

Dongsheng He

Email: hedsh3@connect.hku.hk **Tel:** (+852) 59700616

Personal website: <http://www.hedsh3.com/>

Address: 8F, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong

EDUCATION

Degree

2025.10 (passed viva on 2025.08), PhD in Urban Planning and Design, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (HKU)

Supervisors: Prof. Chris Webster (primary supervisor), Dr. Guibo Sun (former primary supervisor, now at the University of Manchester)

2021, MPhil in Architecture and Urban Studies, University of Cambridge, UK

Supervisors: Prof. Ying Jin

2020, B.Eng. in Urban and Rural Planning, Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU), China

Academic exchange

2025.1-2025.6, Visiting PhD student, Institute of Transportation Studies, Luskin School of Public Affairs, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), U.S

Faculty sponsors: Prof. Michael Manville and Prof. Adam Millard-Ball

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Research interest: Impacts of transport infrastructure intervention (e.g., metro system and greenway), Longitudinal impact of transport policy (e.g., work from home policy), Transit-oriented development (TOD) in high-density Asian cities

PhD thesis topic: A market-based value capture approach to providing volumetric urban design of transit-oriented development in China

SELECTED RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Published refereed journal articles

(note: * represents corresponding author)

Transport intervention and active travel behaviors

He, D., Sun, G*, De Vos, J., & Webster, C. (2022). The effects of metro interventions on physical activity and walking among older adults: A natural experiment in Hong Kong. *Health & Place*, 78, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102939>

He, D., Lu, Y.*, Xie, B.*, & Helbich, M. (2021). Large-scale greenway intervention promotes walking behaviors: A natural experiment in China. *Transportation research part D: transport and environment*, 101, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd.2021.103095>

Choe, E. Y., **He, D.**, & Sun, G. (2023). Trading-off transit and non-transit physical activity among older people: evidence from longitudinal accelerometer data of a natural experiment study. *Journal of Urban Health*, 100(2), 408-417. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-022-00709-4>

Built environment intervention, health, and wellbeing outcomes

He, D., Lu, Y.*, Xie, B.*, & Helbich, M. (2022). How greenway exposure reduces body weight: a natural experiment in China. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 226, 104502. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2022.104502>

He, D., Miao, J., Lu, Y., Song, Y., Chen, L., & Liu, Y*. (2022). Urban greenery mitigates the negative effect of urban density on older adults' life satisfaction: Evidence from Shanghai, China. *Cities*, 124, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2022.103607>

Longitudinal impact of transport policy

He. D., Manville, M. Work from home, city-level travel behavior changes, and modal shift in the post-pandemic era (working paper)

Transit-oriented development in high-density cities

He. D., Wang., J, & Sun, G* (2025). Ambiguity in state-owned land property rights increases transaction costs in China's transit-oriented development projects *Land Use Policy*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2025.107501>

He, D., Sun, G*., Li, L., & Webster, C. (2024). New metro and housing price and rent premiums: A natural experiment in China. *Urban Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00420980231208560>

Working papers

He. D., An, Z., Hu, Y*. How a new metro line influences traffic crashes: A natural experiment in China (under revision in *Transport Policy*)

He. D., Sun, G*. Measuring volumetric urban design: multi-level connectedness, compression, and functional mix in transit-oriented developments in Hong Kong (under revision in *Environment and Planning B*)

He. D., Sun, G*. Financing transit-oriented development: Understanding the land value creation, capture, and sharing process in Rail plus Property projects in China (in submission to *Planning Theory and Practice*)

Liu, Y., **He, D***. Towards Relational-Historical Comparison: Transit Value Capture Transcending Space and Time in East Asia (under review in *Environment and Planning A*)

He. D., Sun, G*. How volumetric urban design in transit-oriented development affects housing premium: A longitudinal study in Hong Kong (working paper)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching assistant and tutorial lecturer, URBP7006 GIS and Smart Technology in Spatial Planning Development, Spring semester, 2023

Teaching assistant, CCGL9026 Think Global, Act Local: You, Hong Kong and the World, Spring semester,

2024

Funding

Additional Funding from the Research Grant Council for Supporting HKPFS Awardees in 2022 40,000 HKD

