2024
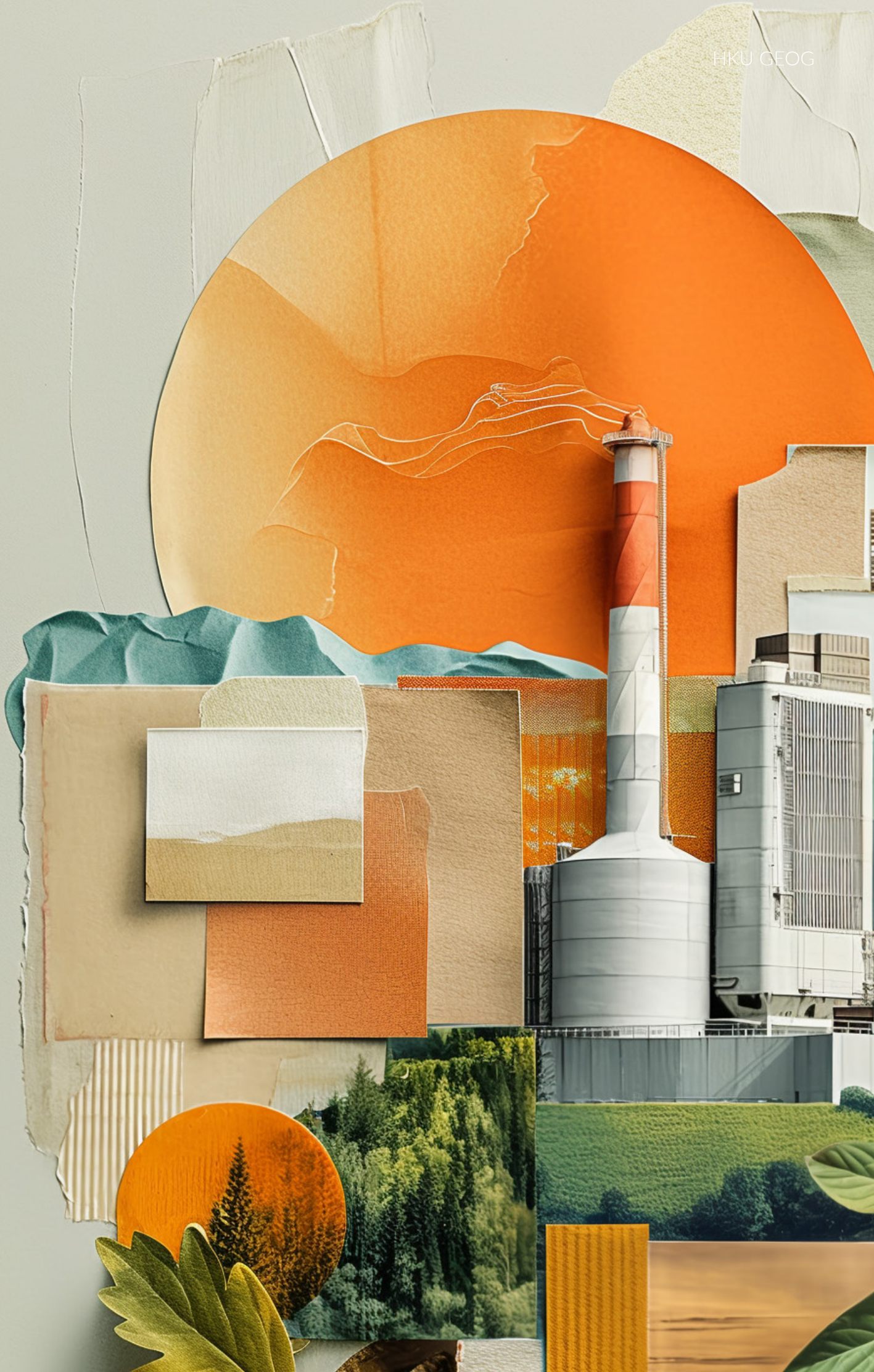## NEWS LETTER

HKU
GEOGRAPHY

JAN - JUN

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.
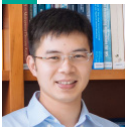
Honors & Awards 2024

JAN

PROF. JUNXI QIAN | Associate Professor
Outstanding Young Researcher Award (OYRA) for 2022-2023

PROF. FRANK VAN DER WOUDEN | Assistant Professor
HKU Early Career Teaching Award

PROF. HONGSHENG ZHANG | Associate Professor
Social Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award

PROF. SHUNLIN LIANG | Chair Professor & Head
2023 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

PROF. YUYU ZHOU | Professor
2023 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

JUN

Seminars

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

This 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.

