

# Urbanization and Governance in China and India: Informal Settlements, Land Disputes, and Citizen Rights

Wednesday  
March 5

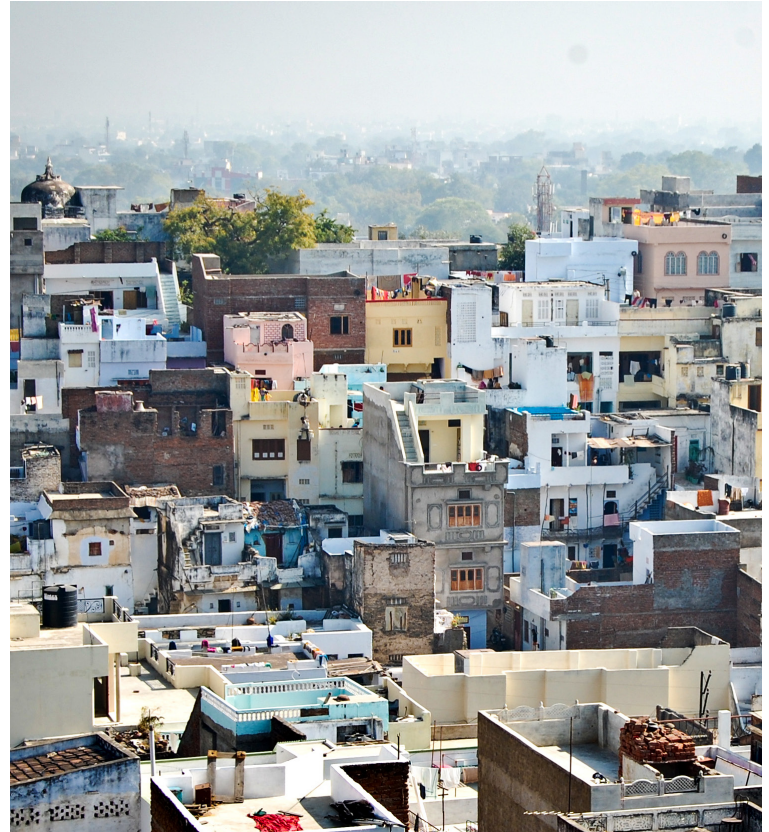
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Great Cities Institute  
412 South Peoria Street  
Suite 400, CUPPA Hall

Xuefei Ren, Associate Professor  
Sociology and Global Urban Studies, Michigan State University



*"Luxury Housing Blocks in China"*, Photo by David Woo, flickr.com CC BY-ND 2.0

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.



*"Udaipur, India from Above"*, Photo by Uppy Chatterjee, flickr.com CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Xuefei Ren is Associate Professor of Sociology and Global Urban Studies at Michigan State University. She received her BA in Comparative Literature, MA in Urban Planning from Tokyo Metropolitan University, and PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago. Her research interests are urbanization, governance, architecture and the built environment, and international development. She has published widely in urban studies journals and is the author of two books. Her first book, *Building Globalization: Transnational Architecture Production in Urban China* (University of Chicago Press, 2011), won the Best Book Award from the Political Economy of the World System Section and an Honorable Mention for the Robert Park Award in the Urban Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association. Her latest book, *Urban China* (Polity Press, 2013), is listed as an Outstanding Academic Title by Choice magazine in 2014. She is a columnist for Thinker magazine in Beijing and has been a residential fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC.

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