

Middle Income Strata on the Move Family, Lifestyle and Sustainability in Contemporary China

Research Workshop. December 14th-15th, 2017

Venue: Sino Danish Centre for Education and Research, SDC Building, Eastern Yanqihu Campus,
University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, 380 Huaibeizhuang, Huairou district, Beijing

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Workshop Outline

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Introduction

This workshop will focus on the emerging middle income strata in China and aims at examining vital dynamics in the current historical moment marked by intense entanglements of local, regional and global forces and identities. The workshop will address central trends in the economic and social fields of class and gender. Besides the new perspectives of themes such as family, entrepreneurship, age, marriage, housing, consumption and mobility will be elucidated. All in all this workshop aims at creating synergies between vital but so far divided fields of research in social and material innovations and at exploring potentials and challenges facing the middle strata in China today.

Workshop Location: The workshop will take place at the new SDC Building, in the Eastern Yanqihu campus, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, in Beijing. The newly inaugurated building was designed by Danish Architects and financed by The Danish Industry Federation. It offers a convenient conference site, with guest house, restaurant and accommodation facilities.

Participants: The participants consist in distinguished junior and senior scholars from China and the Nordic countries who are specializing in various themes related to the Chinese middle strata.

Organizers: The Department of Sociology and the Co-ordination for Gender Studies, University of Copenhagen with financial support from the Sino Danish Centre in Beijing. SDC <http://sdc.university/>. The workshop continues and deepens the lively co-operation between University of Copenhagen and Chinese institutions in recent years, including joined seminars and summer-schools at Fudan, PKU, CASS and at the Department of Sociology at University of Copenhagen.

For more practical information, please see separate document “Workshop Practical Information”

Guidelines for Presentations:

Each presenter has 30 minutes; 15-20 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for discussion.

PhD Students (Birte Hansen and Cancan Wang) have 20 minutes; 10 minutes presentation and 10 minutes for discussion.

Please prepare accordingly, and remember to leave some time for discussion. We will end the day with a session on concluding remarks, and future plans.

Program:

December 14th:

17:00 Departure from Beijing – CASS and PKU (details enclosed)

19:30 Dinner and Introduction to the Workshop

December 15th:

07:30 Breakfast (B building, basement)

08:00 Departure from Guesthouse to the SDC Building

08:15 – 08:30 Welcome and Introduction

08:30 – 09:50 First Session: Middle-Income Strata in the Making

09:50 – 10:00 Concluding Remarks and Discussion

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee/ Tea Break

10:15 – 12:05 Second Session: New Regimes of Family, Care and the Aging population

12:05 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Third Session: New Lifestyle Trends: Elite Housing, Meat and Mobility

15:00 – 15:30 Roundtable and Summary

15:30 – 16:00 Introduction to the SDC Educational Building

17:00 Departure for Beijing

1. Middle-income strata in the making

08:30- 09:00 Prof. Li Chungling, CASS, Beijing:

Insecurity and Anxiety of the Chinese Middle Class

09:00 - 09:20 Birte Hansen, ph.d. Roskilde University:

Female entrepreneurs in urban China.

09:20-09:50 Prof. Hanne Petersen, University of Copenhagen

Gender and sustainability in legal perspectives

09:50 – 10:00 Concluding Remarks and Discussion

10:00 – 10:15 Coffe/ Tea Break

2. New Regimes of Family, Care and the Aging population

10:15 – 10:45 Meng Chen, associate professor, Shanghai University:

The road to perfect motherhood, in whose way? A qualitative study of middle-class mothers in Shanghai

10:45 -11:15 Professor Yun Zhou, Peking University:

Reflections on Middle Class and Aging.

11:15 – 11:45 Prof. Yifei Shen, Fudan University:

What Is The Fair? The Distribution Principle of Family Property When Divorce

11:45 – 12:05 Cancan Wang, ph.d., Copenhagen Business School.

Mobilizing expectations of marriage across generations among middle class in China

3. New Lifestyle Trends: Housing, Meat and Mobility

13:30 – 14:00 Professor Jihua Lu, Peking University:

Seasonal Migrants of Elites in Contemporary China: Analyzing the Determinants of Elderly Migrant's Housing Ownership in Hainan.