29
FEB 2024

PROFESSOR ERNESTO LÓPEZ MORALES

| San Sebastian University

Ecological Gentrification by Ecosystem Services: a methodological approach

23
APR 2024

PROFESSOR JIXI GAO

| Ministry of Ecology and Environment

Ecological Conservation Redline: A New Model and Strategy for Nature Conservation

22
MAY 2024
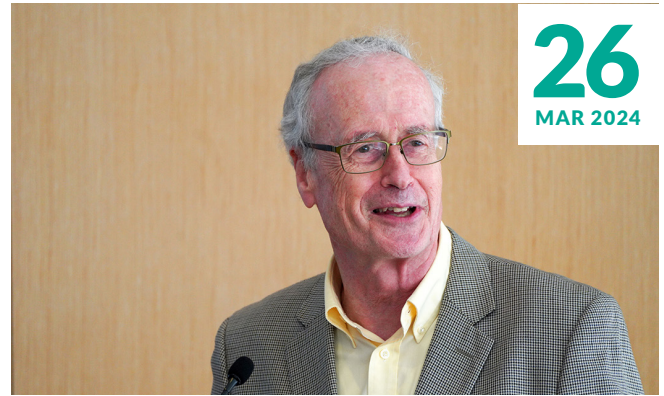
PROFESSOR HUADONG GUO

| International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)

Earth big data supports the achievement of sustainable development goals

PROFESSOR YOUQIN HUANG

08 MAR 2024

| **University at Albany**

The Lockdown, (im)mobility, and health disparities in the Covid-19 pandemic in major American Cities

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER B. MURPHY

26 MAR 2024

| **The University of Oregon (USA)**

Taking Territory Seriously in a Fluid, Topologically Varied World

ACADEMICIAN DEREN LI

27 MAY 2024

| **Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering**

On the Intelligentization of China's Remote Sensing for Space and Earth Observation

PROFESSOR KUISHUANG FENG

11 JUN 2024

| **University of Maryland College Park**

Bridging Divides for a Just Future: Advancing Low Carbon Transition While Reducing Inequality

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.

31
JAN 2024

PROFESSOR SIMON PUN
| The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen (CUHKSZ)

Machine Learning Approaches for Multi-Modal Data Fusion in Satellite Remote Sensing: From Transformers to Large Language Models (LLMs)

23
FEB 2024

PROFESSOR JOSEPH CHEER
| Western Sydney University

Geographies of tourism: A fertile frontier for geographies research

08
APR 2024

PROFESSOR PATRICK MARTIN
| Nanyang Technological University

From Swamp to Sea: the fate of tropical peatland carbon in the coastal ocean

22
APR 2024

DR. KOSTAS BISCHINIOTIS
| Elsevier's Remote Sensing journals

Navigating scientific publishing with Elsevier remote sensing journals

11
MAR 2024

PROFESSOR BO ZHAO
| **University of Washington**

Humanistic Rewire of GIS: Theories, Care Ethics, and Practices

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.

21
JUN 2024

PROFESSOR XIAONAN TAI
| **New Jersey Institute of Technology**

Spatial patterns and mechanisms underlying forest mortality to global climate change

11
APR 2024

PROFESSOR ZHIYUN OUYANG
| **Chinese Academy of Sciences**

Integrating Natural Capital into Policy & Finance for Transformation in China

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.

26
JAN 2024

PROFESSOR BENJAMIN IAQUINTO & PROFESSOR WESLEY ATTEWELL
| The University of Hong Kong

Tourism Geopolitics

15
MAR 2024

PROFESSOR NICKY Y F LAM
| The University of Hong Kong

Environmental Monitoring: Low-cost Sensors for Urban Heat Island Studies

17
MAY 2024

PROFESSOR PETER K KOH
| The University of Hong Kong

Exploring the perception of COVID-19 vaccine in South Korea: A topic modelling of media reports

14
JUN 2024

DR. TING ZHANG
| The University of Hong Kong

Uncovering Nexus Between Residential Environment and Health Risks Using Multi-Source Data

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.

