the Department of China Studies, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. Her main research fields are Chinese literature and Chinese women's studies. Her research articles appeared in journals including *Theoretical Studies in Literature and Art*, *Journal of Gender Studies*, *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, and *Frontiers of Literary Studies in China*. She has published two monographs on Chinese literary and gender studies and has co-edited one volume on cultural studies of contemporary Northeast China.

The Politics of Gender Neutrality: Platform-based Food Delivery Workers Navigating Urban Spaces in Hong Kong

Dr. Ling HAN

Abstract

This research examines the politics of gender neutrality in food delivery platforms by exploring the experiences of sixty delivery workers in Hong Kong. Although platforms claim to be gender-neutral, algorithms often lack gender sensitivity. Male and female delivery workers navigate Hong Kong's diverse urban landscape—from high-rise estates and traditional tong lau to public housing and village houses—in distinct ways to meet delivery demands. In contrast to many cities where workers use similar modes of transport, Hong Kong's delivery platforms rank workers not only by completed orders but also by transportation mode—from those on foot to electric/non-electric bike riders and motorcycle riders—each tier facing distinct physical and logistical challenges. Through in-depth interviews, I analyze how workers use flexible transportation and, at times, gendered strategies to navigate disparities in strength, speed, risk, and harassment, revealing complex gender dynamics in platform-based delivery work within Hong Kong's unique urban settings.

Dr. Ling HAN is an Assistant Professor in Gender Studies Programme at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is a sociologist researching on the intersection of gender, meaning of work, digital platforms, and nonprofit organizations. She obtained her PhD from the University of California, San Diego and was a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University Center on Philanthropy and

Civil Society. She received her BA in Women's Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and MA in China Studies and Sociology from Tsinghua University. Prior to joining CUHK, she was a Research Fellow at the Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy (ACSEP) at the National University of Singapore Business School. Her current research projects focus on: 1) Gendering platform work in Hong Kong and Taiwan and 2) Digital philanthropy for gender equality in China. She is part of the research team for the global comparative project on the Civic Life of Cities Lab with Stanford University. She leads the research cluster on Gender and Digital Wellbeing with Karlstad University and National Taipei University. Her publications can be found in *China Quarterly*, *China Information*, *Voluntas*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *Women's Studies International Forum*, and *Gender in Management*, etc.

PANELS (DAY 2, DECEMBER 6, 2024)

Beyond the Spectrum of the Demoness and the Goddess: Explore Rural Tibetan Women's Understanding of Domestic Violence amidst #LhamoAct in Southwest China

Dr. Dongjing KANG

Abstract

Lhamo, a 30-year-old Tibetan woman, tragically died when her ex-husband set her on fire during a livestream on Douyin in Sichuan province in 2021. Following her death, the #LhamoAct sparked an anti-domestic violence movement on major Chinese platforms. Informed by decolonial feminist perspectives, we conceptualize the “Good Woman of Tibet” (མཛུགས་མེད།, *mdzang ma*) focusing on two cultural imaginaries: the Demoness and the Goddess, and explore how Tibetan women from remote regions of Southwest China understand domestic violence in the context of the #LhamoAct. Through the analysis of 21 in-depth interviews and social media discourse, we identified three themes: a demoness lacking familial support, a victimized goddess, and modern relationships beyond the spectrum of goddess and demoness. This study enriches non-Western feminist perspectives by exploring how family dynamics within diverse Tibetan cultural contexts shape the understanding of domestic violence in ethnic Tibetan communities in China.

Dr. Dongjing KANG is an Associate Professor in the School of Media and Communication at Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). She holds a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from Ohio University and an M.A. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before joining SJTU, she served as an Assistant Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University and Instructor at the University of Colorado-Denver. Her research lies at the intersection of (Inter)cultural and International Communication, Media and Development, and Organizational Communication. She has published essays in the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, the *Chinese Journal of Communication*, *Language and Intercultural Communication*, and *Qualitative Inquiry*.

Unexpected Alternative Sojourns: Little Women and Ajoomma in K-Dramaland's Transnational Cityscapes

Dr. Kai Khiun LIEW

Abstract

The international popularity of South Korean entertainment in what is known as the Korean Wave or Hallyu has also globalized the country's screen cultures significantly, creating a distinct global cinematic universe termed here as K(Korean)-dramaland. This narrative zone is axle along gender binaries of power geometrics. In terms of cinematic mobility, the feminine falls within the banalized realm of family dramas and fantastical heteronormative intimacies of romantic escapades and encounters in iconic Western tourist landmarks. In contrast, K-dramaland's tumultuous geopolitics and memories in both South Korea and often the Third World belongs to the masculinist public realm of men. These boundaries can however be transverse by women protagonists of K-dramaland. In the Netflix's series *Little Women* (2022), an ordinary financially struggling working class white collared “Office Lady” retraces

through her travel in the futuristic financial center of Singapore the buried trauma of Korea's involvement in the Vietnam War. In the film *Ajoomma* (2022) directed by Singaporean He Shuming, a lost middle-aged Singaporean "auntie" turned the suburb of Seoul into a melodramatized landscape of shared autobiographical memories. Through the stated productions, this paper explores the transnational mobilities and memoryscapes that create the affirmative aesthetics from women's unexpected alternative sojourns within K-dramaland.

