

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



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**The Performativity of the State in China's
Land Transformation**

ABSTRACT

China urban studies literature has depicted in detail the concerns of and strategies for state-led and land-based accumulation. Besides the pivotal role of the state, we are also reminded of tensions and collusions among agents of the state and between state and non-state actors. However, it is still to some extent obscure with regard to the daily conducts of the state in this land-centred repertoire. Compared with changing policy schemes, micro-level operating mechanisms are less examined, especially those that direct the state's manoeuvre in deploying various discourses for political-economic concerns. In this talk, I focus on *the performativity of the state* as an alternative perspective to interrogate the entanglement of urban and land transformations in China. Drawing on a case study of Dahongmen, a "key village" on Beijing's urban frontier, this talk foregrounds the power of discourses by decoding the way in which certain statements are uttered to *enable* certain actions. Embodying the two capacities of doing things and of making repetition, these statements have constituted the more-than-institutional foundation of the state's land business while at the same time consolidated a new socio-spatial segregation pattern in Chinese cities.

LANGUAGE

English

DATE

1 Apr 2021 (Thu)

TIME

4:30 – 6:00 pm (GMT+8)

ZOOM MEETING

ID: 973 6037 5790

<https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/97360375790>

(no password required)

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Zhao is an Assistant Professor in Urban Planning and Management at Renmin University of China. Trained as a human geographer, his work has been focusing on space and politics in the urban process. After completing his PhD project on Beijing's green belts and *Jiehebu*, he is now developing his work along two lines of inquiry, focusing on the infrastructural lives of authoritarianism and the urban mechanisms of Global China respectively. He is an Editor of the *City* journal, and has contributed to *City*, *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, and *Urban Geography*, among other journals.

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