14:00 – 14:30 Ass. Professor Zhu Di, CASS:

Exploring meat consumption and changing diets in everyday lives of middle-class urban Chinese people: sustainability, food safety, and health

14:30 – 15:00 Ass. Professor, Hilda Rømer Christensen: University of Copenhagen

Gender, Transport, Sustainability.

Chinese Perspectives on a New Field of Research and Public Policy

15:00 – 15:30 Roundtable and Summary

15:30 – 16:00 Introduction to the SDC Educational Building

17:00 Departure

Biographies & Abstracts

1. Middle-income strata in the making

Prof. Li Chungling, CASS, Beijing

Abstract

Insecurity and Anxiety of the Chinese Middle Class

The growth of the middle class in China is accompanied with growing insecurity and anxiety in recent years. The causes are associated with both the external socio-economic environment and the inherent characteristics of China's middle class. The fast growing economy, fundamental social changes, evolving cultural values and the unclear political reform provide this rapidly expanding social group with improved material living standards, as well as feelings of pressure, confusion and contradiction. In recent years, the slowing down of economic growth, the intensification of market competition, the continuous rising of living costs, the volatility of stock and housing market, and the imminent socioeconomic crises, have further enhanced the insecurity and anxiety of the middle class in China.

Biography

LI Chunling is a Research Fellow of Institute of Sociology of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), and director of the Department of Youth Studies and Social Problems in the Institute. She is also a professor of Department of Sociology of CASS. Her primary research interests are social stratification, sociology of education and youth studies. Books she published include *Attitudes, Experiences and Social Transformation: A sociological study of 'Post-1980' Youth*; *Rising Middle Classes in China*; *Gender Stratification and Labor Market*; *Formation of Middle Class in Comparative Perspective: Process, Influence, and Socioeconomic Consequences*; *Theories of Social Stratification*; *Cleavage or Fragment: A Empirical Analysis on the Social Stratification of the Contemporary China*; *Social Mobility in Urban China*; *Youth and Social Change: A Comparative Study Between China and Russia*.

Birte Hansen, ph.d. Roskilde University:

Abstract

Female entrepreneurs in urban China.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate female entrepreneurship in transitional China and implications arising from gender roles and expectations located in socio-economic contexts. The paper examines topics such as motivations, challenges, the role of guanxi in female entrepreneurial business settings and perceptions of gender equality after reform. A qualitatively-driven mixed methodology is applied composed by a quantitative supplement component and a qualitative core.

Theoretically, the paper draws on a combination of economic sociology, network theory, institutional theory and poststructuralist feminist theory. The paper finds that female entrepreneurship, defined as economic action, is embedded in women's immediate social environments and that socio-economic and cultural structures influence women's entrepreneurial motivations. The embeddedness of female entrepreneurship is found to be two-fold. First, entrepreneurship is found to be a masculine construction, providing gendered implications for women in terms of how they are perceived by society. Second, women are found to be embedded in their immediate social environment with distinct challenges arising from social expectations and family obligations. The paper emphasises the role of networks in female entrepreneurship and the implications of culture in shaping and recreating practices undermining female participation. The paper demonstrates that women entrepreneurs have increased in visibility after the market reform and are challenging cultural and social beliefs relating to their economic capabilities. The paper ends on a note requesting further studies into the position of the female digital entrepreneur, encouraging academic investigation into whether or not the challenges expressed by female entrepreneurs in the physical environment are transferred to the expanding digital economy in China. The emerging online economy in China provides scholars attentive to the situation of the female entrepreneur considerable momentum, postulating a unique sample of women's rise in yet another masculine domain, namely the digital economy.

Biography

Birte Hansen is a PhD student enrolled in a double PhD programme organized in the collaboration between at the Sino Danish Centre and Roskilde University. She works in the Department of Social Sciences and Business at Roskilde University. Birte Hansen received a double honor BA from the University of Portsmouth and Huazhong Shifan Daxue in International Development Studies and Mandarin. She received her double degree MA from the Sino Danish Center and Copenhagen Business School in Public Management and Social Development studies. Her thesis focused on Female Entrepreneurship in Transitional China and explored motivations and challenges arising from the economic, cultural and institutional environment in China and implications of lingering ideological legacies. Birte Hansen is currently in her second year of the PhD titled: Innovation and Digital Entrepreneurship in Transition: Exploring women's prospective contribution to China's growing entrepreneurial economy and innovative development.

