

Curriculum Vitae

Max D. Woodworth

CONTACT INFORMATION

1148 Derby Hall
154 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210
Email: woodworth.42@osu.edu
Phone: +1-614-592-3568
Website: <https://geography.osu.edu/people/woodworth.42>

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2019 – present Associate Professor, The Ohio State University, Department of Geography, 50% teaching appointment in Undergraduate Program in International Studies

2013 – 2019 Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University, Department of Geography, 50% teaching appointment in Undergraduate Program in International Studies

2011 – 2012 Adjunct Lecturer, Northern Virginia Community College, Department of Geography

EDUCATION

PhD 2013, Geography, University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation: *Frontier Boomtown Urbanism: City Building in Ordos, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, 2001-2011*. Committee: You-tien Hsing (Advisor), Richard Walker, Teresa Caldeira, Andrew F. Jones.

MA 2007, Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley
Thesis: *The Cultural Politics of Graffiti in Beijing: The Case of Zhang Dali's 'Dialogue'*

Certificate 2003, Chinese Studies, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies Nanjing Center

BS 1998, Languages and Linguistics, Georgetown University

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025 Sharpe Field School Award in support of a class field trip in Spring 2026 for the course “A World Divided? Space, Place, and Regions in Human Affairs” \$3,000.

- 2024 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. “Supporting an Early-Career Fellows Program at the Conference on Global Coal Transitions.” Jeffrey Jacquet (PI), Max D. Woodworth (Co-PI) and Julia Haggerty (Co-PI). \$30,000. Funds used to support travel and conference registration costs for 20 early-career scholars to attend the Conference on Global Coal Transitions.
- 2024 Ohio State East Asian Studies Center. “Small grant in support of East Asia-focused scholars attending the Conference on Global Coal Transitions.” Max D. Woodworth (PI). \$1,600.
- 2023 Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Faculty Individual Research Grant, “Making Taiwan Home: Space, Territory, and Geopolitics in Taiwan’s Military Dependents Villages.” Max D. Woodworth (PI). \$16,000.
- 2023 Ohio State Office of International Affairs Faculty Research, Teaching, and Outreach Grant. “The Cold War’s Home Front: Space and Geopolitics in Taiwan’s Military Veterans Villages.” Max D. Woodworth (PI). \$2,000.
- 2022 – 2025 National Science Foundation, Research Coordination Grant. “Coordinating Global Coal Transitions Research.” Max D. Woodworth (PI), Jeffrey Jacquet (Co-PI). \$350,550.
- 2022 Ohio State Office of International Affairs Faculty Research Grant, “Atmospheric Politics: Air Quality, Civic Science, and Digital Democracy in Taiwan,” Max D. Woodworth (PI). US\$4,750.
- 2021 Taiwan Ministry of Education Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant, “Atmospheric Politics: Air Quality, Civic Science, and Digital Democracy in Taiwan,” Max D. Woodworth (PI). Approx. US\$4,000. Declined.
- 2021 “Ohio’s Coal Transition: Pathways for Community Resilience,” Battelle Engineering, Technology, and Human Affairs Endowment. J. Jacquet (PI), Max D. Woodworth, J. Bielicki, T. Dugdale, M. Fox, D. Marcus, K. McClatchy, G. Stewart (co-Is). \$55,823.
- 2021 “Ohio’s Coal Transition: Pathways for Community Resilience,” Ohio State Sustainability Institute Seed Grant co-Principal Investigator. J. Jacquet (PI), Max D. Woodworth, J. Bielicki, T. Dugdale, M. Fox, D. Marcus, K. McClatchy (co-PIs). \$35,000.
- 2021 American Association of Geographers Anne White Fund research grant, “Building the Urban Age in China,” seed grant for research travel to Japan and China to discover archives for new research project into radical and experimental urbanism in 20th-century China. Max D. Woodworth (PI). \$1,500.
- 2019 Ohio State Global Arts and Humanities Discovery Theme grant Principal Investigator, project title: “Asian Futures,” grant for interdisciplinary

- research, curriculum development, and public engagement at Ohio State.
Max D. Woodworth (PI), R. Livingston (project manager). \$66,500.
- 2019 Ohio State Affordable Learning Exchange syllabus revision grant. Max D. Woodworth (PI). \$500.
- 2018 Ohio State College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, International Travel Grant, \$2,000.
- 2017 Swiss National Science Foundation, conference funding for workshop titled “On Edge: China’s Frontiers in a Time of Change,” Kandersteg, Switzerland. A. Joniak-Lüthi (PI), M. Kobi and Max D. Woodworth (co-PIs). Sfr11,000.
- 2017 Ohio State College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, small grant for conference travel, \$2,000.
- 2016-2018 Regional Studies Association Early Career Grant, “Assessing China’s New Town Projects.” Max D. Woodworth (PI). £10,000.
- 2016 – 2018 Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, Research Grant, “Modular Urbanism: Policy isomorphism and spatial-temporal irregularity in contemporary China.” Max D. Woodworth (PI), (S.S. Chien (co-PI). \$13,648.
- 2016 – 2017 The Asia Foundation, Faculty Research Grant, “Mapping China’s New Energy Frontiers.” Max D. Woodworth (PI). \$10,000.
- 2015 Ohio State College of Arts and Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences Small Grant, “Modular Urbanism: Policy isomorphism and spatial-temporal irregularity in contemporary China’s new-town projects,” \$2,000.
- 2014 Ohio State Global Midwest Seed Grant – “Grounding the Anthropocene: A Geontology of the Global Midwest” (Max D. Woodworth co-Investigator with Dr. M. Coleman, Dr. M. Thomas, Dr. T. Davis), \$5,000.
- 2013 Association for Asian Studies - China and Inner Asia Council Research Travel Grant, “Frontier Boomtown Urbanism,” \$2,000.
- 2012-2013 Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, “Frontier Boomtown Urbanism: City Building in Ordos Municipality, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, 2001-2011,” \$20,000.
- 2011-2012 UC Berkeley Dean’s Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, \$24,000
- 2009-2011 UC Berkeley Institute of East Asian Studies Graduate Fellowship, \$40,000
- 2008-2009 Magistretti Foundation Graduate Fellowship, \$18,000

