

Call for UK Participants to workshop on:

The impact of rapid urbanisation on health in Chinese mega-cities

Under the Researcher Links scheme offered within the Newton Fund, the British Council and National Natural Science Foundation of China will be holding a workshop on the above theme in Xiamen, China on November 27-29, 2017.

The workshop is being coordinated by Prof. Terry Marsden (Cardiff University) and Prof. Yongguan Zhu (Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Science), and will have contributions from other leading researchers. We are now inviting Early Career Researchers from the UK to apply to attend this workshop. All travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Newton Researcher Links programme. The application form, with more details on the initiative, is attached and should be sent to gongy2@cardiff.ac.uk and j.r.dearden@swansea.ac.uk before the deadline of **May 20, 2017**.

Dates and venue: November 27-29, 2017, in Xiamen, China

Host by

- Cardiff University
- Swansea University
- Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Science

UK coordinators: Prof. Terry Marsden, Dr. Yi Gong, Dr. Joel Dearden

China coordinators: Prof. Yongguan Zhu, Dr. Franz Gatzweller, Dr. Yi Zhang

Key themes:

System thinking, complexity science, place-based methods, geography, sociology, urban modeling, environmental science, public health, planning.

The programme, 'British Council Researcher Links' provides opportunities for early career researchers from the UK and internationally to interact, learn from each other and explore opportunities for building long-lasting research collaborations.

As part of this programme, we are now recruiting early career researchers to participate in the above workshop.



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Workshop summary:

China lives in the age of the megacity (cities with a population of more than 10 million). Rapid urbanisation in these large urban areas is increasingly linked with poor planning and a lack of pollution-reduction measures, both of which have severe impacts on public health. The WHO has described recent smog in China as a “health crisis”. This is particularly relevant to the disadvantaged poor. How we decide to meet the challenges of rapid urbanisation will have a strong impact on population health and quality of life in future.

Interactions between people’s health and the built environment are complex and can hold unintended consequences. Increasing evidence points to rapid urbanisation as a source of poor health via unintended consequences such as poorly planned urban sprawl, a lack of access to infrastructure and widening inequalities, especially for the disadvantaged poor.

Thus solutions to health problems need to be sourced from areas such as urban planning in addition to medical innovation. Systems approaches with an emphasis on local contextual factors (i.e. place-based thinking), along with complexity theory have the potential to uncover causes and improve population health, rather than treating the symptoms of urban health disorders.

This workshop aims to facilitate a broader and deeper understanding of systems thinking, complexity theory and place-based methods, in relation to health and rapid urbanization, and to create cross-disciplinary & cross-country links to underpin future training or research bids. The workshop will be highly interdisciplinary and will bring together 34 researchers from China (17) and the UK (17) with research interests relevant to urbanisation and environmental health.

The workshop will provide a unique opportunity for sharing research expertise and networking. During the workshops early career researchers will have the opportunity to present their research in the form of a short oral presentation and discuss this with established researchers from the UK and China. There will be a focus on building up links for future collaborations and participants selected on the basis of their research potential and ability to build longer term links.

The British Council and NSFC will cover the costs related to the participation to the workshop, including: travel (both international and local), accommodation and meals. Costs for the visa will be covered; however participants will be responsible for making all the necessary arrangements. Although this cost will not be covered by the British Council, participants are encouraged to purchase an adequate travel and medical insurance. The British Council accepts no





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responsibility for any problems which may occur when the participants are in-country.

To apply

- Applicant must hold a PhD (or have equivalent research experience) and have up to 10 years post-PhD research experience. They are equivalent to the 'Recognised Researcher' and sometimes 'Experienced Researcher' categories in the EU framework for researchers' careers. http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_Europe_an_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf.
- The applicant must hold a research or academic position (a permanent post, research contract, or fellowship etc.) at a recognized research institution in the UK.
- Please note that participants are expected to attend all sessions of the workshop.

Please send your completed application form, along with a **1-page of CV** (including academic career, publications, markers of esteem, and any other relevant information) to gongy2@cardiff.ac.uk and j.r.dearden@swansea.ac.uk by **May 20, 2017**.

Quality Assessment

- Experience and relevance of the applicant's research area to the workshop
- Motivation and contribution to the aims of the workshop
- Description of the long term impact expected through the participation in the workshop
- Ability to disseminate workshop's outcomes

Selection Procedure

- Eligibility check
- Quality assessment

Notification of results:

Applicants will be notified by email 2 months prior to the workshop.

Equal Opportunities

Equal opportunities and diversity are at the heart of the British Council's cultural relations ambitions. While recognising that some research fields are dominated by one particular gender, co-ordinators are encouraged to work towards an equal gender balance, promote diversity. They must not exclude applicants on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability. Participants' selection undertaken by workshop organisers must not contravene





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this policy. Extra support to enable participation of Early Career Researchers with special needs will be given.

Contact us

Please send any queries to

- Dr. Yi Gong gongy2@cardiff.ac.uk
- Dr. Joel Dearden j.r.dearden@swansea.ac.uk