Prof. Hanne Petersen, University of Copenhagen

Abstract

Gender and sustainability in legal perspectives

In 1987 the UN published the groundbreaking report Our Common Future, which introduced the concept of sustainable development, defined as meeting 'the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Sustainability has now been around for a generation. This is also the period of individualization, commercialization and

consumption, of globally growing education levels of women and of falling fertility. Generational relations, which are at the heart of Our Common Future, are also at the heart of the growing middle class and not least mothers. Our Common Future was produced by the Brundtland Commission led by the first female Norwegian prime minister, who was also a doctor. A few years later in 1994 Angela Merkel became minister for the environment in unified Germany, and was influential in negotiating the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. In 2017 Germany has held the COP 23 on behalf of the island state Fiji. In 2007 Brundtland was appointed Special Envoy on Climate Change for the UN. In the same year Danish Conservative politician Connie Hedegaard was appointed Minister of Climate and Energy Affairs, and in 2009 she was appointed EU Commissioner for Climate action. In 2015 former CCTV journalist Chai Jing produced her influential video on Beijing air pollution “Under the Dome”, which was downloaded by 300 million people within a week, before it disappeared from the internet.

These examples show the global importance of middle class women in the struggle for a change of political and legal realities and regulations. Other more mundane examples relating to health and beauty will be discussed in the presentation

Biography

Hanne Petersen has been professor of legal cultures at the University of Copenhagen since 2009. She was Jean Monnet Scholar at the European University Institute in Florence 1993-94, professor of jurisprudence and sociology of law at University of Greenland, Ilisimatusarfik 1995-99, professor of Greenlandic sociology of law at University of Copenhagen 2001-2006. From 2007-2012 she was visiting professor of law at University of Tromsø, Norway. 2011-2012 she was Hedda Andersson guest professor at Lund University, Sweden, as part of the Gender Equality priority of this university. From 2016-18 she is visiting professor at Gothenburg University, Sweden. She has participated in a number of international research projects amongst others an EU-project “Gender Relations at the Turn of the Millennium. Women as Subjects in Marriage and Migration” (2001-2004), a Nordic project “Nordic legal Maps in Transition” (2005-2009) and at present an EU project “Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe.” (2010-2013). She has been on several Research Panels, and from 2009-2014 she was a member of the Danish Equality Board. She has worked on gender and legal issues in the Middle East, and since 2014 she has co-taught the first course on Chinese legal culture and business law at the University of Copenhagen.

2. New Regimes of Family, Care and the Aging population

Meng Chen, associate professor, Shanghai University:

Abstract

The road to perfect motherhood, in whose way? A qualitative study of middle-class mothers in Shanghai

In recent years, motherhood discourse in urban China has been evolving as anxiety of the middle class grows and the public gender ideology changes in the era of market transition. On the one hand, the burgeoning middle class shows rising keenness of educational competition to secure positive outcomes of social mobility for their children. On the other, with an increasing separation between the public and private spheres, Chinese mothers are viewed as living in an era of ‘mommy wars’, the battles of which may determine the academic success of their children, and, in turn, affect their future life chances. Yet, knowledge is limited about mothers’ understanding of motherhood and how such understandings are linked to their parenting practice. Using in-depth interview data collected in Shanghai, this study explores how Chinese middle-class mothers’ understanding of perfect motherhood is a consequence of social construction. For both working moms and stay-at-home mothers, there is a gap between their own imagination of the ideal state of being a mother and the perfect motherhood defined by others, including but not confined to their family. In addition, it is the motherhood discourse women perceive within and outside the private sphere that tends to play a predominant role in their mothering practice, often based on the mother’s perception of class identity and reinforcing traditional gender divisions in parenting.

Biography

CHEN Meng is a lecturer of sociology at the School of Sociology and Political Science, Shanghai University. She received her Ph. D in Social Change from Institute for Social Change, University of Manchester. She earned her two MA degrees respectively from Department of Sociology, University of Birmingham and School of Journalism, Fudan University. Before she started her doctoral study in Britain, she was a lecturer of English at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. She joined Shanghai University in June 2013 and teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Her main area of research is social stratification and social mobility, and her current research interests include social mobility and its social consequences, gender inequality, and class differences in parenting. Having worked as a team member in a few research projects since 2013, she has just started working as PI on a 3-year NSSF-funded project that examines the parenting and mobility strategies of the middle-class families in Shanghai. In the past, Dr. Chen has published on intergenerational mobility and health inequality in China. In addition to the NSSF research project, she is currently working on three articles respectively on perception of fairness in urban China, scientific mothering, and subjectively well-being of married women in China.

