



HKU GEOGRAPHY

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Message from our Head

Second Issue of the Departmental Newsletter: A Semester of Growth and Achievements

Dear Alumni, Colleagues, Students and Friends,

I am delighted to share the second issue of our departmental newsletter, highlighting the significant accomplishments and developments within our department from July 1 to December 31, 2024.

Our research team has experienced remarkable growth, expanding from 1 Research Assistant Professor (RAP) and 4 Post-Doctoral Fellows (PDFs) in June 2023 to 2 RAPs and 19 PDFs by the end of 2023. This substantial increase in our team's size will undoubtedly contribute to the vibrant atmosphere within the Department of Geography, fostering collaboration and innovation in our research endeavors.

It is with great pride that we announce four colleagues from our department have been recognized as Highly Cited Researchers in 2023 by Clarivate Analytics. This prestigious acknowledgment highlights the significant impact of our colleagues' work within the scientific community and underscores the value of their contributions to our department and the broader field. Of the world's population of scientists and social scientists, Highly Cited Researchers[™] are 1 in 1,000. There are 51 in HKU and 7,125 Highly Cited Researchers in the world.

During this period, nine scholars from our department were named in the list of the World's Top 2% Scientists, published by Stanford University. These esteemed colleagues have demonstrated outstanding achievements that emphasize the importance of their work and the impact they are making in their respective fields.

As our team continues to grow, the number of citations has increased 11-fold from 1,755 in 2018 to 19,743 by the end of 2023. This impressive growth is a testament to the impact of our research and the dedication of our talented researchers.



Fig 1. SCI Indexed Journal Publications - Number of Citations (2018-2023)

To further enhance research and knowledge exchange within our department, we have introduced several new research seminar series. One of these series, HKU GEOGRAPHY: Monthly Research Talks, invites department members to present a 15-minute talk showcasing their latest research findings. Moreover, we have introduced the Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Series on Remote Sensing, specifically catering to those with an interest in remote sensing techniques and applications. These initiatives aim to foster a collaborative environment and promote the exchange of ideas among our dedicated researchers.

Our outreach efforts have also yielded impressive results, elevating the department's reputation and impact. We organized the inaugural Information Session on MPhil/PhD Admissions, attracting more than 100 potential applicants and highlighting the growing interest in our research postgraduate programs. Furthermore, we successfully hosted the Second Remote Sensing Forum and Second GLASS Products User Conference from December 3-7, 2023. With the participation of over 100 international attendees, this event has significantly elevated our department's standing in the field of remote sensing and demonstrated our commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange on a global scale.

In conclusion, this semester has been an extraordinary period of growth and achievement for our Department. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to these successes. As we continue to build on this momentum, we look forward to further strengthening our department's research, teaching, and outreach initiatives, making a lasting impact in the field of geography and beyond.

Wishing you all the best, Shunlin Liang Head and Chair Professor Department of Geography The University of Hong Kong

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During this period, our department has been awarded multiple research grants and honors, reflecting our staff's dedication to advancing the field of geography. These achievements showcase the impact of our research and the department's commitment to excellence.

Professional Leadership & Research Grants 2023



PROF. HAN MA | Research Assistant Professor Young Scientists Fund of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)



PROF. JUNXI QIAN | Associate Professor Research grant from the Urban Systems Institute of the University



PROF. FRANK VAN DER WOUDEN | Assistant Professor **Research grant from the Urban Systems Institute of the University**



Honors & Awards 2023



PROF. BO HUANG | Chair Professor CPGIS Innovation Award RGC Senior Research Fellow Scheme (SRFS) for 2023/24

PROF. BEN A GERLOFS | Assistant Professor Social Sciences Outstanding Research Output Award 2022-23 (Basic Research)

World's Top 2% of the Most-cited Scientists 2023 by Stanford University



Professor Wendy Y Chen



Professor Peng Gong



Professor Bo Huang



Professor Shunlin Liang



Professor George C S Lin



Professor Becky P Y Loo



Professor Junxi Qian



Professor Yuyu Zhou

Highly Cited Researchers in 2023 by Clarivate Analytics



Professor Peng Gong



Professor Shunlin Liang





Throughout the period, the department organized an array of events, such as distinguished webinars, interactive session, and specialized workshop. These initiatives facilitated intellectual engagement and discourse, strengthening relationships and fostering collaboration among the academic community.

