

Dr Joseph Hongsheng Zhao

Room F235, Henry Building West
Division of Engineering
University of the West of Scotland
High Street, Paisley, UK PA2 2BE
zhsjoseph2014@gmail.com
Tel.+44 7548 861 659

SUMMARY

Urban planner and social scientist researching sustainable urban transitions, migration, and planning for post-industrial cities. Experienced lecturer and grant-winning researcher with an emerging international profile.

EDUCATION

PhD	2023	Land Economy (Urban and Regional Planning), University of Cambridge
MPhil	2019	Planning Growth Regeneration, University of Cambridge
BSSc	2018	Urban Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

17/3/2025 - Present	Lecturer in Town Planning, University of the West of Scotland, UK
15/5/2024 - 14/3/2025	Research Associate, University of Suffolk, UK Project: <i>A Toolkit for Dynamic Health Impact Analysis in Aging Population: 3 cases of steel-industry exposed areas in Europe.</i> Funding: EU Horizon MISTRAL project (€3,619,635)
30/1/2023 - 14/5/2024	Tutor in Urban Studies, University of Glasgow, UK

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

2025	Zhao, H. , Spada, M. & Bortone, I., Urban Environments' Impacts on Ageing in Post-Industrial Cities: Reviewing the Pathways to Healthy Ageing. Special Issue on Urban Ageing. <i>Frontiers in Medicine</i> .
2024	Zhao, H. , & Bao, W., Aggravated Uncertainties, Researcher Resilience, and Ambiguous Positionality Doing Fieldwork in China Amid COVID-19 Pandemic. <i>International Journal of Qualitative Methods</i> , 23.
2023	Zhao, H. , Understanding Shiminhua in Chinese Greater Bay Area: Internalizing urban identity and negotiating place attachment. <i>Regional Science Policy & Practice</i> , 15(9), 1956-78.

- 2022 Chen, L., **Zhao, H.**, Song, G. & Liu, Y., Optimization of cultivated land pattern for achieving cultivated land system security: A case study in Heilongjiang province. *108*, 105589. *Land Use Policy*.
- 2021 Huang, B., Xiao, T., Grekousis, G., **Zhao, H.**, He, J., Dong, G., & Liu, Y., Greenness-air pollution-physical activity-hypertension association among middle-aged and older adults: evidence from urban and rural China. *Environmental Research*, *195*, 110836.
- 2021 Huang, B., Huang, C., Feng, Z., Pearce, J. R., **Zhao, H.**, Pan, Z., & Liu, Y., Association between residential greenness and general health among older adults in rural and urban areas in China. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, *59*, 126907.

Other Publications

- 2024 **Zhao, H.**, 'Migrant's Paradox: Street Livelihoods and Marginal Citizenship in Britain.' S. Hall. *Geographical Review*.
- 2024 **Zhao, H.**, Global campuses with Chinese characteristics': A comparative study on China's Joint Venture University (JVU) campuses. *35th International Geographical Congress*, Dublin, Ireland, August 2024.
- 2023 Abreu, M. & **Zhao, H.J.**, Chinese Migration, Diaspora, and Mobility. *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, *15* (9).1891–92.
- 2020 **Zhao, H.** & Ng, M. K., An inclusive Hong Kong through public spaces for urban homeless. *Proceeding of 12th International Conference of Urbanism*. Jakarta, Indonesia. June 2019.

In Submission

- 2025 Yu, Y. & **Zhao, H.*** Are International Students Struggling More? Comparing Housing Challenges of British and International Students in Glasgow. *Cities*.
- 2025 **Zhao, H.**, Still never a local without a local hukou: Rural-urban migrants' perception on hukou reform in Chinese Greater Bay Area. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*.
- 2025 **Zhao, H.**, Acculturation, Integration or Citizenization? Testifying to dimensions of rural Migrants' urban transition process in the Greater Bay Area of China'. *Urban Transitions*.

