

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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Examining the Governance of Urban Ecological Commons in the Chinese Rapid Urbanization Context: Case Studies from Guangzhou



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12:00–1:00 PM • Presented via Zoom Meeting

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/2395327669>

The planning and management of urban natural resources (UNRs) have attracted much attention given their positive environmental and health potential. UNRs such as parks, wetlands and ecological corridors are a type of common-pool resource given limited urban land availability and needs of all urban inhabitants. How is UNRs governed, particularly in the Chinese rapid urbanization context and what are the institutional challenges? I try to answer this question through examining three case studies that occurred in the last two decades from Guangzhou, a coastal megacity with a subtropical climate. The recent Chinese national environmental governance framework “Ecological Civilization” has prompted Chinese local governments to enhance the planning and management of UNRs. Governance of UNRs in China is informed by planning technicians and primarily government-led, but subjected to negotiations with central government, private sector interest, and communities, particularly the former two. Land scarcity and the associated property rights arrangements are the central challenges for UNRs governance. Social equity issues prevail despite successful UNRs governance for environmental benefits, indicating the need for deeper institutional reform for the betterment of UNRs as commons.



Jieling Liu, Ph.D. student in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies from Institute of Social Sciences - University of Lisbon and research assistant for “Urban Health and Wellbeing – A Systems Approach” program at Institute of Urban Environment - Chinese Academy of Sciences. Trained in political sciences and journalism, Jieling is collaborating with Prof. Burney Fischer to develop a theoretical framework for her thesis. Research interests: environmental and climate policies, urban transition, governance and institutions, sustainability.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, this will be a virtual presentation. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).