- 2006-2007 David L. Boren National Security Education Program Graduate Fellowship, \$12,000
- 2006-2007 Foreign Language and Area Studies Graduate Fellowship, \$18,000
- 1998-1999 National Chengchi University, Taipei, Sun Yat-Sen Graduate Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Fellowship, approx. \$15,000

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2017 First Place, Best Poster Award at Energy Impacts Symposium, Columbus, Ohio. “Comparing Resource Boomtowns: Assessing Urban Change in the Contemporary Energy Frontiers of China and the United States.”
- 2016 Lawrence A. Brown Faculty Fellowship (Ohio State), junior faculty award, \$5,000
- 2006 Graduate Student Teaching Award
- 1998 Departmental Medal, Department of Chinese, Georgetown University
- 1998 Graduation *Cum Laude*, Georgetown University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Forthcoming Max D. Woodworth and Jeffrey B. Jacquet. “Focus on Global Coal Transitions: Focus Issue Concluding Editorial.” Submitted September 16, 2025, to *Environmental Research – Energy*.
- 2026 Max D. Woodworth. “Taiwan’s Military Dependent Villages: Cold War Geopolitical Enclaves and Residential Space.” Submitted 24 April, 2025, to *Journal of Historical Geography*. Accepted January 3, 2026.
- 2026 Seiba Issifu and Max D. Woodworth. “Formalization from Above, Resistance from Below: Voices of Struggle and Survival in Ghana’s Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Sector.” Submitted September 11, 2025, to *Resources Policy*. Accepted January 11, 2026.
- 2025 Max D. Woodworth. “Who talks for Chinese urban studies?” *Transactions in Planning and Urban Research*.
- 2024 Max D. Woodworth and Cecilia L. Chu. “Concrete: An Introduction.” *Roadsides* 11: 1-6.

- 2024 Max D. Woodworth. "Macro concerns in the study of the micropolitics of urban change." *Dialogues in Human Geography* 14(1): 165-168.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/20438206241228661>
- 2024 Max D. Woodworth. "'Freedom Cities': Trump and an American global new city." *Urban Geography* 45(1): 45-52.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02723638.2023.2263121>
- 2023 Max D. Woodworth. "Thinking 'with' China: Material and conceptual challenges." *Dialogues in Human Geography*. Published online April 27, 2023.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2043820623117214>
- 2022 Shih-Shen Chien and Max D. Woodworth. "Entrepreneurial and Modular Urbanism in China: New Cities and New Areas in the 2000s." *Transactions in Planning and Urban Research* 1(3-4): 219-234.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/27541223221126924>
- 2022 Max D. Woodworth and Shih-Shen Chien. "New Cities in China: Tracking Urban Projects on the City Fringe." *Geography Compass* 16(3): 10.1111/gec3.12612. DOI: 10.1111/gec3.12612
- 2021 Max D. Woodworth. "Ruins, ruination, and fieldwork photography." *China Perspectives* (4): 9-19. DOI: 10.4000/chinaperspectives.12750
- 2020 Max D. Woodworth. "Picturing Urban China in Ruin: 'ghost city' photography and speculative urbanization." *GeoHumanities* 6(2): 233-251. DOI: 10.1080/2373566X.2020.1825110
- 2020 Max D. Woodworth and Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi. "Introduction to the Special Issue: Exploring China's Borderlands in a Time of BRI-Induced Change," *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 61(1): 1-12. DOI: 10.1080/15387216.2020.1727758
- 2019 Max D. Woodworth. "Finding a place for boomtowns in energy geographies," *Area* (51)2: 307-314. DOI: 10.1111/area.12456
- 2018 Max D. Woodworth. "Landscape and the cultural politics of China's anticipatory urbanism," *Landscape Research* 43(7): 891-905. DOI: 10.1080/01426397.2017.1404020
- 2018 Shih-Shen Chien and Max D. Woodworth. "China's Urban Speed Machine: The Politics of Speed and Time in a Period of Rapid Urban Growth," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 42(4): 723-737.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12610>
- 2017 Max D. Woodworth and Jeremy L. Wallace. "Seeing Ghosts: Parsing China's 'Ghost City' Controversy," *Urban Geography* 38(8): 1270-1281. DOI:10.1080/02723638.2017.1288009.

