

2016 FALL METRANS RESEARCH SEMINAR

*Friday, August 12, 2016
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM
USC – RGL 308*

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Transit-Oriented Development and Community Sense: A Case Study in Hong Kong

*Presented by Sylvia He,
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Transit development is being placed as a priority in many world cities' transportation master plan to improve connectivity and urban mobility. Upon the arrival of better access to public transport, gentrification and displacement may potentially take place in affected neighborhoods with residents of higher class in terms of social economic status (SES). He hypothesizes that in these affected neighborhoods there exist a different pattern of social class and community sense due to the gentrification process lead by transit-oriented-development (TOD). In this research, approximately 600 questionnaire samples were collected in the 18 districts of Hong Kong in 2016. Respondents expressed their residential mobility and their perceived neighborhood characteristics. A linear regression model was used to estimate factors affecting the residents' community sense. The result shows that residents from gentrified neighborhoods and of lower SES are associated with higher community sense. In neighborhoods without rail line coverage, the prospect of MTR service in foreseeable future affects the sense of community among the respondents. This study adds a new dimension to existing theoretical discussion and empirical examination on urban development in transit cities.



Sylvia He, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Resource Management and one of the founding members of the Urban Studies Programme at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is a Board Member and Deputy Secretary of the Hong Kong Society for Transportation Studies (HKSTS). Her research examines the role of planning and policy in shaping the spatial structure of cities and the behaviors of households and individuals. Sylvia specializes in travel behavior modeling, location choice modeling, and spatial analysis/GIS application. Her publications appear in transportation and urban planning journals: *Cities*, *Transportation Research Part C*, *Travel Behaviour and Society*, *Applied Geography*, *Urban Studies*, *Journal of Transport Geography*, *Transportation*, *Transport Policy*, *Transportation Research Record*, and *Journal of Urban Planning and Development*. Sylvia obtained her PhD in Policy, Planning and Development from the University of Southern California.