02
FEB 2024

PROFESSOR MENGMENG ZHANG
| **Beijing Normal University**

Scalar Politics and Its Spatial Impacts: Planning for Inter-city Railways in China's Mega-city Regions

26
APR 2024

PROFESSOR HUAXIONG JIANG
| **Beijing Normal University**

Smart urban governance: Governing cities in the "smart" era

10
MAY 2024

PROFESSOR IVY WONG
| **Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

Governing China's Great Urban Transformation: From "Decentralization of Governance" to "Governance of Decentralization"

21
JUN 2024

PROFESSOR BINGQIN LI
| **University of New South Wales**

The Entrepreneurial Welfare Mix: Community-Based Old Age Services in China

ICCN & GEOG Joint Research Seminar Series

The ICCN & GEOG Joint Research Seminar Series is a dynamic and informative seminar series aimed at promoting innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of climate change research. Attendees have the opportunity to engage in interactive panel discussions and learn about the latest developments in climate change research. The seminar series offers an excellent opportunity for researchers, students, and professionals to collaborate and find sustainable solutions for the future.

25
JAN 2024

PROFESSOR LIAN FENG
| **Southern University of Science and Technology**

Global-scale Satellite Observations of Water Environments

27
FEB 2024

LI JUNFENG
| **China Energy Research Society (CERS)**

Rethinking the Goal of Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality in China

03
MAR 2024

PROFESSOR DELIANG CHEN
| **University of Gothenburg**

Climate and Environmental Changes in the Third Pole

09
MAR 2024

DR. JIALI SHANG
| **Science and Technology Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**

Present Challenges and Future Opportunities in Precision Agriculture

Launching a new website
www.glass.hku.hk

The Department of Geography at HKU is excited to announce the launch of a new website (www.glass.hku.hk) that offers access to the Global LAnd Surface Satellite (GLASS) products. The primary objective of this platform is to simplify the distribution of GLASS products to a diverse range of users while providing a comprehensive summary of the current products.

Most satellite observations cannot be utilized directly and must be converted into high-level products that measure the biophysical and geophysical characteristics of Earth's environment. The GLASS products consist of about 20 such high-level products that measure essential environmental variables. Led by Prof. Shunlin Liang, Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Geography at HKU, the GLASS products are developed by over a hundred researchers from various universities and research institutes, including Beijing Normal University, University of Hong Kong, Wuhan University, Peking University, and more. The developer of each product is identified on the website.

The GLASS products have several unique features. All products are available for free download from the website. They can be used to tackle a wide range of environmental change and sustainable development issues. We welcome everyone to visit the GLASS products website to explore their potential applications and provide feedback.

Events

23
FEB 2024

SYMPOSIUM ON CHINA DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Fireside Chats: Brainstorming for China Development (Studies)
爐邊對話：為中國發展集思廣益

Inspired by the warm and encouraging spirit of President Franklin Roosevelt's legendary "Fireside Chats" with which dialogue and communication were carried out effectively at the time of anxiety, this Symposium is organized to bring together a team of leading, credible and extremely experienced experts from China for brainstorming ideas about some of the most critical and challenging issues concerning China's urban, regional and national developments. The issues to be addressed shall include housing development, scientific and technological innovation, urban regeneration, countryside revitalization, innovation and regional transformation, and sustainable urbanization. By bringing over a small and highly selective group of credible and experienced experts holding diverse and complementary expertise for a focused "fireside chat", this symposium will pave the way for the formation of new partnerships to facilitate knowledge advancement and policy formation beneficial to China's sustainable urban and regional development.

01
MAR 2024

SPRING GATHERING TEA RECEPTION

The Spring Gathering Tea Reception commenced with an opening address, which highlighted the latest departmental updates and developments. Attendees were then given the opportunity to participate in engaging discussions and savor refreshments. The event provided a delightful occasion for alumni to reconnect with each other and become acquainted with the current faculty members, staff, and students.

