

# Xuefei Ren

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## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. Sociology, *University of Chicago*  
M.A. Urban Planning, *Tokyo Metropolitan University*, Japan  
B.A. Comparative Literature, *Jilin University*, China

## FELLOWSHIPS

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2023-2027 Fellow, Canadian Institute for Advanced Studies, Humanity's Urban Future Program  
2021-2023 National Committee on US-China Relations, Public Intellectuals Program  
2022-2023 New School for Social Research, India-China Center  
2015-2016 American Council of Learned Societies  
2011-2012 Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

## RESEARCH AREAS

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Urban Sociology, Social Theory, Political Economy, International Development

## BOOKS

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Ren, Xuefei. 2020. *Governing the Urban in China and India: Land Grabs, Slum Clearance and the War on Air Pollution*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

- \* Winner of Robert E. Park Best Book Award in Community and Urban Sociology, American Sociological Association, 2022.
- \* Honorable Mention of Dennis Judd Best Book Award in Urban and Local Politics, American Political Science Association, 2021.

Reviewed in *Nature*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *China Quarterly*, *China Information*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, and *Scientia Geographica Sinica*.

Ren, Xuefei. 2013. *Urban China*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

- \* Outstanding Academic Title, *Choice Magazine*, 2013.
- Russian edition published in 2023, Academic Studies Press, Boston.

Ren, Xuefei. 2011. *Building Globalization: Transnational Architecture Production in Urban China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- \* Winner of Best Book Award in the Political Economy of the World System Section, American Sociological Association, 2012.
- \* Honorable Mention of Robert E. Park Best Book Award in Community and Urban Sociology, American Sociological Association, 2012

## EDITED BOOK

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Ren, Xuefei and Roger Keil. 2018. *The Globalizing Cities Reader*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Routledge.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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Xuefei Ren. 2025. "Rethinking southern urbanism from the periphery," *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais* (Brazilian Journal of Urban and Regional research).

Ponzini, Davide, Robert Hassink, Dieter Kogler and **Xuefei Ren**. 2025. "Megaprojects: Symbolic Value in Urban-Regional Economy," *Cambridge Journal of Economy, Regions and Society*.

Li, Yifei and **Xuefei Ren**. 2024. "Everyday oblivion in eco-civilized China," *Qualitative Sociology*, 47(3): 1-20.

Ren, Xuefei. 2021. "The peripheral turn in global urban studies," *South Asia Interdisciplinary Academic Journal*, 26: 1-8.

Ren, Xuefei. 2021. "Suburbs and urban peripheries in a global perspective," *City & Community*, 20(1): 38-47.

Garrido, Marco, **Xuefei Ren**, and Liza Weinstein. 2021. "Toward a Global Urban Sociology: Keywords," *City & Community*, 20(1): 4-12.

Ren, Xuefei. 2020. "Historical Preservation in Rustbelt China: The Life and Death of Jihong Bridge," *Journal of Chinese Architecture and Urbanism*, 2(2): 1-12.

Ren, Xuefei. 2020. "From a comparative gesture to structured comparison: An analysis of air pollution control in Beijing and Delhi," *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 13(3): 461-473.

Ren, Xuefei. 2020. "Pandemic and lockdown: A territorial approach to Covid-19 in China, Italy, and the U.S." *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 61(4-5): 423-434.

Ren, Xuefei. 2020. "Slums, favelas, and urban villages: Housing crises in Guangzhou, Mumbai, and Rio de Janeiro," *Current History*, 119 (813): 15-21.

Ren, Xuefei. 2018. "From Chicago to China and India: Studying the city in the 21<sup>st</sup> century," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 44: 497-513.

Ren, Xuefei. 2017. "Aspirational urbanism from Beijing to Rio de Janeiro: Olympic cities in the Global South and contradictions," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 39(7): 894-908.

Ren, Xuefei. 2017. "Governing the informal: Housing policies over informal settlements in China, India, and Brazil," *Housing Policy Debate*, 28(1): 79-93.

Ren, Xuefei. 2017. "Land acquisition, rural protests, and the local state in China and India," *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 35(1): 22-38.

Ren, Xuefei. 2015. "City power and urban fiscal crises: The USA, China, and India," *International Journal of Urban Sciences*, 19(1): 73-81.

