Over the past three decades, large-scale and high-speed urbanization has posed severe governance challenges in post-liberalization India and post-socialist China. The different modes of urban development in China and India present excellent cases to theorize urban governance and citizen rights in the developing world. This talk presents research and findings from a current project on urbanization and local governance in China and India. The project challenges the widely held notion that Chinese urban development occurs in a top-down manner because of one-Party rule, whereas Indian urban development occurs through bottom-up, or “subaltern” strategies based upon democratic contestations. Through case studies on informal settlements and land acquisitions in Delhi, Mumbai, Guangzhou, and Shanghai during the past two decades, Prof. Ren discusses how urbanization in both countries has enabled a reassembling of citizen rights with simultaneous processes of inclusion and exclusion.