In Preparation

- 2026 **Zhao, H.** Frescura, A. & Spada, M. The Economics of Healthy Ageing in Post-Industrial Cities: Empirical Data from Taranto, Italy. *Urban Studies*.
- 2026 **Zhao, H.** Global Campuses with Blended Characteristics: The Planning, Design and Development of China's Sino-Foreign Joint Venture University (JVU) Campuses. *J-Reading*.
- 2026 **Zhao, H.**, Ahmad, S. & Crowe, S. Building Work-based Learning (WBL) Town Planning Programme in Scotland. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.

GRANTS & PROJECTS

External Funded

- 2025 **Mapping Opportunities for Healthy and Sustainable Urban Transitions in Post-Industrial Cities (2025-2027)**
£ 23700, PI
Urban Studies Foundation Seminar Series Grant
Dr Aviral Marwal (IIT-Roorkee), Dr Qiumeng Li (HKUST- Guangzhou)
- 2023 **Fostering Equitable Climate Action (2023-2024)**
£ 4590, Co-I
University of the West Indies-University of Glasgow Pilot Research Grant
Professor Harriet Thomson (PI, University of Glasgow) and Professor Alice Mah (Co-I, University of Glasgow), Dr Alana Griffith (Co-I, University of the West Indies)
- 2023 **Problem and Project-Based Learning in Climate Change Education through E-learning Platform' (2023-2025)**
£ 2154, Co-I
Innovative Teaching Grant, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen
Dr Jieqi Ma (PI, CUHK Shenzhen), Dr Yifan Cai (Co-I, CUHK Shenzhen)

Internal Funded

- 2023 **The Educational City (2023-2024)**
£ 1590, PI
Glasgow Urban Studies Research Incentivisation Fund (PI)
- 2022 **Urbanization of Rural-urban Migration: A Study of Shiminhua in Chinese Greater Bay (GBA) Area (2022-2023)**
£ 750, PI
Cambridge Hughes Hall Edwin Leong Travel and Conference Grant
- 2021 **Rural-urban Migration in Chinese Greater Bay (GBA) Area (2021-2022)**
£ 2000, PI
Cambridge Land Economy PhD Research Travel Grant

Pending

- 2025 **Ageing in a Post-Industrial Age: Mapping Opportunities in Post-Industrial Towns' Healthy Transition**
£ 9207, PI
Regional Studies Association Early Career Research Grant

Unfunded (Selected)

- 2025 **Regional and Urban Dynamics of Universities (2025-2027)**
£ 10000
Regional Studies Association Research Network Grant
Dr Jarosław Działek (Jagiellonian University), Dr Azusa Kuribayashi (Kogakkan University)
- 2025 **More than Studentification: How International Students Perceive and Reshape the Street Life in UK's Global Educational City – Glasgow**
£ 3280
Royal Geographical Society Small Research Grant

2023 Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Health: A Comparison between China and Africa

£ 1000

Horizon Europe Network Seed Fund, University of Glasgow Research Seed Funding for International Collaboration

Dr Abraham Matamanda (University of the Free State), Professor Verna Nel (University of the Free State)

AWARDS & HONOURS

- 2024 University of Glasgow Student-Led Teaching Award ‘Best Dissertation Supervisor’
- 2023 Glasgow School of Social & Political Sciences Research Fund £4,000
- 2022 Best Presentation Award, Regional Science Association International (RSAI) £500
- 2021 Great Britain China Educational Trust Student Award £2,000
- 2020 The Universities’ China Committee in London (UCCL) Grant £1,500
- 2019 Henry Lester Trust Grant £3,500
- 2018 Hong Kong Jockey Club Climathon Championship Award HK\$4000

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organised

- 2025 ‘Urban Geography Research Group Session: Creative Methods and Fieldwork in Urban Geography.’ Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference. 26-29 August. Birmingham, UK.
- 2025 ‘Demography, Labour Markets and Migrations: Uncertainties, Inactivity and Ambiguity.’ Regional Studies Association Annual Conference. 6-9 May. Porto, Portugal.
- 2023 ‘Youth Unemployment in China’. Scottish Centre for China Research. 4 October. Glasgow, UK.
- 2022 ‘Rural-Urban Migration of China’. Pembroke Workshop on Chinese Migration, Diaspora and Mobility, University of Cambridge. 19-20 April. Cambridge, UK.