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Professor Yun Zhou, Peking University:

Abstract

Reflections on Middle Class and Aging.

Co-author: Xiaodan WEI (Department of Sociology, Peking University).

A considerable size of Chinese scholars have been working on issue of middle class. Some work on theories related to the concept, which can be classified into at least three categories, class structure, class formation and social function of the middle class (Zhu, 2017); and others focus on measurement of the class (e.g. Li, 2013). In our opinion, several issues related to the discussion of middle class needed to be reconsidered. First, there is no universal agreed definition of the concept which makes comparisons across countries and even regions within a country hard. Second, each individually defined concept measures more on economic condition or wealth one owns. Thus, it is an age-blind concept which excludes most elder people since in general young generation usually earns more in terms of money than the old generation. To minimize the gap we try an exercise to examine wealth distribution among elder population, using CLHLS data. Our goals are to describe the characteristics of the “middle class” of the older population, examine the size of the population, and imagine their social role in a society based on the hypothetical virtues our society today prescribed.

Biography

Yun Zhou, Ph.D. in Social-cultural Anthropology and Professor at Department of Sociology of Peking University. Research and teaching areas include “Population and Society”, “Social Gerontology”, as well as “Family and Marriage”. Major publications include "Anthropology and population studies", "Fertility decline and kinship in China", “Age differences of family members and family care of the elderly in China”, “Characteristics of census 2000 at grassroots—comparison between China and the United States”, “Promotion and popularization of male contraceptives in China”, “A study on institutions for elderly in China”.

Prof. Yifei Shen, Fudan University:

Abstract

What Is The Fair? The Distribution Principle of Family Property When Divorce

Co-author: Rui Zhou

The division of property and the scramble of child custody are two major conflicts when the couples divorce. Especially the division of property is very complex, which involves the marriage years, the source of objective property, the contribution of property, and both husband's and wife's families. Therefore, in contemporary China, it is almost the most serious conflict when the couples dissolve. Through focus groups and quantitative questionnaires, this study asks everyone what is the fair principle of distribution property when divorce? We hypothesized 20 scenarios that allowed interviewees to split their property in the way they considered most fair.

Through the use of sub-class analysis model of 706 sample data, we find out that there are mainly four types of fair distribution logic in the distribution of divorce property: property attribution principle, averaging principle and individual liberalism at different time points Principle, the principle of taking care of the disadvantaged women's gender. The principle of property

emphasizes the common attributes of pre-marital property and marital property and divides them according to the time when marriage is concluded. The principle of averaging is influenced by the public ownership of the economy and advocates the family's total wealth and equal distribution. The principle of individual liberalism closest to market logic, characterized by a proportional pay-back and a correspondence between power and responsibility. The gender principle, combined with the influence of welfareism and gender stereotypes, focuses on the disadvantaged parties in marriage. Through the research on the fairness logic of division of divorce property, this article tries hard to show the complexity of pluralism in the process of China's modernization.

Biography

Yifei Shen is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology, Fudan University, Shanghai, China. After received her B.A. (1992) and M.A. (2002) in International Politics from Fudan University, she became interested in the study of gender and joined the Department of Sociology. In 2010, she received Ph.D in sociology. In 2007-2009, Yifei Shen was a visiting fellow at the Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard University, USA.

Her books include: *Constructed Women: Contemporary Theory on Gender*, published by the Shanghai People's Publishing House in 2005; *Gender Mainstreaming in Chinese Policy: Political Participation, Legal Status and Social Security*, published by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Press in 2008; and *iFamily: the Individual Family and State in the Process of Modernity in Urban China*, Shanghai SDX Joint Publishing Company in 2013. Her research interests include gender, family and NGO.

Cancan Wang, ph.d., Copenhagen Business School.

