



From Danwei Compound to Xiaoqu: Spatial Restructuring and Travel Behavior Changes in Beijing, China

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Wednesday, 12 November 2008 (12:45 -14:00)
Room 829, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong

Abstract:

As early as 1950s, the close association between land use patterns and transport had been acknowledged. Jobs-housing balance and mixed land uses have long been suggested and used as land use measures to contain transport demand. Danwei had been the basic economic, social and spatial unit of Chinese cities for decades. It played an important role in shaping the urban structure of Chinese cities via offering jobs and distributing welfare including housing and services. It mixed the land use patterns and balanced jobs and housing opportunities. As a result, Danwei used to effectively contain urban travel demand in China. Ever since the launching of the economic reform and open door policies, the Danwei system has been substantially changed. Danwei reform, together with land and housing reform have fundamentally changed the spatial structure of Chinese cities, the jobs-housing relationship, and travel demand. In this study, we use Beijing, the capital city of China, as a case to illustrate the spatial restructuring and travel demand changes in urban China. The study first identified typical spatial units in Beijing. Data on activity-travel behavior were collected from households sampled from these typical spatial units in October 2007. Through analyzing the data we compare the activity and travel behavior of individuals living in different neighborhoods. From the analysis we intend to argue that the deteriorating traffic congestion in urban China is resulted from not only the rocket soaring private car ownership, but also the spatial restructuring induced by Danwei, land and housing reform.

About the Speaker:

Dr Donggen Wang is currently professor in Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University. His research interests span behavior modeling (including travel, housing and tourism behavior), stated preference methods and GIS for transportation. He has published articles in many leading international journals in the fields of geography, transportation, urban planning and GIS, including *Transportation Research*, *Transportation*, *Journal of Transport Geography*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Geographical Analysis* and *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*.

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