Paper Presentations

- 2025 ‘Still never a Local without a Local Hukou: Rural-Urban Migrants’ Perceptions on Hukou Reform in the Chinese Pearl River Delta’. International Conference on China Urban Development, Bartlett School of Planning, University College London. 7-8 July. London, UK.
- 2024 ‘Global Campuses with Chinese characteristics’: A Study on China’s Joint Venture University (JUV) campuses’ 35th International Geographical Congress. 28 August. Dublin, Ireland.
- 2023 ‘Governing Rural-urban Migrants in Transitional Region.’ Paradigm shifts in local and urban governance. International Geographical Union Conference. 5 September. Budapest, Hungary.

Poster Presentation

- 2024 ‘Weaving the past, the present, and the future: a paean for a daily-access-approach to healthier post-industrial cities.’ Urban Transitions Conference by Elsevier. 5-7 November 2024. Barcelona, Spain.

Invited Discussant

- 2023 Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2023. ‘Cities and Regions of Tomorrow: Towards Better Regional Futures’. Global Migration Session. 9 -10 November. London, UK.
- 2023 The 2nd China in Social Sciences Conference (ChiNESS). ‘Emerging Research from the North of England’. Panel 3: Migration and Everyday Life. 21 June. University of Sheffield, UK.

Invited Talks and Guest Lectures

London School of Economics and Political Science (2022), University of Oxford (2023), University of Cambridge (2024), University of Edinburgh (2023), King’s College London (2022), The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen (2021, 2024), University of Manchester (2022), Sun Yat-sen University (2021), Comenius University Bratislava (2025), Wuhan University (2021), Politecnico di Bari (2025)

TEACHING

Graduate Level, Urban Studies, University of Glasgow

Module Coordinator

Urban Studies and Public Policy MSc Dissertation 2023-2024

City Planning and Real Estate MSc Dissertation 2023-2024

Supervised 17 MSc dissertations with average evaluation 4.75/5

Field Course Co-Convenor

MSc City Planning London Fieldtrip 2023-2024 Term 2, 2024-2025 Term 2

Module Instructor

Re-making Cities 2023-2024 Term 2, 2024-2025 Term 2

Development Economics 2023-2024 Term 2

Module Contributor

Sustainable Urban Futures 2023-2024 Term 1

Contemporary Planning System 2023-2024 Term 1

Community Empowerment & Engagement 2023-2024 Term 1

Nankai - Glasgow Joint Graduate School Dissertations 2023-2024 Term 2

Graduate Level, Land Economy, University of Cambridge

Module Instructor

Urban and Housing Policy 2021-2022 Term 1, 2022-2023 Term 1

Studio/Practice-Based Course, Architecture, University of Suffolk

Urban Design Studio: Climate, Culture, Context 2025–2026, Term 1

Studio/Practice-Based Course, Urban Studies, University of Glasgow

Development Process 2023-2024 Term 1

Professional Practice, Ethics & Management 2023-2024 Term 2

Undergraduate Level, Town Planning, University of the West of Scotland

Module Coordinator

Applied GIS and 3D Modelling 2024–2025 Term 3, 2025–2026 Term 1

Law, Economics and Management 2024–2025 Term 3

Applied Urban and Environmental Economics 2025–2026 Term 1

Introduction to Planning and Policy 2025–2026 Term 1

Work-Based Learning 4: Applied Dissertation 2025–2026 Term 1

Undergraduate Level, Urban Studies, University of Glasgow

Module Instructor

Urban Economy 2024-2025 Term 2

Governance and Market 2024-2025 Term 1

Youth, Policy & Welfare	2023-2024 Term 2
<i>Module Contributor</i>	
Urban Studies Research Design & Methods	2023-2024 Term 2
International Urban Challenge	2022-2023 Term 2
Evaluation, Evidence, Policy	2022-2023 Term 2, 2023-2024 Term 2
Understanding Glasgow	2022-2023 Term 2
Undergraduate Level, Land Economy, University of Cambridge	
<i>Module Instructor</i>	
Land Policy and Development Economics	2022-2023 Term 1