Abstract:

Mobilizing expectations of marriage across generations among middle class in China

Spurred by the increasing discussion on (leftover) women - sheng nü- in public discourse in urban China, this study examines how emergent socio-economic conditions of middle class influence women's expectations and practices around marriage across generations in urban China. In particular, this study is concerned with the views between mother and daughter, and their interactions, as mother is both a parent that guides her daughter into her womanhood, as well as a Chinese woman who occupies a unique place in the Chinese history. This paper addresses this question through a longitudinal study (2013-2017) on the intra- and inter- generational interactions among a group of unmarried woman (born in 1980s) and their mothers (born in 1960s) in an up-market gym in Tianjin, China. Drawing on Halberstam's concept of "queer time" and Mannheim's conceptualization of generation, this paper sees generation as peculiar types of socio-economic locations, and certain timing around marriage as a product that is confined and organized through such socio-economic locations. By following two generations of women's views on how practices around marriage should be timed, and the changing reasoning behind such views, we come to understand how changing socio-economic locations of two generations give rise to certain

expectations of marriage, which breeds alternative expectations and practices around marriage among middle class women in urban China. The findings challenge the conventional understanding of generation as a static social category that exerts certain influence on marriage practices in China, and propose economic conditions play an increasing important role in mobilizing views of expectations across generations among middle class in urban China.

Biography

Cancan Wang is currently a PhD fellow at the Department of Digitalization, Copenhagen Business School. She holds a MA in Applied Cultural Analysis, University of Copenhagen, Denmark and a BA in Sociology, Fudan University, China. Her work in general explores how various aspects and consequences of China's socio-economic transformations are experienced, negotiated and acted upon in individual and institutional practices. She has worked in relation to the changing perception of gender across generations among middle-class families in urban China. Based on her research in this area, she has published in international peer-reviewed journal *Cross-Cultural Research* and served as a guest editor in journal *Kvinder, Køn og Forskning*. She is also the co-editor of edited volume <女性、性别与研究：中国与丹麦视角>. While her research interest remains in this field, she has also dived into the technological end of China's socio-economic transformation. Her current PhD project looks into the emergent form of public-private partnerships for IT services and its corresponding governance mechanisms. She has published her PhD work in international peer-reviewed journal, such as *Government Information Quarterly* and *Transforming Government*.

3. New Lifestyle Trends: Housing, Meat and Mobility

Professor Jihua Lu, Peking University:

Abstract

Seasonal Migrants of Elites in Contemporary China: Analyzing the Determinants of Elderly Migrant's Housing Ownership in Hainan.

Co-authors: Jiehua Lu, Yunchen Ruan, Sonya Ruth Cotton, and Jennifer Jia-Hong Liu

Based on the sample survey data of seasonal migrants in Hainan province in 2015, this study focuses on the housing ownership of elderly migrants in Hainan and its influencing factors. Firstly, this study briefly summarizes the elderly migrants' social and economic characteristics. The findings show that the retired elderly migrants were predominantly employed in state-owned enterprises, public institutions and governmental organizations. Prior to retirement, they were primarily leaders in the Communist Party; members of government, army organizations, public institutions and enterprises; or served as professional, technical and service personnel. Meanwhile, compared with other seasonal immigrants, Hainan's elderly migrants have comparatively higher

levels of education. For example, the proportion of elderly migrants with senior high school education is about 67%. Secondly, from the perspective of consumer sociology, this study compares other types of seasonal migrants, and analyzes characteristics of the elderly migrants' housing ownership in Hainan. A correlation was found between higher levels of education and higher proportions of elderly migrants who buy their own apartments. At the same time, compared with other examined groups of elderly migrants, those who served in government organizations, public institutions and state-owned enterprise before retirement are more likely to own their apartments. Finally, this paper uses the logistic model to analyze influencing factors determining whether one does or does not buy an apartment. After controlling for the relevant factors, we found that, compared to other occupation groups, the elderly migrants whose occupations before retirement include leaders in the Communist Party members of government and army organizations as well as public institutions and enterprises; and professional and technical personnel are more likely to purchase their apartments in Hainan. Subsequently, the older they are, the more likely they are to buy a local apartment. Finally, seasonal migrants who are married are more likely than those who are single to own apartments in Hainan.

Biography

Professor Jihua Lu, Department of Sociology, Peking University. Professor Jihua Lu specializes in demography, ageing and social policy.

Ass. Professor Zhu Di, CASS:

Abstract

Exploring meat consumption and changing diets in everyday lives of middle-class urban Chinese people: sustainability, food safety, and health

Co-authors: Browne, A.L. , Zhu Di, & Mylan, J.