HONORS, FELLOWSHIP, & AWARDS

2025	Winner of UK Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Tony Crook Award for Early Career Research Award
2025	International Association China Planning (IACP) Travel Award
2024	HKU Foundation First Year Excellent PhD Award
2023	Finalist of UK Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Early Career Researcher Award
2021	Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF)
2021	HKU Presidential Fellowship
2019	1st Prize in National Urban Design Contest of Urban Planning Major
2018	3rd Prize in National Urban Transportation Innovation Contest of Urban Planning Major
2018	Excellent Work in National Social Practice Research Contest of Urban Planning Major
2019	Second-class Excellent Student Scholarship, SYSU
2018	Third-class Excellent Student Scholarship, SYSU
2019	Academic Innovation Scholarship, SYSU
2019	Excellent Student Scholarship, School of Geography and Planning, SYSU
2020	Excellent Student Scholarship, School of Geography and Planning, SYSU

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Invited Talk

“From association to causality: Causal effects of urban transport infrastructure intervention in China based on natural experiment approach”, Institute of Transportation Studies at HKU, September 2025

“A market-based value capture approach to providing urban design of transit-oriented development in China”, Institute of Transportation Studies FED Talk, Los Angeles, California, April 2025

“From association to causality: Causal effects of urban transport infrastructure intervention in China based on natural experiment approach”, City plus online forum talk, April 2025

Referred Conference Participation

Measuring volumetric urban design: multi-level connectedness, compression, and functional mix in transit-oriented developments in Hong Kong, 19th International Association China Planning (IACP), Xiamen, China, July 2024

How a new metro line influences traffic crashes: A natural experiment in China, 2025 Pacific Southwest Region UTC Annual Congress, Berkeley, US, March 2025

New metro and housing price and rent premiums: A natural experiment in China, 18th International Association

China Planning (IACP), Hangzhou, China, July 2024

How land property rights issues lead to high transaction costs in Rail plus Property development of TOD projects in China, 18th Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR), Munich, Germany, March 2024

New metro and housing price and rent premiums: A natural experiment in China, HKU-USI Inaugural Conference, Hong Kong, China, Jan 2024

The effects of metro interventions on physical activity and walking among older adults: A natural experiment in Hong Kong, 17th International Association China Planning (IACP), Tianjin, China, July 2023

New metro and housing price and rent premiums: A natural experiment in China, 17th Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR), Ann Arbor, US, May 2023

How greenway exposure reduces body weight: a natural experiment in China 15th International Association China Planning (IACP) (online) 2021

Workshop participation

PhD workshop of 18th Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR) Annual Conference

PhD workshop of 17th Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR) Annual Conference

Seminar organisation and coordination

“Transport and Wellbeing” by Dr. Jonas De Vos from UCL, HKU NURSS seminar (online), November 2022

“A Transaction-Cost Theory of Development Management” by Dr. Sina Shahab from Cardiff University, HKU NURSS seminar (online), June 2024

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Academic journal referee

Lancet Healthy Longevity, Sustainable Cities and Society, Transportation research part D: Transport and environment, Building and Environment, Landscape and Urban Planning, Cities, Health & Place, Habitat International, Transportation, Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, Journal of Transport & Health, BMC Public Health, Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science, Travel Behavior and Society, Journal of Urban Planning and Development, BMC Geriatrics

Professional affiliation

Member of World Society for Transport and Land Use Research (WSTLUR), 2025-

Member of Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR) (<https://plpr-association.org/2024/04/02/meet-our-members/>), 2023-

Member of International Association China Planning (IACP), 2023-

Member of International Society for Urban Informatics, 2022-

REFeree

Dr. Guibo Sun (guibo.sun@manchester.ac.uk) - Lecturer in planning at The University of Manchester

Prof. Chris Webster (cwebster@hku.hk) - Chair Professor in urban planning at the University of Hong Kong

Prof. Ying Jin (yj242.cam.ac.uk) - Professor in urban modelling at the University of Cambridge

Prof. Adam Millard-Ball (adammb@ucla.edu) - Professor in transport planning at UCLA

Prof. Michael Manville (mmanvill@ucla.edu) - Professor in transport planning at UCLA