

2016 SPRING METRANS RESEARCH SEMINAR

Wednesday, April 20, 2016
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

USC – Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall Auditorium (RGL 101)

RSVP to Vicki Deguzman at
victoriv@price.usc.edu

Has the Relationship Between Urban and Suburban Travel Changed Across Generations?: A National-Level Inquiry

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Featuring Xize Wang, Ph.D. Candidate

Recent studies suggest that reduced driving rates among millennials is one important factor in the current “peak car” phenomenon. Although the recent economic recession has certainly contributed to an overall reduction in driving, recent literature on driving rates within the United States has posited that generational differences in travel demand between millennials and earlier generations also helps explain the observed trends. Currently, a large share of millennials live in central cities, and research suggests that millennials - like prior generations - will move to the suburbs as they enter their prime work and child-rearing years.

Will millennials who shun driving now continue to drive less when they move to the suburbs? In order to determine this, Wang used nation-level data from the National Household Travel Surveys of 1995, 2001 and 2009. Wang will examine how driving correlates with population density, to test whether the density-driving relationship is growing weaker over time. If that relationship is weaker, it suggests that Millennials might maintain their low-driving patterns even if they move to less dense suburban locations.



Xize Wang is a PhD Candidate in Urban Planning and Development at the Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California. His research interests are (1) transportation and urban form, (2) demography and travel and (3) active travel and sustainability. He is currently investigating how vehicular demand in the US is impacted by current demographic shifts in immigration, millennials entering their adulthood, and the retirement of baby boomers. Prior to joining the PhD program, Xize received B.E. in urban planning and B.A. in economics (with honors) at Peking University, Beijing, and Master of Urban and Regional Planning at University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.