

WANJING (KELLY) CHEN

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EDUCATION

2020 Ph.D. in Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dissertation: The Power of Mirage:

State, Capital, and Politics in the Grounding of 'Belt and Road' in Laos

Committee: Stephen Young (Chair), Kristopher Olds, Ian Baird, Shelly Chan,
You-Tien Hsing, Po-Yi Hung

2014 M.Sc. in Human Geography, Beijing Normal University.

2012 B.A. in English, Beijing Normal University.

2011 B.Sc. in Geography Information System, Beijing Normal University.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Global China, Southeast Asia, Money and Finance, Infrastructure, Migration and Diaspora Politics, Gender and Intimate Economies, Feminist Methodologies.

AREAS OF TEACHING

Global Studies, International Development, Qualitative Research Methods, Gender and Capitalism

PUBLICATIONS

Referred Journal Articles

Chen, W.K. "Sovereign Debt in the Making: Financial Entanglements and Labor Politics along the Belt and Road in Laos." *Economic Geography*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00130095.2020.1810011>.

Chen, W.K. and Sonn, J.W. 2019. "Contingent Proletarianization of Creative Labor: Deskilling in the Xianyou Classical Furniture Cluster." *Geoforum*, 99: 248-256.

Sonn, J.W., **Chen, W.K.**, Wang, H. and Liu, X. 2017. "A Top-down Creation of Cultural Cluster for Urban Regeneration: The Case of OCT Loft, Shenzhen." *Land Use Policy*, 69:307-316.

Zhu, H., **Chen, W.K.**, and Dai, J. 2016. "Beyond Apprenticeship: Knowledge Brokers and Sustainability of Apprentice-based Clusters." *Sustainability*, 8(12):1279-1296.

Articles under Review

Chen, W. K., Zhang, A. Y., and Jiang, W. "Dislocating the 'China Question'." Forthcoming on *Environment and Planning A*.

Chen, W.K. "Performing Diaspority, Brokering Investment: Overseas Chinese and the Making of Chinese Capitalism in Laos." Under review at *Political Geography*.

Works in Progress

Chen, W.K. "The Right to Speculate: Political Hydrologies and Peri-Urban Land Politics in Vientiane, Laos" To be submitted to *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

Chen, W.K. "The Broker Versus the brokers: Symbolic Power, Diaspora Politics, and the Making of Chinese Capitalism in Laos" To be submitted to *China Quarterly*.

Chen, W.K. "The Power of Mirage: State, Capital, and the Grounding of China's Belt and Road in Laos" Book manuscript under preparation.

Book Reviews

Chen, W.K. 2017. "Africa's Information Revolution: Technical Regimes of Production Networks in South Africa and Tanzania." *Journal of Economic Geography*. 17(1):265-266.

Non-refereed Articles

Lu, J. and **Chen, W.K.** 2019 "From Pioneers to Brokers: How a diverse Chinese diaspora facilitates the Belt and Road in Laos." *Panda Paw Dragon Claw: A Conversation about China's Footprint beyond its Border*.

Chen, W.K. and Kenney-Lazzar, M. 2019. "*Meuang Chin* (Chinatown) and the Political Hydrologies of Dispossession in That Luang Marsh." National University of Singapore: *Transboundary Environmental Commons in Southeast Asia*.

Chen, W.K. 2018. "Making Possibilities out of the Impossible: Rural Migrant Workers' Backdoor Economies and the Pitfall in Lao PDR." Kyoto University: *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia*, 25 (Available in English, Thai, Bahasa Indonesia, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Japanese).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

2019 Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, UW-Madison **(11,000 USD)**

2019 Trewartha Conference Travel Award, Department of Geography, UW-Madison

2018 SRGC Student Research Travel Grant, UW-Madison

2018 IAP Graduate and Professional Student Study Abroad Scholarship, UW-Madison

2018 Olmstead Award for Outstanding Publication, Department of Geography, UW-Madison

- 2017 Mellon Foundation Area and International Studies Fellowship, UW-Madison **(5,000 USD)**
- 2017 Trewartha Graduate Research Award, Department of Geography, UW-Madison
- 2016 Center for Southeast Asian Studies Pre-dissertation Field Research Award **(2,000 USD)**
- 2016 Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Research Award, UW-Madison **(3,000 USD)**

INVITED TALKS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS PARTICIPATION

Invited Talks

- 2020 “Performing Diaspority, Brokering Investment: Overseas Chinese and the Making of Chinese Capitalism in Laos” Global China: Adaptation and Resistance Summer School.
- 2020 “Sovereign Debt in the Making: Financial Entanglements and Labor Politics along the Belt and Road in Laos.” Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Friday Forum Talk Series, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2019 “Sovereign Debt in the Making: Financial Entanglements and Labor Politics along the Belt and Road in Laos.” Equality, Development and Globalization Studies Seminar Series, Northwestern University.

