

RESEARCH SEMINAR

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Carbon Emissions and Economic Development in China

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China has entered a new phase of economic development — a new normal — in which large-scale, rapid and multidimensional changes in economic structure are happening. We constructed the time-series of CO₂ emission inventories for China and its provinces. Environmentally extended input-output analysis and structural decomposition analysis were applied to investigate the driving forces behind changes in emissions. China's annual emissions growth has declined greatly since 2012, and the gains in energy efficiency were the most important factor to offset emission growth. The relative decoupling of economic growth from carbon emissions is technology driven rather than pure outsourcing. The emissions embodied in China's exports peaked in 2008, mainly due to the changes in production and export structure.

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Dr Zhifu Mi is an Associate Professor and Director of Research of The Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction, University College London (UCL). He has published papers in leading journals, such as *Lancet*, *Science Advances*, *Nature Energy*, *Nature Geoscience*, *Nature Food*, and *Nature Sustainability*. He was awarded the 2018 World Sustainability Award and named in Clarivate 'Highly Cited Researchers'. His research was awarded 2021 Best Paper Award in Energy Economics and 2017 Best Early Career Article in Environmental Research Letters. He is serving as a Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics* and an Executive Editor of *Journal of Cleaner Production*.



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