26
MAR 2024

THE FIRST ANNUAL HONG KONG CLIMATE FORUM

The first Hong Kong Climate Forum was hosted by the University of Hong Kong (HKU) on March 25, with the aim of promoting greater collaboration on climate change and clean energy between the Greater Bay Area of China and California. The initiative was jointly announced by HKU and Governor Gavin Newsom of California during his visit to the HKU campus last year, where he shared insights and inspiration from California's Climate Journey at a fireside chat.

The Forum represented a significant milestone, highlighting Hong Kong's vital role as a nexus in climate change research, green innovation, and finance, bridging the Greater Bay Area with the global community. Key activities included keynote speeches, panel discussions, and case studies, all focused on various aspects of climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Featured panels included "Greater Bay Area Climate Action Policy" and "The Role of Business and Climate Finance".

10
APR 2024

JOCKEY CLUB STEM LABS INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) has recently been awarded a remarkable donation of HKD 48.51 million from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. This funding will be used to establish a series of five Jockey Club (JC) STEM Labs, supporting the University's strategic goal of nurturing future STEM leaders and promoting interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

A special inauguration ceremony took place on April 10 to express the University's gratitude and appreciation to the Trust for their generous contribution. The distinguished guests at the event include Professor Peng Gong, Vice-President (Academic Development) of HKU, and Ms Ada Chu, Head of Charities (Talent and Sector Development; Institute of Philanthropy) of The Hong Kong Jockey Club. The JC STEM Lab of Quantitative Remote Sensing is one of the five newly established JC STEM Labs and is led by Professor Shunlin Liang from the Department of Geography. This new JC STEM Lab, located on the 8th floor of the Jockey Club Tower, is dedicated to exploring the intricate interactions between land and social systems. It aims to develop advanced methodologies for estimating various variables of the Earth system from satellite data, with the ultimate goal of addressing pressing global environmental and social-economical issues and promoting sustainable development.

In the coming years, the lab's focus will revolve around three core areas. Firstly, it aims to produce advanced inversion methodology and high-level satellite products that contribute to the advancement of the field. Secondly, it will actively engage in research projects that tackle social and environmental challenges, leveraging the power of remote sensing data. Lastly, the lab envisions establishing a social and environmental data center at HKU, serving as a hub for the dissemination of remote sensing data, information, and knowledge.

16
APR 2024

AAG 2024

The Geography department of HKU exhibited at the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting 2024 that took place in Honolulu from April 16-20, 2024. This event provided a platform for students, educators, practitioners, and partners from around the world to come together and discuss the latest developments and challenges in the field of geography. The AAG has been connecting professionals for over a century to promote the continued growth and relevance of geography as a discipline.

02
MAY 2024

DEPARTMENTAL RETREAT 2024

A departmental retreat was held in May to strengthen team building and explore future strategic goals. The event highlighted discussions on reconstructing the undergraduate teaching programs offered by the department.