Geography Distinguished Seminars Series

The Geography Distinguished Seminars Series provides a platform for esteemed scholars to deliver captivating presentations on advanced research and emerging trends in geography. Attendees, including students, faculty, researchers, and professionals, engage in intellectual discussions that broaden their understanding of geographic concepts and their applications across various disciplines. This series offers valuable insights and fosters knowledge expansion for participants.



PROFESSOR YANG GAO | Ocean University of China

The impact of climate change on extreme weather events, ozone and PM2.5 based on a high-resolution earth system model



PROFESSOR YIJUN XU | Louisiana State University

Estimating riverine and lake CO2 emissions: How certain are we?

Distinguished Seminar Series in Geography and Sustainable Development

The Distinguished Seminar Series in Geography and Sustainable Development is sponsored by Surien Foundation Hong Kong, where distinguished scholars and practitioners share their expertise on a wide range of topics concerning sustainability and environmental management. By attending informative presentations and engaging in lively discussions, participants glean insights into obstacles, possibilities, and opportunities in the field, deepening their understanding of how geographic concepts and tools can be employed to accomplish sustainable development goals.



PROFESSOR NINA LAM | Louisiana State University

Measuring and predicting community resilience to natural hazards: The Resilience Inference Measurement (RIM) approach

HKU Geography Monthly Research Talks

The HKU Geography Monthly Research Talks serve as a valuable platform for the academic staff and students of the Department of Geography to present and discuss their latest research findings and advancements in the field. These seminars offer a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange, fostering engaging discussions and explorations of emerging trends and challenges within the realm of geographic research. Attendees benefit from the diverse expertise and perspectives shared, promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation of the subject matter.



PROFESSOR YANJIA CAO | The University of Hong Kong

Looking back: the dynamic COVID-19 pattern and neighborhood characteristics in California



PROFESSOR BEN GERLOFS | The University of Hong Kong

¿Quién es Gentrificación (Who is Gentrification)? Urban change, conceptual chimerae, and the challenge of blanqueamiento ('Whitening') in Mexico city



PROFESSOR PATRICK ADLER | The University of Hong Kong

Policy diffusion in regional evolution: A study of the CEDS program



DR. YONGLI ZHOU
| The University of Hong Kong

Tracing carbon from land to ocean





Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Series on Remote Sensing

During these informal lunchtime sessions, post-doctoral research fellows in the field share their knowledge and research findings related to remote sensing techniques, data analysis, and its various applications across different disciplines. The series aims to provide a platform for knowledge exchange, promote discussion and collaboration among attendees, and keep participants updated on the latest developments in remote sensing.



DR. JIAN WANG | The University of Hong Kong

Decreasing rainfall frequency contributes to earlier leaf onset in northern ecosystems



DR. YONGZHE CHEN | The University of Hong Kong

Optimize forest managements to mitigate carbon sink saturation and promote timber production in China





DR. XIAOXIN ZHANG | The University of Hong Kong

Unlocking urbanization and vegetation restoration with Earth observation in China



DR. CALVIN LEE | The University of Hong Kong

Combining remote sensing and deep learning to understand ecosystem phenology

China Development Studies Elite Seminar Series

The China Development Studies Elite Seminar Series sets itself apart by featuring renowned scholars, government officers, and business elites from Hong Kong, Mainland China, and overseas who will specifically address the pressing development issues in contemporary China. Attendees can expect in-depth discussions, expert insights, and a comprehensive exploration of the complex dynamics shaping China's development landscape.



DR. CALVIN CHUNG | The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Theorising with urban China: Methodological and tactical experiments for a more global urban studies



DR. KARITA KAN | Hong Kong Polytechnic University

New frontiers of rural-urban transformation in China



DR. SARAH ROGERS | University of Melbourne Critical Hydropolitics in China

HKU Tourism Seminar Series

The HKU Tourism Seminar Series fosters collaboration among experts from various departments in HKU, showcasing their expertise in captivating presentations. These presentations encompass a wide range of topics, including sustainable tourism, marketing, technology, and cultural preservation. The seminars aim to inspire attendees, stimulate meaningful discourse, and cultivate innovative thinking, thereby making significant contributions to the growth and development of the tourism sector.



JODIE CHENG & JOHN CARROLL | The University of Hong Kong

Not business as usual: Tourism promotion in Hong Kong history

Departmental Research Seminar Series

Spanning a diverse array of captivating topics, these seminars delve into the realms of physical geography, human geography, and geospatial technologies, showcasing the breadth and depth of the field. With a primary objective of fostering collaboration and interdisciplinary dialogue, the series serves as a catalyst for inspiring innovative thinking and pushing the boundaries of knowledge within the Geography department and its interconnected fields.