- Ren, Xuefei. 2014. "The political economy of urban ruins: Redeveloping Shanghai," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(2): 1081-91.
- Morgan, George and **Xuefei Ren**. 2012. "The creative underclass: Culture, subculture and urban renewal," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 34(2): 127-130.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2012. "'Green' as spectacle in China," *Journal of International Affairs*, 65: 19-30.
- Ren, Xuefei** and Meng Sun. 2012. "Artistic urbanization: Creative industries and creative control in Beijing," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 36(3): 504-521.
- Weinstein, Liza and **Xuefei Ren**. 2009. "The changing right to the city: Urban renewal and housing rights in globalizing Shanghai and Mumbai," *City & Community*, 8(4): 407-432.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2009. "Olympic Beijing: Reflections on urban space and global connectivity," *International Journal of the History of Sports*, 26(8): 1011-1039.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2008. "Forward to the past: Historical preservation in globalizing Shanghai," *City & Community*, 7(1): 23-43.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2008. "Architecture and nation building in the age of globalization: Construction of the National Stadium of Beijing for the 2008 Olympic Games," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, (30)2: 175-190.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2008. "Architecture and China's urban revolution," *City: Analysis of Urban Trends, Culture, Theory, Policy, Action*, 12(2): 217-225.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2008. "Architecture as branding: Mega-project developments in Beijing," *Built Environment*, 34(4): 517-531.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2006. "La ville Chinoise et ses 'grands projets' urbains : l'architecture internationale en question," *La Vie des Idées*, 12: 77-83.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2005. "The first Chicago School of urban sociology: 1910s-1930s," *Urban China Review*, 1(1): 85-93.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2004. "The rise of the creative class and urban amenity theory," *The Annals of Japanese Association for Urban Sociology*, 22: 189-98.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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- Ren, Xuefei. 2024. "Architects, China and the transnational capitalist class," *Festschrift of Leslie Sklair*.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2023. "Urban China and Covid-19: How Chinese cities responded to the pandemic," in *Handbook on Local Governance in China: Structures, Variations, and Innovations*, edited by Ceren Ergenc and David S. G. Goodman. Edward Elgar.