- 2017 Max D. Woodworth. "Disposable Ordos: The Making of an Energy Resource Frontier in Ordos, Inner Mongolia," *Geoforum* 78: 133-140. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2016.04.007>
- 2016 Max D. Woodworth. "Booms, busts, and urban variation among 'resource-based cities' in China's northwest," *Inner Asia* 18(1): 97-120. DOI: 0.63/0508-340055
- 2016 Max D. Woodworth and Michael Ulfstjerne. "Taking Part: The Social Experience of Informal Finance in Ordos, Inner Mongolia," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 75(3): 649-672. DOI: 10.1017/S0021911816000504
- 2015 Max D. Woodworth. "China's Coal Production Goes West: Assessing Recent Geographical Restructuring and Industrial Transformation," *The Professional Geographer* 67(4): 630-640. DOI: 10.1080/00330124.2015.1054749
- 2015 Max D. Woodworth. "From the Shadows of the Spectacular City: Zhang Dali's *Dialogue* and globalizing Beijing, 1995-2005," *Geoforum* 65: 413-420. DOI: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2015.02.005
- 2015 Max D. Woodworth. "City Profile: Ordos Municipality: A Market-Era Resource Boomtown," *Cities* 43: 115-132. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2014.11.017>
- 2012 Max D. Woodworth. "Frontier Boomtown Urbanism in Ordos, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region," *Cross-Currents* 1(1): 74-101. DOI: 10.1353/ach.2012.0009
- 2011 Jingyuan Du and Max D. Woodworth, "The Making of an Irrigation Society in Hetao, Inner Mongolia, 1850-1920," *Cross-Currents* (December). E-Journal 1: <https://cross-currents.berkeley.edu/e-journal/inaugural-issue/irrigation-society-china-s-northern-frontier-1860s-1920s>

Editor-reviewed Journal and Magazine Articles, Short Entries, Guest Essays

- In review Max D. Woodworth, "Reflections from the edge of a coal pit." Submitted to *AllegraLab* June 16, 2025.
- 2025 Max D. Woodworth, "All students will lose under Trump's visa policies," *The Columbus Dispatch*, July 13, p. E02.
- 2024 Max D. Woodworth, "Wachstum und Niedergang in Chinas 'Geisterstaedten.'" *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 74(24): 4-10. (In German, translation by Heike Schlatterer.) file:///Users/woodworth.42/Downloads/APuZ_2024-24_online_Ruinen.pdf

- 2019 Max D. Woodworth, "Pad," Volumetric Sovereignty Part 2: The Subterranean Realm, *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, March 12, <http://societyandspace.org/2019/03/12/pad/>
- 2019 Max D. Woodworth, "Boomtown in Ruins: Ordos and Ruination," *International Institute for Asian Studies, The Newsletter*, No. 82: 40.
- 2019 Max D. Woodworth, "The Construction State 2.0: New Towns and the Local State in China," *Regions eZine*, No. 3. DOI: 10.1080/13673882.2018.00001028
- 2012 Max D. Woodworth, "Unkritische Rekonstruktion," *Bauwelt* No. 7: 12-21. (German)
- 2010 Max D. Woodworth, "Ordos, die boomende Geisterstadt," *Bauwelt* No. 48: 42-47. (German)

Chapters in Edited Books

- 2025 Max D. Woodworth, "Aspiration," in V. Zhang and B. Anderson (Eds.), *The Promises of Cultural Geography*. Bristol University Press: 21-22.
- 2022 Max D. Woodworth, Yu Zhou, Xuefei Ren, Yining Tan, Jesse Rodenbiker, Ettore Santi. "Researching China during the Covid-19 Pandemic," in S. Brunn and D. Gilbreath (Eds.), *Covid-19 and a World of Ad Hoc Geographies*. Springer: 2705-2721.
- 2022 Max D. Woodworth. "Urbanization as mass speculative event: informal finance and city-making in Ordos, Inner Mongolia," in C. Chu and S. He (Eds.), *The Speculative City: Emergent Norms and Forms of the Built Environment*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press: 134-154.
- 2019 Max D. Woodworth. "Spaces of the Gigantic: Extraction and Urbanization in China's Energy Frontier," in J. Cons and M. Eilenberg (Eds.), *Frontier Assemblages: The Emergent Politics of Resource Frontiers in Asia* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, Antipode Book Series): 155-170.
- 2017 Max D. Woodworth, "Bedrock of modernity: coal and its uses, past and present," in Solomon, B.D. and K.E. Calvert (Eds.), *Handbook on the Geographies of Energy* (Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing Company): 23-37.
- 2009 Max Woodworth, "Inner-city culture wars," in You-tien Hsing and Ching Kwan Lee (Eds.) *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism* (London: Routledge): 207-224.