Local Field Trips

Shing Mun Country Park

03
FEB 2024

Lei Cheng Uk

23
FEB 2024

Big Wave Bay

24
FEB 2024

CLP Power Low Carbon Energy Education Centre

05
MAR 2024
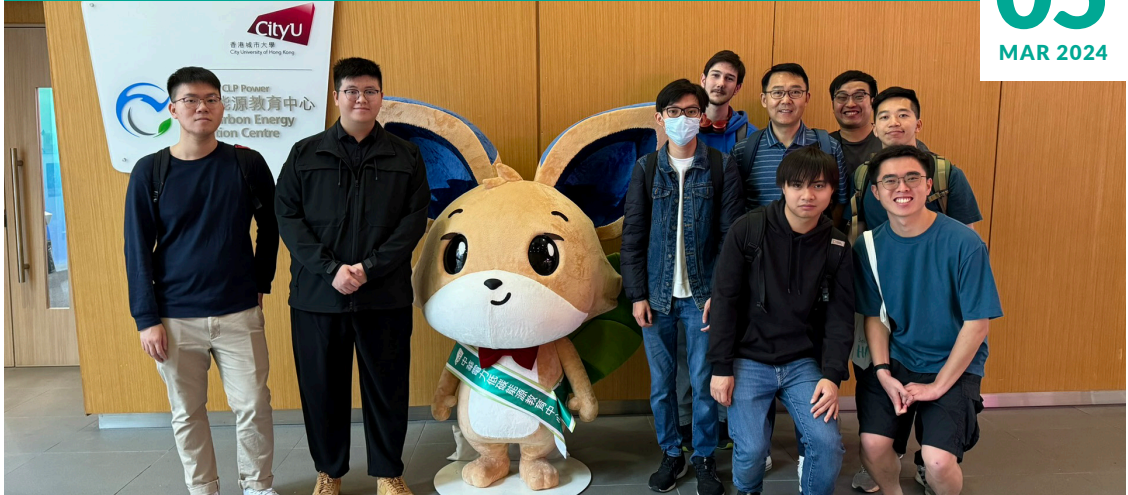
Shui Hau

06
MAR 2024

Ma On Shan Iron Mine Grace Youth Camp

08
MAR 2024

MAChDS Field Trips

Singapore

04
MAR 2024

Macau

Overseas Field Trips

Netherlands

27 MAY 2024

On May 27, 2024, a group of 26 undergraduate students majoring in Geography and/or Urban Governance started their 14-day field trip in the Netherlands and Belgium, beginning in Amsterdam. They were accompanied by two staff members serving as field supervisors: Prof. van der Wouden and Prof. Chen.

This field trip examined several cultural, economic, governmental, and geographic dimensions of the Netherlands and Belgium. The students visited and explored several important cities, including Amsterdam, Maastricht, Ghent, The Hague, Rotterdam, Utrecht, and Cologne. A wide variety of exploratory and educational activities were conducted. Led by professional guides, the students toured the historic city centers of Amsterdam and Ghent, visited the harbor of Rotterdam, discovered the caves and caverns in Maastricht, and attended lectures at the campuses of Utrecht University and Ghent University. They also explored the arts and historical treasures in the Rijksmuseum. The students enjoyed engaging in discussions with policymakers, scholars, guides, university students, and locals about diverse topics, including sustainability, natural landscapes, housing, transportation, climate change, and urban resilience.

To be as sustainable as possible, most trips were made by train, bicycle, boat, and foot to reduce the environmental footprint. On the last day of the field trip, the students presented their learning experiences in creative formats. As a result of this visit, students and teachers became more familiar with each other, and deep friendships were formed among the students. The students gained a better understanding of the local culture, history, and urban development through first-hand experience and communication with various local groups. Overall, it was a very rewarding field trip.

Overseas Field Trips

Jiangxi

The Department organized an enriching 15-day Jiangxi field trip in cooperation with Jiangxi Normal University, starting on May 31, 2024. This field trip, named 'Comprehensive Study Tour on Physical and Human Geography of Northern Jiangxi' (江西贛北自然與人文地理綜合考察), was sponsored by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. Thirty-seven undergraduate and postgraduate students from seven universities were assigned to four groups during this study tour, which aimed to foster interaction between students from Hong Kong and mainland China while providing insights into both physical and human geography. Ten undergraduate students majoring in Geography and/or Urban Governance participated in this field trip led by Prof. Steven Zhang.

During the field trip, participants had the opportunity to explore various aspects of physical, human, and cultural geography. They sailed along China's largest freshwater lake, Poyang Lake (鄱陽湖), climbed the renowned Mount Lushan (廬山), which integrates scenery, culture, religion, education, and politics, and explored Jingdezhen (景德鎮), the birthplace of blue and white porcelain. They also toured the Pavilion of Prince Teng (滕王閣), one of China's Four Great Famous Towers, experienced the beauty of Wuyuan (婺源), known as the most beautiful countryside in China, and appreciated traditional Chinese opera culture. Additionally, they visited natural resource-related companies employing new technologies, including soil and water conservation, groundwater purification, and oil production, and learned how advanced technologies can achieve low-carbon and efficient use of natural resources.

The field trip also focused on the study of natural landforms, rural revitalization, and sustainable tourism, providing students with valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities in China. By engaging in discussions and sharing their perspectives, students developed a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding rural revitalization and sustainable development.