- Ren, Xuefei. 2023. "Urban restructuring and citizens in Asia: Shanghai," in *Urban Sociology: An Introduction*, Yasushi Matumoto (ed). 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Tokyo: Yuhikaku.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2023. "Urban Restructuring and citizens in Asia: Mumbai," in *Urban Sociology: An Introduction*, Yasushi Matumoto (ed). 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Tokyo: Yuhikaku.
- Woodworth, Max, **Xuefei Ren**, Jesse Rodenbiker, Ettore Santi, Yining Tan, Li Zhang, and Yu Zhou. 2022. "Researching China during the Covid-19 pandemic," *Covid-19 and an Emerging World of Ad Hoc Geographies*, Stanley D. Brunn and Donna Gilbreath (eds), p.2705-2721. Edward Elgar.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2020. "Redeveloping informal settlements in China, India, and Brazil," in *Chinese Cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Youqin Huang (ed), p.81-90. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2020. "Nanjing too, introduction two," "Mountain island city," "Bridge city" in *Nanjing Charter*, Terreform (ed), p.30, 89, and 112. New York: Terreform.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2020. "Planning mega-regions in China and India," in *Metropolitan Circles Development and the Future of Urbanization*, Wei Shan and Lijun Yang (eds), p.99-128. Singapore: World Scientific Press.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2019. "Robert Park in China: From the Chicago School to urban China studies," in *The City in China: Perspectives on Contemporary Urbanism*, Ray Forrest, Julie Ren, and Bart Wissink (eds), p.1-16. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2019. "Building on quick sand: Infrastructural megaprojects in China," in *Critical Perspectives on Suburban Infrastructure*, Pierre Filion (ed), p.301-317. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
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- Ren, Xuefei. 2018. "In search of the cosmopolitan Chinese city: Guangzhou's urban villages," in *Letters to the Leaders of China: Kongjian Yu and the Future of the Chinese City*, Michael Sorkin (ed), p.202-211. New York: Terreform.
- Ren, Xuefei** and Roger Keil. 2018. "From global to globalizing cities," in *The Globalizing Cities Reader*, Xuefei Ren and Roger Keil (eds), p.xxiii-xxix. New York: Routledge.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2018. "Global city building in China and its discontents," in *The Globalizing Cities Reader*, Xuefei Ren and Roger Keil (eds), p.307-312. New York: Routledge.
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- Ren, Xuefei. 2017. "Biggest infrastructure bubble ever? City and nation building with debt-financed megaprojects in China," in *The Oxford Handbook of Megaproject Management*, Bent Flyvbjerg (ed), p.139-153. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2017. "Cities in China and India: Disjuncture, master-concepts, and comparisons," in *A Research Agenda for Cities*, John R. Short (ed), p.195-205. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2017. "Lost in translation: Names, meanings, and development strategies of Beijing's periphery," in *What's in a Name? Talking about Urban Peripheries*, Richard Harris and Charlotte Vorms (eds), p.316-333. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2016. "Citizenship in China and India: A Comparison," in *The Making of Vibrant Cities*, Mumbai First (ed), p.59-63. New Delhi: Rupa Publications India.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2015. "Pouvoir municipal et crise fiscale urbaine aux États-Unis, en Chine et en Inde," in *Tous Responsables? Chroniques de la Gouvernance*, p.79-87. Paris: Belles Lettres.
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- Ren, Xuefei. 2013. "Pékin 2008: Les jeux Olympiques, les espaces de flux," in *La coupe est pleine: Les désastres économiques et sociaux des grands événements sportifs*, Ouvrage collectif, PubliCetim no° 38, CETIM (Centre Europe-Tiers Monde), Geneva.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2013. "Architecture as branding: Mega-project developments in Beijing," in *Megaproject Planning and Management: Essential Readings*, Bent Flyvbjerg (ed). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2013. "Urban restructuring and citizens in Asia: Shanghai," in *Urban Sociology: An Introduction*, Yasushi Matumoto (ed), p.234-243. Tokyo: Yuhikaku.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2013. "Urban Restructuring and citizens in Asia: Mumbai," in *Urban Sociology: An Introduction*, Yasushi Matumoto (ed), p.243-250. Tokyo: Yuhikaku.
- Ren, Xuefei** and Liza Weinstein. 2013. "Urban governance, mega-projects, and scalar transformations in China and India," in *Locating Right to the City in the Global South*, Tony Samara, Shenjing He, and Guo Chen (eds), p.107-126. New York: Routledge.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2012. "Rights to housing: Developing societies," in *The International Encyclopedia of Housing and Home*, Vol. 6, by Susan J. Smith (ed), p.158-163. Oxford: Elsevier.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2011. "Dancing with the state: Migrant workers' NGOs and the remaking of urban citizenship in China," in *Remaking Urban Citizenship: Organizations, Institutions and the Right to the City*, Michael Peter Smith and Michael McQuarrie (eds), p.99-108. New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers.

- Ren, Xuefei. 2011. "From Peking to Beijing: Production of centrality in the global age," in *Global Downtowns*, Gary McDonogh and Marina Peterson (eds), p.48-64. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2010. "Territorial expansion and state rescaling: A critique of suburbanization studies," in *Suburbanization in Global Perspective*, Mark Clapson and Ray Hutchison (eds), p.351-370. Bingley, UK: Emerald Books.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2010. "World-systems perspective," in *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies*, Ray Hutchison (ed), p.969-973. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2010. "Olympic Beijing: Reflections on urban space and global connectivity," in *The Beijing Olympics, Promoting China: Soft and Hard Power in Global Politics*, Kevin Caffrey (ed). London: Routledge.
- Ren, Xuefei. 2009. "Transnational architectural production in downtown Beijing," in *Global Movements in the Asia Pacific*, Pookong Kee and Hidetaka Yoshimatsu (eds), p.341-368. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing.

## JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUES EDITED

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- 2024-2025. "Mega-projects and Their Symbolic Value for Urban and Regional Economies," with Davide Ponzini, Robert Hassink, Dieter Kogler. *Cambridge Journal of Economy, Regions and Society*.
2021. "Toward a Global Urban Sociology: Keywords," with Marco Garrido and Liza Weinstein, *City & Community*.
2017. "Urban Spectacles and Transformation in Brazil," *Journal of Urban Affairs*.
2009. "The Creative Underclass: Culture, Subculture and Urban Renewal," with George Morgan, *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

## TRANSLATION

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2011. *Department and Discipline: Chicago Sociology at One Hundred*, by Andrew Abbott, 1999, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Japanese translation by Yasushi Matumoto and **Xuefei Ren**. Tokyo: Harvest.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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2024. *Bourdieu in the City: Challenging Urban Theory*, by Loïc Wacquant, 2022. Cambridge: Polity Press. In *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*.
2022. *The Wuhan Lockdown*, by Guobin Yang, 2022. New York: Columbia University Press. In *Journal of Asian Studies*.
2021. *The End of the Village*, by Nick Smith, 2021. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. In *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, [10.1080/15387216.2021.1987286](https://doi.org/10.1080/15387216.2021.1987286)

2021. *Resisting Redevelopment: Protest in Aspiring Global Cities*, by Eleonora Pasotti, 2020. New York: Cambridge University Press. In *American Journal of Sociology*, 127 (3): 1017-1018.
2021. *Transnational Architecture and Urbanism: Rethinking How Cities Transform, Plan and Learn*, by Davide Ponzini, 2020. London: Routledge. In *European Planning Studies*, 30(8), p.320.
2021. *Chasing World-Class Urbanism: Global Policy Versus Everyday Survival in Buenos Aires*, by Jacob Lederman, 2019. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. In *City & Community*, 20(4): 372-374.
2020. *Urban Parallax: Policy and the City in Contemporary India*, edited by Amita Bhide and Himanshu Burte, 2018. New Delhi: Yoda Press. In *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 44 (1), p.180.
2019. *The City after Chinese New Towns: Spaces and Imaginaries from Contemporary Urban China*, edited by Michele Bonino, Francesca Governa, Maria Paola Repellino, and Angelo Sampieri, 2019. Basel: Birkhauser. In *City: Analysis of Urban Trends, Culture, Theory, Policy, Action*, 23 (4-5), p.686-689.
2019. *Landscape of Accumulation: Real Estate and Neoliberal Imagination in Contemporary India*, by Llerena G. Searle, 2016. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. In *Journal of Asian Studies*, 78(3), p.718-720.
2019. *Polarized Cities: Portraits of Rich and Poor in Urban China*, edited by Dorothy Solinger, 2018. New York: Rowman & Littlefield. In *China Quarterly*, no. 239, p.820-821.
2017. *China's Urban Century: Governance, Environment and Socio-Economic Imperatives*, edited by François Gipouloux, 2016. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing. In *Pacific Affairs*, 90(2), p.335-337.
2015. *The Specter of "the People": Urban Poverty in Northeast China*, by Mun Young Cho, 2013. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. In *Pacific Affairs*, 88(1), p.183-184.
2014. *Contesting the Indian City: Global Visions and the Politics of the Local*, edited by Gavin Shatkin, 2013. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. In *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(6), p.2328-2389.
2014. *Chinese Urban Design: The Typomorphological Approach*, by Fei Chen and Kevin Thwaites, 2013. Farnham: Ashgate. In *China Quarterly*, Vol. 218, p.564-565.
2013. *Touring Poverty*, by Bianca Freire-Medeiros, 2013. New York: Routledge. In *City and Community*, 12(3), p.284-286.
2010. *Olympic Media: Inside the Biggest Show on Television*, by Andrew C. Billings, 2008. New York: Routledge. In *Thirdspace: A Journal of Feminist Theory and Culture*. <http://journals.sfu.ca/thirdspace/index.php/journal>
2009. *Cities in Globalization: Practices, Policies and Theories*, edited by Peter J. Taylor et al., 2007. New York: Routledge. In *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 33(1), p.263-264.
2009. *Cultural Landscapes of Post-Socialist Cities: Representation of Powers and Needs*, by Mariusz Czepczynski, 2008. Farnham: Ashgate. In *City and Community*, 8(1), p.91-92.
2005. *The Rise of the Creative Class*, by Richard Florida, 2002. New York: Basic Books. In *Urban Planning Forum*, no.155, p.99-102. (in Chinese)
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**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Sociological Association

Association of American Geographers

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning

Urban Affairs Association

International Sociological Association, Research Committee 21 (Urban and Regional Development)

Association of Asian Studies

Social Science History Association

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