Book Reviews

- 2024 Max D. Woodworth, "REVIEW: Governing Neighborhoods in Urban China: Changing State-Society Relations, by Beibei Tang (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2023)." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 83(2): 462-465.
- 2024 Max D. Woodworth, "REVIEW: Ecological States: Politics and science and nature in urbanizing China, by Jesse Rodenbiker (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2023)." *The Developing Economies* 62(2): 189-192. doi.org/10.1111/deve.12399
- 2023 Max D. Woodworth, "REVIEW: Extracting Development: Contested Resource Frontiers in Mainland Southeast Asia, by Oliver Tappe and Simon Rowedder, Eds. (Singapore: ISEAS – Yushof Isak Institute, 2022)." *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, published online October 26, 2023 https://doi.org/10.1111/sjtg.12515.
- 2023 Max D. Woodworth, "REVIEW: The New Urban Ruins: Vacancy, Urban Politics and International Experiments in the Post-crisis City, by Cian O'Callaghan and Cesare di Felicianantonio, Eds. (Bristol: Polity Press: 2021)." *Space and Polity*, published online August 16, 2023 https://doi.org/10.1080/13562576.2023.2247997
- 2023 Max D. Woodworth, "REVIEW: Creating Chinese Urbanism: urban revolution and governance changes, by Fulong Wu (London: UCL Press: 2022)." *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, published online May 9, 2023. https://doi.org/10.1080/15387216.2023.2211589
- 2020 Max D. Woodworth, "REVIEW: Shaping Urban Futures in Mongolia: Ulaanbaatar, dynamic ownership and economic flux, by Rebekah Plueckhahn (London: UCL Press: 2020)." *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 63(2): 291-294.
- 2018 Max D. Woodworth, "REVIEW: Planning For Growth: Urban and Regional Planning in China, by Fulong Wu (London: Routledge, 2015)." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 42(3), 539-541.
- 2018 Max D. Woodworth, "Where Is The City? Excavating Modern Beijing And Shanghai In Textual and Visual Cultures. Review essay of William Schaefer, *Shadow Modernism: Photography, Writing, and Space in Shanghai* (Duke University Press, 2017) and Weijie Song, *Mapping Modern Beijing: Space, Emotion, Literary Topography* (Oxford University Press, 2018)." *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review e-journal* 26, 105-112. Open Access: https://cross-currents.berkeley.edu/e-journal/issue-26/woodworth
- 2015 Max D. Woodworth, Book Review: Remaking China's Great Cities: Space and culture in urban housing, renewal, and expansion, by Samuel Y. Liang (London: Routledge), *The China Quarterly* 222: 562-563. doi: 10.1017/S0305741015000533

- 2010 Max Woodworth, Book Review: Developing China: Land, politics, and Social Conditions, by George C. S. Lin (London: Routledge), *Berkeley Planning Journal* 23: 206-207.

Published Conference Proceedings, Lectures, and Conference Reports

- 2025 Julia Haggerty, Max D. Woodworth, Tom Measham, Mijin Cha, Sanya Carley, Andrew Curley, Jeffrey Jacquet. “Global Coal Transitions Workshop Communiqué,” CRC TiME, Brisbane, Australia, 9 July.
- 2017 Max D. Woodworth and Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi, 2017. “On Edge: China’s Frontiers in a Time of Change,” Conference Report, AllegraLab, <http://allegralaboratory.net/edge-chinas-frontiers-time-change/>
- 2016 Max D. Woodworth, “Ghost Cities: The Role of Citizens and the Government,” Samuel Tak Lee MIT Real Estate Entrepreneurship Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 4. Invited lecture for China Talk Series. Video presentation archived at <https://stl.mit.edu/news/woodworth-max-ghost-cities-role-citizens-and-government>
- 2015 Grounding the Anthropocene: Sites, Subjects, Struggles in the Bakken Oil Fields, edited by Bruce Braun, Mat Coleman, Mary Thomas, and Kathryn Yusoff, AntipodeFoundation.org, Nov. 3, <http://antipodefoundation.org/2015/11/03/grounding-the-anthropocene/>

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

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- 2026 Invited speaker. “Narrating Taiwan’s ‘Difficult Heritage’ in Cold War Military Enclaves.” University of California, Berkeley, Center for Chinese Studies. Jan. 23.
- 2026 Invited panelist. “The Operation in Venezuela: Law, Oil, Geopolitics.” Mershon Center for International Security Studies panel. Jan. 15.
- 2025 Invited speaker. “Landscape Analysis,” presented in Geography 2400 “Economic and Social Geography.” Oct. 2.
- 2025 Invited discussant. Central Eurasian Studies Society Graduate and Early Career Scholar Interdisciplinary Workshop, hosted by the Department of History, The Ohio State University, Sept. 13-14.
- 2025 “Who speaks for urban Chinese studies?” Invited *Transactions in Planning and Urban Research* plenary talk. International Conference on China Urban Development, July 7-8, London, UK.
- 2025 “Closing Plenary Remarks: Reflections on Global Coal Transitions Research.” Global Coal Transitions Workshop, May 14, 2025, Brisbane, Australia.

- 2025 “Cartoonization, erasure, and transitional justice in the Cold War ruins of Taiwan’s military dependent villages.” The American Association of Geographers annual meeting, March 26, Detroit, Michigan.
- 2025 “Author-Meets-Critics: Franck Billé’s *Somatic States: On Cartography, Geobodies, Bodily Integrity*.” The American Association of Geographers annual meeting, March 25, Detroit, Michigan.
- 2025 “Author-Meets-Critics: Ian Rowen’s *One China, Many Taiwans: The Geopolitics of Cross-Strait Tourism*.” The American Association of Geographers annual meeting, March 25, Detroit, Michigan.
- 2025 “Enclave Landscape in Taiwan’s Juancun.” The Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, March 15, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2025 “Making Taiwan Home: Space, Territory, and Geopolitics in Taiwan’s Military Dependent Villages.” Mershon Monday talk series, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, The Ohio State University, Feb. 9, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2024 “Taiwan’s Military Dependent Villages: The rise, spread, and demise of Cold War geopolitical enclaves.” Invited graduate seminar lecture, Department of Taiwan Studies, National Taiwan Normal University, December 13, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2024 “Coal Transitions and the Crescendo of Modernity.” Closing Plenary of the Conference on Global Coal Transitions, The Ohio State University, July 18, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2024 “Testbed urbanism in China’s new cities: Paradoxes of ad-hockery and technocratism in recent city-making projects,” meeting of the Development Studies Association (UK), June 27. Online.
- 2024 “Exile and displacement in Taiwan’s ‘juancun,’” invited lecture, “The Asian Metropolis,” Department of History of Art, The Ohio State University, March 20, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2023 “Picturing Ruin in Urban China,” invited lecture in “East – West Photography,” Department of History of Art, The Ohio State University, November 9, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2023 “Photography, ‘ghost cities,’ and urban crisis in China,” invited speaker, Department of Geography, Ohio University, October 20, Athens, Ohio.
- 2023 “Revisiting the ‘imperial debris’ of Japanese colonialism in Taiwan through industrial heritage sites,” meeting of the European Association of Japanese Studies, August 20, Ghent, Belgium.
- 2023 Panel participant, “Theorizing from/with urban China,” annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, March 27, Denver, Colorado.

- 2023 Panel participant, “Author-Meets-Critics: Andrew Grant, *The Concrete Plateau*,” annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, March 27, Denver, Colorado.
- 2023 “Photography and Method in/on China,” All-Mediterranean Chinese Studies Conference, Feb. 2. Valletta, Malta.
- 2022 “Ohio’s Coal Transitions: Project Report,” Dimensions of Political Ecology conference, March 26. Online.
- 2022 “Anticipatory Urbanism and Gigantism in China’s Coal Frontier,” invited seminar lecture, History of Art 8821 “Art and Race in Modern East Asia,” Ohio State, Feb. 15.
- 2021 “China’s Belt and Road Initiative: Scope and Prospects,” National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, Seminar for K-12 Educators, Shepherdstown, WV. Online.
- 2021 “Digital Democracy and Territorialization in Taiwan,” annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, online. April 7
- 2020 “Land finance, informal finance, and the ghost city,” invited seminar lecture, Columbia University, Oct. 14.
- 2020 “Urban space and Covid-19,” panel discussion organizer, annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, online, with Roger Keil, Xinyue Ye, Xuefei Ren, Jesse Rodenbiker, Xiaoling Chen, and Creighton Connolly.
- 2020 “Ruins, ruination, and rubble in urban China,” presentation at the Dimensions of Political Ecology conference, Lexington, KY, Feb. 28.
- 2019 “Picturing Ruin in Urban China,” presentation in the Department of Geography “Urban Asia” speaker series, The Ohio State University, Oct. 25.
- 2019 “Modular Urbanism in Neoliberal China,” International China Urban Development Conference, Beijing, June 28.
- 2019 “Modular Urbanism in Neoliberal China,” Urban China Research Network Conference, Nanjing, June 23.
- 2019 Panel participant, “Conducting Fieldwork in China: Negotiating Power and Positionality,” annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, DC. April 7.
- 2018 “Mining resettlement and urban speculation in Ordos, Inner Mongolia,” presentation at the Trajectoires Socio-Écologiques des Terrains Miniers (Socio-Ecological Trajectories of Mining Territories) conference, Université Savoie-Mont Blanc, Chambéry, France, October 18.
- 2018 “Space, Time, and Ruin in Images of China’s ‘Ghost Cities,’” presentation at Borderland Spaces: Ruins, Revival(s), and Resources, Asian Borderlands Research Network meeting, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, August 14.

- 2018 “Spatial Dynamics of Infrastructure Investment in Central Asia,” discussant, Borderland Spaces: Ruins, Revival(s), and Resources, Asian Borderlands Research Network meeting, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, August 14.
2018. “Understanding ‘Ghost Cities’: A Cultural-Geographical Approach,” invited lecture at Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Geographical and Natural Resources Research, Beijing, China. May 22.
- 2018 “Energy investments in China’s Belt and Road Initiative,” presentation at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, LA, April 12.
- 2018 “Speed, time, and ruin in images of China’s ‘ghost cities,’” presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC, March 23. Served as organizer of peer-reviewed paper session titled “Speed and temporality in Asian urbanization.”
- 2018 “Picturing ruin in images of China’s ‘ghost cities,’” invited lecture at Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, Feb. 12.
- 2017 “Comparing Resource Boomtowns: Assessing Urban Change in the contemporary energy frontiers of China and the United States,” poster presented at the 2017 Energy Impacts Symposium, Columbus, Ohio, July 26.
- 2017 “China’s Urbanization Through Eyes of a Human Geographer,” invited lecture at Xiamen University, China, June 26.
- 2017 “China’s Urban Speed Machine: Bureaucratic time-space, isomorphic form, and urban crisis,” presentation in “Governing Development Processes” session at 2017 International Conference on China Urban Development,” University College London, May 6.
- 2017 Lakeland Community College, “Parsing China’s ‘Ghost City’ Controversy,” invited lecture, organized through Ohio State East Asian Studies Center Title VI funding scheme.
- 2017 “China as Methods” session discussant, annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, MA, April 7.
- 2017 “Modular Urbanism and the Need for Speed: Isomorphism and crisis in the neoliberal Chinese city,” presentation in session “Uncomfortable Theoretical Fit: Debating the China Model: Which Frame, Which Future?,” annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, MA, April 7.
- 2017 “Seeing Ghosts: Parsing China’s ‘Ghost City’ Controversy,” invited lecture, Institute for Chinese Studies, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, February 3.

