

Researcher

Dr. des Xiaoxue Gao



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Curriculum Vitae

Xiaoxue Gao is a researcher and project manager of the research project [URA: Urban-Rural Assembly \(BMBF, 2019-2024\)](#) at the Habitat Unit since April 2019. The goal of the URA project is to manage the inclusive transformation-to-sustainability processes at the urban-rural interface of the Huangyan-Taizhou region in China.

Xiaoxue has been a PhD candidate at the Institute of Sociology at the TU Berlin since October 2014. She studied urban planning at Tianjin University and human geography at Peking University in China before pursuing her PhD. in Berlin. Her Doctoral dissertation, "Thinking of Space Relationally in Chinese Context: The Constitution of the Contemporary Artworld in Beijing (working title)" is expected to be finished in 2019. Her dissertation research focuses on the problem of conceptual discrepancies and the analytical incommensurability regarding the relationally thinking of social space in different epistemic context. Drawing on the critical realism theory and empirical research on the social-spatial practices in the contemporary artworld in Beijing

city, Xiaoxue develops methodological procedures to evaluate and recontextualize the various forms of relational space from different paradigms into the situated social world. She concludes on the analytical dimensions that she deems necessary for the understanding of constitution of space relationally in Chinese epistemic context.

Education

Since 2013

Doctoral Candidate of Philosophy (Dr.-Phil.)

TU Berlin

Thesis: Thinking of Space Relationally in Chinese Context: The Constitution of the Contemporary Artworld in Beijing (working title)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Martina Löw, Chair of sociology of planning and architecture at TU Berlin; Prof. Dr. Bettina Gransow van-Treeck, Außerplanmäßige Professorin of China Studies Department at Freie Universität Berlin

2011– 2014

Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning

Department of Human Geography,

School of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University

Thesis: Social Network and the Production of the Village-in-the-City: A Case Study of Caochangdi Artist Village in Beijing

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Bin Lv

2006– 2011

Bachelor of Urban Planning (B. Eng (hons.))

School of Architecture, Tianjin University

Employment History

Since 2019

Research Associate and Project Manager

Habitat Unit, TU Berlin

2018

Guest Editor

Project "Stadtmacher China-Deutschland" (Robert Bosch Stiftung), Constellations International GmbH.

2011

Urban Planner Intern

Department of Urban Planning and Design, Chinese Academy of Urban Planning and Design (CAUDP)

2010 –2011

Architect Intern

Büro Ole Scheeren Design Office

2008 –2009

Student Research Assistant

**Department of History of Architecture, Tianjin University, in
Collaboration with Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage Team for
Safeguarding Angkor Wat (CSA)**

Research Projects

2019

Urban-Rural Assembly (BMBF)

Habitat Unit, TU Berlin

Since 2014

**Dissertation: *Thinking of Space Relationally in Chinese Context: The
Constitution of the Contemporary Artworld in Beijing (Working Title)***

Institute of Sociology, TU Berlin

2012 – 2013

***Chinese Historical Walled Town Conservation: Theory and Praxis,*
commissioned by China Academy of Urban Planning and Design
(CAUDP), Department of Urban Planning and Historic City
Conservation, funded by Chinese Academy of Urban Planning and
Design Annual Research Grant (2012-2013)**

Teaching Activities

WS 2015

Seminar: Space Construction and Communication

**Bachelor and master's Course for Architecture, Urban Planning, Design
and Sociology Disciplines at TU Berlin**

Conferences

Conference Presentations

**(2018) *Knowledge(s) of Chinese City: Reflections on Epistemic Ground
for Conceptualizing the City*, presented at conference, China's New
Urban Agenda: An International Dialogue on Sustainable Development,
Manchester Urban Institute, UK**

**(2017) *Village-in-the-city, Urban or Rural? Two Perspectives on Urbanity
of Caochangdi* (Co-author with Lea Rothmann), presented at Workshop,
Chinese Urbanities – Relations between Space and Society, Graduate
School of East Asian Studies, Freie Universität Berlin**

(2017)*Off the Center: The Canton Experience of Constructing an Art World*, presented at DGS Sociology of Arts 2017, Sites of Interest: Exploring the Urban in Art Worlds, TU Berlin

(2015)*The Space Production by Contemporary Artists in Beijing: A case study of Caochangdi Art Village*, presented at the 12th European Sociological Association (ESA 2015) Conference, Prague

As Organizer

(2017)*Co-Organizing Annual Conference of AK Sociology of Art* with Dr. Martin Fuller on behalf of German Sociological Association ([DGS](#)), TU Berlin

(2016) *Co-Organizing Workshop Building Power: Meaning and Materiality in Urban Architecture*, Institute of Sociology, TU Berlin

Grants, Awards and Fellowships

2018

Journal of Town Planning Review (TPR) Bursary awarded to attend and speak at the young scholar panel at the conference *China's New Urban Agenda: An International Dialogue on Sustainable Development*, Manchester Urban Institute, UK

2014 –2018

Chinese Scholarship Council Research Grant awarded for doctoral research.

Other Projects

Art Reviews

[The Dead Souls](#): Methodology of Documenting and Revealing the Truth (In Chinese), Art Forum, 2018.5.17

[The Construction of the Encounter](#) (In Chinese), Art Forum, 2016.9.22

[Meetings of the Fragmentary Bodies](#) (In Chinese), Art Forum, 2016.1.12

Documentary

Essay Film, "Disneyland is afar, Welcome to Shijingshan", 24min, co-produced with Liuzhang Bolong, exhibited at Hunsand Space, 2017.10, Beijing