Dr. Kai Khiun LIEW is a scholar of transnational popular culture and media studies between East and Southeast Asia. Such includes that of the regional circulation of Transnational Chinese popular culture (from Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan) as well as the Korean Wave. Amongst topics within this area includes that of fandom, concert ethnography, Inter-Asia references of media texts, and social media. Lieu is currently an Assistant Professor with Hong Kong Metropolitan University.

The Gender of CEOs and the Firms' Cost of Finances

Dr. Arbitor MA

This research investigates the impact of the gender of CEOs in relation to corporate governance and its implications for a firm's cost of finances (COF). Utilizing a sample of 4,100 loan agreements from the U.S. publicly listed companies between 1996 and 2011, we analyze the relationship between the gender of CEOs and the structure of loan contracts. Our findings reveal the following:

1. No significant relationship exists between CEOs' gender and loan spread.
2. The gender of the CEOs does not appear to influence the number of general covenants in loan agreements.
3. Male CEOs are associated with a higher usage of financial covenants. Specifically, creditors impose more performance-based covenants on firms led by male CEOs.

These results are consistent with prior research suggesting that firms with female CEOs tend to exhibit lower risk profiles regarding leverage and investment strategies, contributing positively to firm performance. Our study extends the literature by highlighting how gender dynamics are recognized by creditors. The increased financial costs associated with male CEOs are reflected in the imposition of more restrictive financial covenants rather than in general covenants or loan spreads, suggesting that creditors perceive the managerial risk can only be mitigated via a shifting in control rights (ex-post).

Dr. Arbitor MA is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences at Hong Kong Metropolitan University. His research interests include corporate finance, managerial governance, public policy, and housing market. He is also the project leader of the HKMU Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) Price Index.

Engendering the Urban Commons: Lessons from AIDS Activism in Philadelphia

Professor Jeff MASKOVSKY

Militant AIDS activism is widely heralded for contesting neoliberal urban governing logics rooted in austerity, financialization, and privatization and for producing a queer

urban commons animated by sharing, inclusion, and care (Susser and Tonnelat 2013; Grattan 2019). AIDS activists made the epidemic visible by occupying streets, community centers, churches, clinics, and other public and private urban spaces; they fought for life for those considered to be disposable, unruly, and ungovernable in the US urban core; they publicly mourned the vulnerable and sick; and they asserted a queer way of being together that was inclusive, adventurous, playful, and ironic in the face of death and organized abandonment. Yet this is not the end of the story. Drawing on 20 years of ethnographic and historical research on AIDS politics in the major US city of Philadelphia, I show how a queer urban commons formed as a space of health, wellbeing, joy, and survival at the height of the AIDS epidemic. But I also take an intersectional approach to my analysis of the movement and highlight the ways that racial and gender inequalities and class divisions shaped its production.

The paper has three parts. First, I focus on the commoning practices that helped to form and sustain voluntary organizations and militant street protest groups from the 1980s to 1990s. Second, I also discuss the ways that gender, race, and class politics reshaped the commons in the mid-to-late 1990s, when large numbers of urban African Americans became involved in militant AIDS activism. Finally, I discuss popular efforts to sanitize the history of AIDS activism in Philadelphia and beyond. These efforts work to erase the most radical feminist, racial justice, and anticapitalist features of the queer commons from the historical record, replacing them with more respectable, commodifiable, domesticated version of LGBTQIA communal living. Ultimately, this paper has implications for how we apply the urban commoning concept. The case of Philadelphia AIDS activism demonstrates that urban commons, however radical and ostensibly inclusive, are made up of contested practices of racialization, engenderment, and class division. By engendering the urban commons, the exclusionary practices that protect urban commons from external threats come into view, helping us to attend to the ways that different sharing practices reinforce and unsettle entrenched divisions of race, class, gender, and sex. Intersectional analysis is thus essential to our search for new sources of political imagination.

Professor Jeff MASKOVSKY is Professor and Executive Officer (Chair) of the Ph.D. Program in Anthropology at the CUNY Graduate Center, and Professor of Urban Studies at Queens College. His research and writing focus on poverty, welfare, health, security and governance in the urban United States. He is co-editor of *The New Poverty Studies: Ethnographies of Power, Politics and Impoverished People in the United States* (New York University Press, 2001), *Rethinking America: The Imperial Homeland in the 21st Century* (Paradigm Press, 2009), and *Beyond Populism: Angry Politics and the Twilight of Neoliberalism* (West Virginia University Press, 2020). His work has also appeared in many anthologies and in *American Anthropologist*, *American Quarterly*, *Annual Review of Anthropology*, *Antipode*, *City and Society*, *Critique of Anthropology*, *Focaal*, *Identities*, and *Medical Anthropology*. He is currently engaged in two justice- and equality-oriented research projects on the future of the commons, the messy kinds of cooperation, being together, and sharing of resources that people are now cultivating to save a world and a planet in crisis. One project considers the ways that race, sex, gender and class politics enclose the urban commons and the things grassroots activists do to try to overcome these enclosures. A second investigates the future of the rural commons and the ways that scarcity, enclosure, and austerity thinking limit our ability to save them. He has done fieldwork in the city of Philadelphia and in rural areas of northern Spain in pursuit of these projects.

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