- 2016 “Ghosts in the Shell Game: Informal Finance and Urban Imaginaries in China’s Western Mining Frontier,” invited lecture, Department of Geography and Wealth and Poverty study group, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, October 27.
- 2016 “Frontier resource boomtown landscapes: Monumentality and speculation in Kangbashi, Inner Mongolia,” AAS-in-Asia meeting, Kyoto, Japan, June 26. Served as organizer of panel session, titled “Frontier Spaces: The Production of Place and Meaning in China’s Borderlands.” Peer-reviewed.
- 2016 “China’s ‘Ghost Cities’: The roles of government and citizens,” invited lecture, Samuel Tak Lee Real Estate Entrepreneurship Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 4.
- 2016 “Frontier Modernity: Landscapes of the Gigantic and the Ghost Town in Ordos, Inner Mongolia,” Frontier Assemblages: Political Economies of Margins and Resource Frontiers in Asia, Social Science Research Council, InterAsian Connections V, Seoul, April 26-30. Peer-reviewed.
- 2015 “The making of an energy resource frontier in western China,” China Borderland Environment workshop, Institute for East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley, CA, May 19-20.
- 2015 “Beyond Catastrophe: Rethinking Space, Time, and Subjects in the Anthropocene,” Climate, Security, Health, Resiliency Initiative, Ohio State Mershon Center for Security Studies, Columbus, OH, April 28. With Dr. Mat Coleman (Ohio State).
- 2015 “Making an energy resource frontier in western China,” Association of American Geographers annual conference, Chicago, IL, April 21-25.
- 2015 “Recasting the rural in China,” panel participant, Association of American Geographers annual conference, Chicago, IL, April 21-25.
- 2015 “Toward a theory of urban giganticism; the case of Ordos, Inner Mongolia,” Association for Asia Studies annual conference, Chicago, IL, April 21-25. Peer-reviewed.
- 2015 “Resource extraction, urbanization, and landscape change in Ordos: toward a theory of giganticism,” Emergent Trends on the China-Russia Border, Mongolia & Inner Asia Studies Unit, Cambridge University, UK, March 16-17.
- 2015 “China’s New Coal Frontier,” Recasting the Rural, Conference & workshop, Brown University, RI, February 11-13.

- 2014 “Informal Finance and Boomtown Urbanism in Ordos,” China Borderlands Workshop, Berkeley, CA, May 20-21.
- 2014 “Informal Finance and Double Dispossession in China’s Mining Frontier,” Association of American Geographers annual conference, Tampa, FL, April 18-12.
- 2014 “Infrastructure and frontier development in China,” panel participant, Association of American Geographers annual conference, Tampa, FL, April 18-12.
- 2013 “Future Ruins: Representing Space and Time in China’s ‘Ghost Cities,’” Berkeley Art Museum/Institute for East Asian Studies, “Estranged Paradise,” Berkeley, CA, September 23.
- 2012 “Urban Gigantism: Representing Culture and Nature in Public Spaces in Ordos, Inner Mongolia,” Art History 424, “Envisioning the Nation,” American University, Washington, D.C., March 21.
- 2012 “Frontier Boomtown Urbanism,” Space, Place, Territory Symposium, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, March 12.
- 2012 “Ghosts in the Shell Game: Informal Finance and City Building in Ordos, Inner Mongolia,” Placing East Asia Graduate Student Conference, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, March 2-3.
- 2011 “Mining, Money, and Mansions: Cultures of Urban Development in Ordos,” Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, April 12-16.
- 2010 “The Cultural Politics of Graffiti: The Case of Zhang Dali’s *Dialogue*,” Geography 290 “Economic and Social Development of China,” UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, September 18.

COURSES TAUGHT

Ohio State University

- Geog 3650 A World Divided? Place, Space, and Regions in World Affairs
- Geog 5503 Urban China: Space, Place, and Urban Transformation
- Geog 3701 The Making of the Modern World
- Geog 2500 Cities and their Global Spaces
- Geog 2100 Introduction to Human Geography
- Geog 2750 World Regional Geography
- IntStds 4195 China in the World
- IntStds 2500 Introduction to Development Studies
- IntStds 3905 The Developing World on Screen (schedule Spring 2024)

Northern Virginia Community College

Geog 210 Cultural Geography
Geog 220 World Geography

STUDENT COMMITTEES

Direct Advisor

PhD

Keigan Carpenter (Geography)
Seiba Issifu (Geography)
Samuel Kay (Geography, graduated 2020)
Ting (Scarlett) Jin (Geography, graduated 2020)
Lili Wang (Geography, graduated 2016)

MA

Caroline Atwood (Geography, graduated 2023)
Justine Franklin (East Asian Studies, graduated 2022)
Jingying Gao (East Asian Studies, graduated 2019)

Honors Undergraduate Thesis & Honors Program

Emma Maher (Geography & International Studies, graduate 2025)
Emily Scolaro (Personalized Undergraduate Honors Program, graduated 2016)