Workshop Participations

- 2020 **“Global China: Adaptation and Resistance” Summer School.** Florence, Italy.
This summer school brings together interested scholars and activists to forge conversation on critical politics in the context of global China.
- 2019 **“Global China in Comparative Perspective.”** Taipei, Taiwan.
*This workshop, fully funded by **American Council of Learned Societies and Association of Asian Studies**, aims to forge an interdisciplinary conversation on contemporary globalization of Chinese capital.*
- 2019 **“Asian Cities, Architectural Heritage, Civil Society and Urban Expansion.”** Denver, USA.
*This is a highly competitive dissertation workshop fully funded by **American Social Science Research Council and Association of Asian Studies**. It aims to create cross-regional communities of graduate students and faculty working on Asian cities.*
- 2018 **9th Summer Institute of Economic Geography.** Ghent, Belgium.
The Summer Institute offers advanced training, mentoring, network building and professional development for early career researchers entering the field of economic geography.
- 2015 **“Making Cultural Cities in China: A Dialogue on Mobility and Assemblage.”** Hong Kong.
This workshop brings together scholars interested in the mobility and assemblage of creative/ cultural cities policies and practices in China, and the associated political tensions and social dynamics.

Conference Presentations

- 2019 “Uneven Contestations of Regional and Domestic Real Estate Capital in the Peri-Urban Wetlands of Vientiane, Laos.” With Miles Kenney-Lazar, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.
- 2019 “Spectacular Failure? Unpacking the Financial Life of an Unrealized Urban Fantasy in Vientiane, Lao PDR.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.
- 2018 “Speculating Belt and Road: The Role of Brokers in Chinese Overseas Capitalism in Laos.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- 2016 “Economy of Scale, Division of Labor and Deskilling in a Creative Industry: Transformation of the Labor Process in Xianyou Traditional Furniture Cluster, China.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 “Local Buzz Collapsing? Transition of the Antique Reproduced Furniture Industry Cluster in Fujian Province, China.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.

Conference Organization

- 2019 The 6th Trans-Asia Graduate Student Conference at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Organized with Yizhou (Joe) Xu, Hae Ree Jun, Maria Tsoy, Teresa Goertz, Wenting Ji.

Conference Session Organization

- 2019 “Financing Urban Fantasies: Logics, Practices, and Politics of Making Mega-projects in Frontier Cities.” Organized with Jorn Koelemij. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.
- 2019 “Material and Territorial Entanglements Across South-South Worlds.” Organized with Miles Kenney-Lazar. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2020 Introduction to City (Intermediary Undergrad)
- Summer 2019 Introduction to International Studies (Online Course for Elementary Undergrad)
- Spring 2019 Introduction to International Studies (Elementary Undergrad)
- Fall 2018 Introduction to International Studies (Elementary Undergrad)
- Spring 2017 World Regions in a Global Context (Online Course for Intermediary Undergrad)
- Fall 2016 Introduction to Human Geography (Elementary Undergrad)
- Spring 2015 Introduction to Human Geography (Elementary Undergrad)

Fall 2014 Introduction to Human Geography (Elementary Undergrad)

(Introduction to Human Geography and Introduction to International Studies include **field trips**.)

Guest Lectures

- 2019 “China’s One Belt One Road Initiative: A View from the Ground.”
Guest Lecture for Introduction to International Studies. UW-Madison.
(Level: Elementary Undergrad; Length: 1Hour 15 Minutes; Class Size: 150 students)
- 2019 “China’s One Belt One Road Initiative: A View from the Ground.”
Online Lecture for Introduction to International Studies. UW-Madison.
(Level: Elementary Undergrad; Length: 20 Minutes)
- 2019 “Insider Out, Outsider In: Navigating Fieldwork in Intimate and Alien Settings.”
Guest Lecture for Qualitative Methodology, UW-Madison.
(Level: Advanced Undergraduate/Graduate Seminar, Length: 2 Hours 30 Minutes)
- 2015 “Life and Research in China and Laos.”
Online Interview for World Regions in a Global Context, UW-Madison.
(Level: Intermediate Undergrad; Length: 20 Minutes)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Internal Professional Service

- 2019 Student Representative on Curriculum Committee, Department of Geography.
- 2018 Student Representative for Yi-Fu Tuan Speakers Series, Department of Geography.
- 2018 Student Representative for AAG Event Organization, Department of Geography.

External Professional Service

- 2019- Organizer for American Association of Geographers ‘*Women in Economic Geography*’ Social Group.
- 2018- Reviewer for *Geoforum*, *Political Geography*, and *Environment and Planning A*.
- 2014- Reviewer for *Journal of International Urban Science*.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2018- Association of Asian Studies.
- 2013- American Association of Geographers.

REFERENCES

Dr. Stephen Young, sjyoung3@wisc.edu

Associate Professor of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Kristopher Olds, olds@geography.wisc.edu

Professor of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Shelly Chan, shelly.chan@wisc.edu

Associate Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison