

Dongsheng He

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EDUCATION

Degree

2021-2025, PhD in Urban Planning and Design, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (HKU)

Supervisors: Prof. Chris Webster and Dr. Guibo Sun

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

Supervisor: 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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026.01-now, Research Fellow at the School of Geography, University of Leeds

Line manager: Prof. Nik Lomax

2025.10-2026.01, Postdoc Research Fellow at Department of Urban Planning and Design, The University of Hong Kong

Line manager: Prof. Chris Webster

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Research interest: Impacts of transport infrastructure intervention (e.g., metro system and greenway) on mobility, Longitudinal mobility impact of transport policy (e.g., work from home policy), built environment on daily behavior and health, and 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 referred journal articles

(note: * represents corresponding author)

Transport intervention and travel behaviors

He, D., An, Z., Hu, Y* (2026). How a new metro line influences traffic crashes: A natural experiment in China. *Transport Policy*, 188, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tranpol.2026.104115>

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, daily behaviour, and health 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>

Yang, H., **He, D.***, Lu, Y.*, Ren, C., & Huang, X. (2021). Disentangling residential self-selection from the influence of built environment characteristics on adiposity outcomes among undergraduate students in China. *Cities*, 113, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2021.103165>

Transit-oriented development in high-density cities

He, D., Sun, G* (2026). Measuring volumetric urban design: multi-level connectedness, compression, and functional mix in transit-oriented developments in Hong Kong, *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2399808326142573>

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

Liu, Y., **He, D.***, Theorizing transit value capture: A regional-historical comparison of institutionalization in East Asia (under review in *Journal of Urban Affairs*)

He, D. Lomax, N., Manley, E., Causal effects of separated bike lane interventions on cycling behaviours: A quasi-experiment in the UK (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

STUDENT SUPERVISION

PhD student co-supervision

2026-now

Bhagya Chintakula (University of Leeds)

Master's student supervision

2026 cohort

Yayuan Jiang (University of Leeds)

Xunuo Yang (University of Leeds)

FUNDING

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

HONORS, FELLOWSHIP, & AWARDS

| | |
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| 2025 | Winner of UK Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Tony Crook Award for Early Career Researcher |
| 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 |

“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, Transportation, Annals of American Association of Geography, 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