Committee Member

PhD

Wenhao Guan (History)
Alissa Elegant (Dance)
Yujie Chen (Dance)
Rebecca Chapman (Geography, graduated 2023)
Yingchong Wang (Arts Education, Administration, and Policy, graduated 2022)
Jianzi He (Political Science, graduated 2021)
Sohyun Park (Geography, graduated 2021)
Guillermo Bervejillo (Geography, graduated 2020)
Wen Guo (Arts Education, Administration, and Policy, graduated 2019)
Debangana Bose (Geography, graduated 2019)
Minkyung Koh (Geography, graduated 2018)
Hui Kong (Geography, graduated 2018)
Young Rae Choi (Geography, graduated 2015)
Anurupa Roy (Geography, graduated 2014)

MA

Brandon Landry (East Asian Studies, graduated 2023)
George Ananchev (Geography, graduated 2023)
Sher Ali Khan (Geography, graduated 2023)
Yingchong Wang (Arts Education, Administration, and Policy, graduated 2021)
Anurag Mazumdar (Geography, graduated 2018)
Samuel Kay (Geography, graduated 2014)

BA Honors Thesis Committee

Grace Zhang (Geography 2023)
 Mariel Trinidad (Geography, graduate 2023)
 Ruoran Cheng (Geography, graduated 2016)

MENTORING HIGHLIGHTS

Emma Maher: awardee BIG 10 Student Research Opportunity Program, Denman Undergraduate Research Forum Sustainability Institute Award, Office of Undergraduate Research award, Office of International Affairs undergraduate international research award.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2022-present	Graduate Studies Committee
2020-2025	Equity Committee (FKA Anti-Racism Committee), chair
2016-2024	Personnel Committee
2023	General Education Course Proposal (GEOG 3601 “A World Divided?: Place, Space, and Regions in World Affairs”), approval pending
2022	General Education Course Proposal (GEOG 2500 “Cities and their Global Spaces), approved
2022	Faculty Search Committee, diversity advocate
2021	Faculty Search Committee, diversity advocate
2021-2023	Speakers Committee, chair
2021-2023	Department of Geography, 5-Year Strategic Plan Task Force member
2020-2022	Department website redevelopment group
2020-2021	Department strategic vision statement group
2013-2020	Speakers Committee
2016-2017	Faculty Search Committee (Social Geography)
2013-2014	Study Abroad Ad Hoc Exploratory Group

SERVICE TO OTHER OHIO STATE UNITS

University Service:

2024-present	Director, Institute for Chinese Studies
2025	Organizer of Ohio State-Indiana University Graduate Student Research Workshop
2017-2021	Representative (Department of Geography), Ohio State College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate

Graduate School Service:

2025	Graduate Faculty Representative, PhD oral defense for Kara Lamantian, Department of Earth Sciences, May 2025.
2022	Graduate Faculty Representative, PhD oral defense for Dustin Meier, Department of History, July 2022
2018	Graduate Faculty Representative, PhD oral defense for Hui Liao, Chemistry, April 2018
2016	Graduate Faculty Representative, PhD oral defense for Sarada Pyda, Agricultural Economics, August 2016

Academic Program Service:

2025-present	Sustainability Education Learning Committee, Social and Behavioral Sciences committee representative
2023-present	Social and Environmental Geography Undergraduate Major Assessment Committee, chair
2023-present	Graduate Studies Committee member, East Asian Studies MA program, elected position
2023	General Education Course Proposal (Intstds 3905, “The Developing World on Screen”), approved
2018-2020	Chair, Graduate Studies Committee, East Asian Studies MA program
2017-2018	Graduate Studies Committee member, East Asian Studies MA program, elected position
2017	East Asian Studies Center, Foreign Language and Area Studies review committee
2016-2018	Cultures of the Anthropocene, Ohio State Humanities Institute Working Group member
2013-2015	Program in International Studies, Development Studies MA curriculum development ad hoc group

EDITORSHIPS

2020-present	Editorial Board member, <i>Transactions in Planning and Urban Research - China</i>
2019-present	Editorial Collective founding member, <i>Roadsides</i> (open-access e-journal)
2016-present	Editorial Board member, <i>Urban Geography</i>

SERVICE TO DISCIPLINE

2025	Organizer (with Jeffrey Jacquet, SENR, and University of Queensland Collaborative Research Center for Transitions in Mining Economies) of the Workshop on Global Coal Transitions, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, May 13-14.
2024	Organizer (with Jeffrey Jacquet, co-Organizer) of the Conference on Global Coal Transitions, Columbus, Ohio, July 16-19, 2024. Conference featured an externally funded Early-Career Fellows program, two days of concurrent paper sessions, a stage performance of the theatrical coal powerplant eulogy <i>Calling Hours</i> , and a field trip to Ohio’s eastern coal region.
2024	Tenure review cases (2)
2024	Editor (with Cecilia L. Chu, co-editor) of open-access theme issue “Concrete” in <i>Roadsides</i>
2024	National Science Foundation, Human-Environmental Geographical Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant review panel member
2022-present	Urban China Research Network, Board Member
2023	Tenure review case
2023	National Science Foundation, Human-Environmental Geographical Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant review panel member
2020-2021	Committee Member, American Association of Geographers International Research and Scholarly Exchange Committee
2019-2020	Chair, American Association of Geographers China Geography Specialty Group

2018-2019	Vice Chair, American Association of Geographers China Geography Specialty Group
2017-2018	Secretary, American Association of Geographers China Geography Specialty Group, elected position