The collaboration among the participating universities provided a unique platform for academic exchange and cultural understanding. HKU students were able to strengthen connections with their peers from mainland China and expand their understanding of the region's geography and culture.

Overseas Field Trips

Australia

This is a 14-day field trip to Melbourne and its surrounding areas, starting on June 10 and ending on June 23, 2024. Ten students participated in this trip, guided by Prof. Iaquinto. The students visited various locations in Melbourne and its suburbs, as well as took a day trip to the Great Ocean Road and a winery tour in the Yarra Valley.

During the trip, the group explored various geography themes. The first half of the trip mainly focused on human geography topics. The students explored Melbourne from downtown to the suburbs through four days of walking tours, covering topics such as heritage tourism, urban sprawl, housing, and gentrification. They also attended a lecture given by Prof. Mark Wang from the University of Melbourne and engaged in constructive discussions.

Starting on Day 8, the students visited natural attractions such as Maits Rest Rainforest, Bay of Martyrs, and Hopkins Falls, covering physical geography topics such as biodiversity and geomorphology.

On the last day of the trip, the students gave group presentations to summarize and share their thoughts and knowledge from the trip, fostering learning through discussions. It was a very memorable trip!

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

Adler, P. (2024). Brand on the run: place brands as judgement devices and sources of local advantage in the music industry. *Regional Studies*, 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2024.2306326

Professor Wesley Attewell

Attewell, W. (2024). War Travels: The Logistics of Vietnam War Militourism. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 1-16. https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2024.2305259

Professor Yanjia Cao

Cao, Y., Yang, J.-A., Nara, A., & Jankowska, M. M. (2024). Designing and Evaluating a Hierarchical Framework for Matching Food Outlets across Multi-sourced Geospatial Datasets: a Case Study of San Diego County. *Journal of Urban Health*, 101(1), 155-169. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-023-00817-9

Sali, A., **Yanjia, C.**, Zicheng, W., Matthew, M. C., Pakwanja, T., Mingyang, M., Jonathan Chiwanda, B., Emily, W., Lan, B., David, A. W., & Yanfang, S. (2024). Service readiness for the management of non-communicable diseases in publicly financed facilities in Malawi: findings from the 2019 Harmonised Health Facility Assessment census survey. *BMJ Open*, 14(1), e072511, Article Kamuzu University of Health Sciences. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2023-072511

Professor Wendy Y Chen

Cao, Y., **Chen, W. Y.**, & Wantzen, K. M. (2024). Human-river relationships in Chinese cities: evidence from highly educated water museum visitors. *Urban Ecosystems*, 27(1), 203-217. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-023-01441-w

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Han, W., & **Chen, W. Y.** (2024). Survival of biomass and waste power generation: A global overview. *Science of The Total Environment*, 940, 173593. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.173593

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Wang, C., Jin, J., Davies, C., & **Chen, W. Y.** (2024). Urban Forests as Nature-Based Solutions: a Comprehensive Overview of the National Forest City Action in China. *Current Forestry Reports*, 10(2), 119-132. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40725-024-00213-9

Yan, J., **Chen, W. Y.**, Zhang, Z., Zhao, W., Liu, M., & Yin, S. (2024). Mitigating PM2.5 exposure with vegetation barrier and building designs in urban open-road environments based on numerical simulations. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 241, 104918, Article Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2023.104918

Professor Ben A Gerlofs

Gerlofs, B. A. (2024). Land fictions: The commodification of land in city and country. *Planning Theory*, 14730952241257704. https://doi.org/10.1177/14730952241257704

Gerlofs, B. A., Iaquinto, B. L., Poon, K. Y. N., & Tsang, C. T. Y. (2024). Tank to Table: Hong Kong's Wet Markets and the Geographies of Lively Commodification Beyond Companionship. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 1-19. https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2024.2304200

Professor Peng Gong

Chen, B., An, J., Huang, Y., Chen, X., Wu, S., Lin, C., & **Gong, P.** (2024). Multifaceted impacts of Ukraine's Kakhovka Dam destruction. *Science Bulletin*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scib.2024.03.038

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