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## Call for Participants

**Workshop: The impact of rapid urbanisation on health in Chinese mega-cities**

**Dates and venue:** Nov. 27-29, 2017, in Xiamen, China

**Host by the** Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Science, Cardiff University and Swansea University.

**China coordinators:** Prof. Yongguan Zhu, Dr. Franz Gatzweller, Dr. Yi Zhang

**UK coordinators:** Prof. Terry Marsden, Dr. Yi Gong, Dr. Joel Dearden

### Summary:

China lives in the age of the megacity (cities with a population of more than 10 million). Rapid urbanisation in these large urban areas is increasingly linked with poor planning and a lack of pollution-reduction measures, both of which have severe impacts on public health. The WHO has described recent smog in China as a “health crisis”. This is particularly relevant to the disadvantaged poor. How we decide to meet the challenges of rapid urbanisation will have a strong impact on population health and quality of life in future.

Interactions between people’s health and the built environment are complex and can hold unintended consequences. Increasing evidence points to rapid urbanisation as a source of poor health via unintended consequences such as poorly planned urban sprawl, a lack of access to infrastructure and widening inequalities, especially for the disadvantaged poor.

Thus solutions to health problems need to be sourced from areas such as urban planning in addition to medical innovation. Systems approaches with an emphasis on local contextual factors (i.e. place-based thinking), along with complexity theory have the potential to uncover causes and improve population health, rather than treating the symptoms of urban health disorders.



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### Key themes:

System thinking, complexity science, place-based methods, planning, geography, sociology, urban modeling, environmental science, public health, urban economics, environmental and health economics

This workshop aims to facilitate a broader and deeper understanding of systems thinking, complexity theory and place-based methods, in relation to health and rapid urbanization, and to create cross-disciplinary & cross-country links to underpin future training or research bids.

The workshop will be highly interdisciplinary and will bring together 34 researchers from China (17) and the UK (17) with research interests relevant to urbanisation and environmental health.

Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the British Council and National Science Foundation of China and NSFC under the Newton Fund Researcher Links programme.

**Applicants must (1) hold a PhD, (2) have up to 10 years post-PhD research experience, and (3) have experience to host or take part in NSFC funding projects that finish after December 31, 2016.**

To apply (researchers from China only)

Please fill in the application form and submit it before **16 Feb 2017**.

Contact us: Please send any queries to

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