DR. SHENGJIE LAI | University of Southampton

Integrating geospatial data to measure mobility changes and pathogen transmission risks





Prof. Ho Kin-chung led students from GEOG1021 "Geographic Issues of Polar Regions" to visit the Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change (MoCC) at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Prof. Elvis Au led students from GEOG2160 "Sustainable Waste Management and Circular Economy in Hong Kong" to visit a world-class e-waste treatment plant, WEEE Park in Tuen Mun. Two colleagues from WEEE Park introduced 1) technical practice in the plant; 2) Circular economy in WEEE Park; and 3) Carbon neutrality.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH DELEGATES FROM NATIONAL CENTER FOR REMOTE SENSING

On November 30th, 2023, delegates from China's National Remote Sensing Center, led by Director Zhao Jing, visited the Department of Geography at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) for an insightful round table discussion. Chaired by Professor Shunlin Liang, the event brought together experts from HKU's Department of Geography, School of Biological Sciences, Division of Landscape Architecture, and Geospatial Data Science Strategic theme teams. The discussion aimed to strengthen collaboration, talent development, and knowledge exchange in remote sensing between the two institutions. The conversation focused on the development of advanced quantitative remote sensing products and the application of remote sensing technologies in urban, ecology, agriculture, and climate change. Participants shared their latest research findings and explored how remote sensing can address complex challenges in these areas.

This visit not only fostered a stronger relationship between National Remote Sensing Center of China and HKU's Department of Geography, but also laid the foundation for future collaborations and joint research projects. Leveraging the expertise and resources of both institutions, remote sensing technology and its applications are expected to contribute significantly to understanding and managing environmental and societal issues.

THE SECOND REMOTE SENSING FORUM AND SECOND GLASS PRODUCTS USER CONFERENCE

With the increasing number of remote sensing satellites, the field of remote sensing is facing unprecedented opportunities and challenges. The first Remote Sensing Forum was successfully held in Yangzhou, Jiangsu in 2021, attracting more than 140 renowned scholars and young teachers in the field of land surface remote sensing from various domestic universities. The conference adopted a format of expert group discussions and collective discussions among participants, innovating the professional seminar model and enhancing academic exchanges within the industry, receiving positive feedback.

Simultaneously, in order to facilitate in-depth communication between the GLASS product development team, users from various industries, and researchers in related fields, the first GLASS Product Users Conference was successfully held online in August 2022. It attracted more than 230 participants from 131 domestic and international institutions.

To promote the development of remote sensing discipline and strengthen academic research and exchanges, we sincerely invite you to participate in the second Remote Sensing Forum and the second GLASS Product Users Conference, where we can exchange new achievements and ideas in the field of remote sensing.

DEPARTMENTAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Departmental Christmas Party is an annual event organized by the department to celebrate the festive season. It is a fun-filled gathering where faculty, staff, and students come together to enjoy a night of merriment and camaraderie. It is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to unwind, socialize, and create lasting memories in a festive and joyful atmosphere.

1973 Alumni Visit

On December 8, 2023, the Department celebrated the 50th graduation anniversary of the Class of 1973 with a heartwarming reunion event. Deputy Head of Department, Professor Wendy Chen, graciously hosted the gathering, expressing immense joy and gratitude for the alumni's presence and ongoing support. The event offered a unique opportunity for the alumni to reconnect with their alma mater, share their post-graduation journeys, and showcase the diverse accomplishments they have achieved since their time at the University.

The alumni from the Class of 1973 gave an engaging presentation on their 50-year journey since graduation. They fondly reminisced about their learning experiences within the Department of Geography and Geology, the courses offered, first-year field camps, and field trips in their second and final years. Additionally, they shared insights into their career development and contributions to the community. Following the presentations, a tour of the departmental facilities allowed the alumni to witness first the advancements and improvements made over the years.

The Department is deeply grateful for the unwavering support from its alumni and eagerly anticipates future opportunities to strengthen the bonds that unite them as a community. The successful reunion event serves as a testament to the Department's dedication to fostering lasting relationships with its graduates, further solidifying its reputation for excellence in academia and beyond.

Publications

Our department has seen a remarkable number of publications during this period, including research papers and books. These publications demonstrate the depth and breadth of our staff's expertise and our commitment to advancing the field of geography.

Professor Patrick Adler

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Professor Wesley Attewell

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Professor Yanjia Cao

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Professor Ben A Gerlofs

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Professor Peng Gong

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Professor Bo Huang

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