

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
SEMINAR

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## The Role of Local Government and Green Entrepreneur in Latecomer Cities' Sustainability Transitions: A Case of China's Solar City

### ABSTRACT

The landscape pressure from global climate change is promoting the discourse of sustainability transitions, which focus on the fundamental transformation of existing systems towards more sustainable modes of production and consumption at the meso-level. Cities are the main battlefield of sustainability transitions. Existing research has focused on the transitions in developed cities and has not paid enough attention to the role of heterogeneous actors in urban sustainability transitions. The green economy is opening green windows of opportunity for latecomer cities, which are yet to be locked-in by incumbent unsustainable regimes. Taking China's Solar City as an example, this talk discusses the latecomer advantage of developing cities in sustainability transitions and addresses the role of local governments and green entrepreneurs in promoting urban sustainability transitions. Taking advantage of the less hostile selection environment, local governments and green entrepreneurs in latecomer cities can align to mobilize resources and challenge existing institutions to facilitate the diffusion of green innovations. However, dis-alignment between green experiments and urban priorities may occur when the green industry loses economic prospects.

### LANGUAGE

English

### DATE

11 Mar 2021 (Thu)

### TIME

4:30 – 6:00 pm (GMT+8)

### ZOOM MEETING

ID: 973 6037 5790

<https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/97360375790>

(no password required)

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Zhen Yu (BA in Economics, PhD in Human Geography) is an Assistant Research Fellow of China's Science and Technology Policy Research Institute at Tsinghua University. Dr. Yu's research focuses on economic geography, urban sustainability transitions, science and technology policies, and artificial intelligence governance. He has published several peer-reviewed papers in leading SSCI journals such as *Regional Studies*, *Urban Studies*, *Cities*, *Industrial & Corporate Change*, and *Energy Policy*. He also serves as an anonymous journal reviewer for *Regional Studies*, *Political Geography*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Energy Research & Social Science*, and *Industrial & Corporate Change*.

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