Increasing global meat production exerts considerable environmental burden on par with energy use and exceeding mobility, while links between 'over consumption' of meat and the occurrence of non-communicable diseases and obesity are increasingly identified by health professionals. In this article we explore the dynamics of meat provision and consumption in everyday life – across intergenerational family settings, friendship groups, workplaces and schools. Reflecting on in-depth qualitative interviews with middle class residents in Beijing and Shanghai, we explore everyday food provision, diet choices and diet arrangements. We also seek to reveal the collective conventions as well as ambivalences and anxieties of diverse modes of meat provision and consumption. In doing so we reveal three dynamics underpinning meat consumption in middle class Chinese lives: shifting systems of provision of food; the role of meat in socialising, celebrating and nurturing; and emerging hybridities of diet and health. The qualitative findings reflect the potential complexities of changing the dynamics of nutrition, diet and health, as well as issues of convenience and provision, that underpin meat consumption in middle class urban Chinese lives. This empirical example enables some deeper reflections on the complexities of sustainability and

health transitions within the Chinese context. The analysis contributes to debates around sustainable consumption, highlighting the importance of the dynamics of everyday life to explaining stability and change in population level patterns in consumption.

Biography

Dr Zhu Di is an Associate Professor of the Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). She is also the Secretary General of the Research Committee of Sociology of Consumption of the Chinese Sociological Association. Dr Zhu Di held a Master of Science in Social Research Methods and Statistics and PhD in Sociology from the University of Manchester. Her research interests include: sociology of consumption, sustainable consumption, social stratification, consumer culture of youths and internet and society. Her work has been published in prestigious academic journals. Dr Zhu Di is currently conducting several research projects, including ‘the development trend and consumption patterns of Chinese middle income group’ (funded by the National Social Science Foundation), ‘Comparative research on sustainable consumption between China and the UK’ (co-funded by British Academy and Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), and ‘Attitudes and behavior of the post-1990 generation of university students against the background of consumer culture’ (funded by Chinese Academy of Social Sciences).

Ass. Professor, Hilda Rømer Christensen: University of Copenhagen

Abstract

Gender, Transport, Sustainability.

Chinese Perspectives on a New Field of Research and Public Policy.

All over the world in the 21st century, governments are being confronted with mounting and demanding challenges in connecting transport, sustainability and accessible mobility for all. One area of critical importance for sustainable mobility is the issue of gender equality, a dimension which has so far been neglected and downplayed in research and policy-making in both China and the West. This paper begins with a critical inspection of dominant ideas in transport research which have contributed to social inequality and unsustainable transport practices. It is argued that it is crucial to take the cultural dimensions into account, including gender as an analytical category, in order to provide more just and lower carbon modes of transport. The second part of the paper addresses transport and mobility in urban China from such perspectives and shows how gender and class are represented in various forms of mundane transport, such as private cars, biking and public transit. Based on materials in Chinese newspapers and fieldwork in Beijing and Shanghai, it is shown how representations of transport and mobility in the Chinese media have been closely connected to new repertoires of masculinity and femininity. The study shows that new forms of transport and practices tend to meet middle-class (male) affordances. Recent transport practices also produce hierarchical dynamics of gender and class which might impede changes to more environmentally friendly modes of transportation. The presentation includes a reflection on shared biking, which overnight has become immensely popular in Chinese cities and may provide a rather unique moment for promoting both sustainable transport and gender equality.

Biography

Dr. Hilda Rømer Christensen is associated professor at the Department of Sociology, and head of the Coordination for Gender Studies at University of Copenhagen. She has written extensively on gender, culture, religion, welfare and citizenship in historical and current perspectives. She was a partner in the FP6 financed research project *Femcit. Gendered Citizenship in Multicultural Europe. The Impact of the contemporary Women's Movement* and she has been the scientific coordinator for the FP 6 funded SSA TRANSGEN focused on gender mainstreaming of transport and research in the EU. From 2010 she is a member of the Co-ordination committee for Welfare and Innovation at the Sino-Danish University Centre in Beijing and heads a research project focused on *World Dynamics in Micro Perspectives: (Re)making middle Class Families, China – Denmark, including housing, mobility and transport. Member of the EU national programme committees in relation to Social Sciences and Transport, and the EU Marie Sklodowska-Curie Advisory group for Horizon 2020*

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