

HUI WANG

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RESEARCH PROFILE

I study where cultural production happens in China — which cities film festivals, state screening programmes and, most recently, platform-distributed short drama production choose to operate in, and what those choices record. Siting decisions register constraints that no official account states: censorship, regulatory tolerance, cost, the condition of the local property market. My current fieldwork follows China's short drama industry — a platform-native form commissioned for algorithmic distribution — through inland second-tier cities, and its next stage follows it into Southeast Asia.

CURRENT POSITION

2025–2027 **Sun Yat-sen University**, School of Geography and Planning
Postdoctoral Researcher
Cultural production · media industries · urban China and Southeast Asia

EDUCATION

2020–2025 **University of Liverpool** — PhD, Department of Geography and Planning
Cultural Events and the City: Film Festivals, Film Industry, and Urban Transformation in Inland China

2016–2017 **King's College London** — MSc, Sustainable Cities

2011–2015 **Ocean University of China** — BA, Creative and Cultural Industries

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Wang, H. and Kao, S. *Chinese Niche Film Festivals: Inland Cities and Uneven Geography*. Under contract with Routledge; full manuscript submitted. Expected 2027.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Wang, H. and Kao, S. (2025). 'Public Film Screening Events and the Production of Chinese Urbanisms, 1949–2000'. *Journal of Urban History*, online first.

Wang, H. and Kao, S. (2023). 'Cultural Events and the City: The Migration of FIRST International Film Festival from Beijing to Xining'. *City, Culture and Society*, 32, 100506.

Under Review

Wang, H. 'Producing the Base: Formation, Operation and Persistence of Short-Drama Filming Spaces in China' [in Chinese]. *Renwen Dili* [Human Geography]. Submitted September 2026.

Selected Book Chapter

Wang, H. (2020). 'Double Exposure Factory Rebirth: Site Project of Innovation Galaxy, Jing'an District'. In: *This Connection*, 112–134. Shanghai: Tongji University Press.

Selected Public Writing

Wang, H. (2018). 'Localising Design of Commercial Space and Urban Space by Public Vitality'. *Urban China*, 83.

Wang, H. (2018). 'Urban Green Space from the Views of Designers'. *Urban China*, 84.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching across six modules delivered in English at **Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University**, a Sino-British joint-venture institution, awarding University of Liverpool degrees, spanning Year 2 undergraduate to

postgraduate level. Responsibilities included seminar and tutorial teaching, coursework marking and written feedback, and student consultation, to UK degree standards.

2025	Planning Law and Governance (<i>Year 4</i>)
2024	International Planning Studies (<i>Year 4</i>)
2023	Planning Theory (<i>Year 4</i>)
2023	Theory and Practice of Urban Regeneration (<i>Postgraduate</i>)
2022	Urban and Environmental Economics (<i>Year 2</i>)
2021	Issues and Practice of Planning in China I (<i>Year 2</i>)

MEDIA AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

2025–	Urban Sense — Editor
2023	MINT Film Festival (UK) — Programme Curator
2021	FIRST International Film Festival (Beijing and Xining) — Event Coordinator
2019–2024	Media and content agencies — Freelance Writer
2017–2018	Urban China Magazine (Shanghai) — Researcher and Editor
2015	China Youthology (Beijing) — Research Intern

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2020–2023	Postgraduate Scholarship, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University / University of Liverpool
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PEER REVIEW

City, Culture and Society (SJR Q1); *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (JCR Q1)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Dec 2025	<i>Ordinary Cultural Events in Ordinary Cities: A Case Study of the FIRST International Film Festival in Xining</i> <i>Urban Creativity and Industrial Innovation Forum, East China Normal University, Shanghai</i>
July 2024	<i>Film Festivals as Productive Forces: A New Map of China's Filmmaking</i> <i>Association for Asian Studies in Asia, Yogyakarta</i>
July 2024	<i>Why Were They Invited? 'Unwelcome' Celebrities as a Societal Force for Indie Film Festivals in China</i> <i>International Celebrity Studies Conference, Amsterdam</i>
Mar 2024	<i>Film Industry and Urban Development in China's Small Cities: Insights from the Leadership Dispute at Pingyao International Film Festival</i> <i>American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i>
Sep 2023	<i>From Film Week to Film Festival: Public Film Screening Events and the Production of Chinese Urbanism, 1949–2000</i> <i>International Doctoral Student Forum of Art Studies, Peking University, Beijing</i>
Mar 2022	<i>A Response to Urbanism: The Changing Geography of China's Film Production</i> <i>American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting</i>
July 2021	<i>Problematising Event-led Urban Regeneration from the Tibetan Plateau: FIRST International Film Festival and Urban Development in Xining, China</i> <i>International Geographical Union Centennial Congress</i>

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (native) · English (full professional working proficiency; English-medium university teaching) · Cantonese (elementary)