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023-2024	Early Career Lead, Socio-Environmental Action (SEA), Glasgow
2022-2024	Affiliated Researcher, Scottish Centre for China Research (SCCR)
2020-2021	Technical Advisor in Migration, ASEAN Development Outlook Report
2020-2021	Visiting Scholar, School of Geography and Planning, Sun Yat-sen University
2018	Research Assistant in Sustainable Cities, National University of Singapore

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Peer Review Journals

Co-Editor, Special Issue on Campus-City Relation, *Revisita Geographica Italiana*, 2025
Reviewer, *Spatial Economic Analysis*, 2024
Reviewer, *Journal of Urban Management*, 2023
Reviewer, *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, 2022
Co-Editor, Special Issue on Chinese Migration, Diaspora, Mobility, *Regional Science Policy & Practice (RSPP)*, 2022

To University

Reviewer and Assessor, Glasgow-Nankai Joint Graduate School, 2023-2024
PhD Admission Funding Panel Reviewer, Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS), 2023-2024
Research Ethics Committee Reviewer for Postgraduate Dissertation, School of Social and Political Science, University of Glasgow, 2023-2024
Dissertation Coordinator for MSc City Planning & Real Estate, MSc Public Policy & Management, University of Glasgow, 2023-2024
Dissertation Plagiarism Officer, Urban Studies, University of Glasgow, 2023-2024
Conference Organizing Committee Member, Pembroke College Workshop of Chinese Migration, Diaspora, and Mobility, University of Cambridge, 2022
Postgraduate Representative, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), Board of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, 2021-2022
Undergraduate Admission Interviewer for Land Economy, Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge, 2021-2022

To Community

Conference Organizing Committee Member, Land Economy Early Career Research Conference, University of Cambridge, 2021
PhD Representative in Land Economy, University of Cambridge, 2019-2020
Convenor, Cambridge Chinese Migration Studies Group, Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement, University of Cambridge, 2019 - 2022
Steering Committee Member, Cambridge Nature Health & Building Environment Research Group (NHBE Cambridge), 2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Fellow, Royal Geographical Society, 2024 - Present; Associate Fellow, 2021-2024
 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Rep, Royal Geographical Society, 2025-2026
 Treasurer, Urban Geography Research Group, Royal Geographical Society, 2024-2027
 Associate, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), 2025-Present
 Fellow, Advance HE, UK, 2025-Present; Associate Fellow 2023-2025
 Early Career Member, Regional Studies Association (RSA), 2023-2026
 Member, British Academy Early Career Researcher Network, 2023-2024
 Member, Regional Science Association International (RSAI), 2022-Present
 Member, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyor (RICS), 2018-Present

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

- 2025 Getting Your First Permanent Position in Academia. Cambridge Academic Society. 23 February. Cambridge, UK.
- 2025 'The Global City Challenge'. Glasgow Festival of Science. 12 June. Glasgow, UK.
- 2024 Career Development in UK Academia as an International Early Career Researcher. Equote Salon Coffee Chat. Muse College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. 25 April. Shenzhen, China.
- 2023 Shared Space: Migration Past & Present. New Lanark UNESCO consultation with Scottish Government. With Mr Jacky Wang (University of Edinburgh) and Dr Siqi Zhang (University of Strathclyde). 16 November. Lanarkshire, UK.
- 2021 Building Research Network while Reading PhD: A Case Study of Cambridge Chinese Migration Studies Group (CCMSG). King's College London PhD Colloquium. 11 November. London, UK.

LANGUAGES AND DIGITAL SKILLS

Language:	Reading & listening	Speaking	Writing
Mandarin	Native		
English	Proficient C2	Proficient C2	Proficient C2
French	Advanced C1	Intermediate B2	Intermediate B2
Spanish	Intermediate B2	Intermediate B1	Intermediate B1
Italian	Elementary A2	Beginner A1	Beginner A1
Cantonese	Proficient C2	Proficient C2	Proficient C2
Japanese	Elementary A2	Beginner A1	Beginner A1
Digital Skills:	STATA, R, ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, NVivo, Photoshop, AutoCAD, RevitMEP, Premiere, Turnitin (advanced skills for plagiarism checking), Camtasia		