SERVICE OUTSIDE OHIO STATE

2024	National Science Foundation Human-Environment and Geographical Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Research and Improvement Awards review committee
2023-2025	Standing Review Board Member, Humanities and Social Sciences Panel of the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, China.
2023	National Science Foundation Human-Environment and Geographical Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Research and Improvement Awards review committee.
2015	Hong Kong Research Grants Council, research proposal review
2014	National Science Foundation, research proposal review
2014	Social Science and Humanities Research Council (Canada), research proposal review

SERVICE TO STUDENT LIFE

2024	“Critical Sandwich” speaker, Department of Geography
2022	Hayes Graduate Research Forum, Judge
2018-2022	Student Group Faculty Advisor, Humanity First
2015-2022	Student Group Faculty Advisor, Students for Refugees
2018-2021	Student Group Faculty Advisor, Tibetan Students Association
2015-2018	Student Group Faculty Advisor, Advocates for Women of the World

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

2025	Ohio State University, Institute for Chinese Studies representative to North American Taiwanese American Association annual gathering, Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 20.
2021	Speaker at National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, Seminar for K-12 Educators, Shepherdstown, WV, “China’s Belt and Road Initiative: Scope and Prospects,” online participation.
2020	Volunteer speaker, “Global Scholars: Global Issues” Ohio high school student forum, Columbus Council on World Affairs, online participation.
2019	Volunteer speaker, “Global Scholars: Global Issues” Ohio high school student forum, Columbus Council on World Affairs, Columbus, Ohio, United States.
2017	Outreach speaker, “Seeing Ghosts: Understanding China’s ‘Ghost City’ Controversy,” Lakeland Community College, April 4.
2017	Volunteer speaker, “Global Scholars: Global Issues” Ohio high school student forum, Columbus Council on World Affairs, Columbus, Ohio, United States.
2016	Invited faculty speaker, “Behind the Bean” undergraduate discussion series, Lincoln Tower.
2015	Buckeye Book Community Discussion Leader (AU15)

2015 Invited faculty speaker, “Cane’s, Cranes, and Construction,” undergraduate discussion series, Drackett Hall, Ohio State.

SCHOLARLY MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

Academic Journals

Annals of the American Association of Geographers
Antipode
Anthropological Forum
Applied Geography
Asia Pacific Viewpoint
China Information
China Perspectives
Cities
Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space
Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space
Environment and Planning D: Society and Space
Eurasian Geography and Economics
Extractive Industries and Society
Geoforum
Geographical Review
Habitat International
Human Geography
Inner Asia
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
Journal of Agrarian Change
Journal of Critical Asian Studies
Journal of Urban Affairs
Planning Practice and Research
Political Geography
The Professional Geographer
Roadsides
Space and Culture
Sustainability
Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers
Transactions in Planning and Urban Research
Urban Geography
Urban Studies

Book Manuscripts

University of Amsterdam Press
Cornell University Press
Columbia University Press
Oxford University Press (textbook)
Pearson (textbook)
Sage
Routledge
Springer

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Quoted in Frederik Guy Hoffe Sonne, “Vild teori vinder frem: Grønland er tech-elitens drøm om en utopisk koloni (Wild theory emerges: Greenland is the tech elite's dream of a utopian colony)” *Videnskab (Science)*, Feb. 14, 2026. <https://videnskab.dk/kultur-samfund/vild-teori-vinder-frem-groenland-er-tech-elitens-droem-om-en-utopisk-koloni/>
- Quoted in Andrew Singer, “Why do crypto bros like freedom cities?” *Cointelegraph*, April 28, 2025. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/why-crypto-bros-like-freedom-cities>
- Quoted in Bobby Magill, “Freedom Cities’ Push on Public Land Gains Viability Under Tump,” *Bloomberg News*, April 10, 2025. <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/freedom-cities-push-on-public-land-gains-viability-under-trump>
- Quoted in Eliza Relman, “Trump’s ‘Freedom Cities’ Promised to Bring Down Housing Costs. A Conservative Think Tank Has Mapped Where they Could Go,” *Business Insider*, April 6, 2025. <https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-freedom-cities-housing-costs-nevada-las-vegas-plan-2025-4>
- Quoted in Quartly, J. 2022. “Time for Taiwan Studies.” *Taiwan Business Topics*. Online. <https://topics.amcham.com.tw/2023/02/time-for-taiwan-studies/?fbclid=IwAR3zwcMKqDMOZ-ijI07DuR1W1CFu8vptYJtIza4-SRWMI5dkgUcc2u4uExs>
- Quoted in Chu, I. “Cities Lost in Limbo: Are China’s Ghost Cities Here to Stay?” *US-China Today*, 11 Jan., 2022. <https://uschinatoday.org/features/2022/01/11/cities-lost-in-limbo-are-chinas-ghost-cities-here-to-stay/>
- Quoted in Mayger, J., L. Liu, Y. Liu, L. Zhu, and Y. Zhao. “Inside China’s ‘ghost cities’, the debt-fueled metropolises trying to build living, breathing communities – with varying success.” *Bloomberg News*, 21 Oct. 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/3150595/inside-chinas-ghost-cities-debt-fuelled>
- Quoted in Quartly, J. 2021. “The Gini in Taiwan’s Bottle: Taiwan’s status as a just and equitable country has been burnished by its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.” *Taiwan Business Topics* 50(11): 35-37.