

Tim Oakes

Department of Geography

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT and APPOINTMENTS

- Current.** Professor, Department of Geography, University of Colorado Boulder
2012-2021 and 2022-2023. Faculty Director, Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder
2017. Visiting Professor, Hong Kong Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong
2010–2014. Visiting Professor, Cultural Geography Chair Group, Wageningen University, Netherlands
2010–2012. Visiting Professor, Institute of Ethnology and Sociology, Guizhou Minzu University, Guiyang, China
2007–2010. Chair, Department of Geography, University of Colorado Boulder
2003–2008. Visiting Professor, Department of Sociology, Guizhou Nationalities Institute, Guiyang, China
2003–2004. Visiting Research Scholar, Institute for International Studies, University of Technology, Sydney
2000–2006. Research Associate, Center for China-US Cooperation, University of Denver Graduate School of International Studies.
1996–2004. Research Fellow, Center for Research on Provincial China, University of New South Wales and University of Technology, Sydney

EDUCATION

- 1995.** PhD, Geography, University of Washington
1991. MA, Geography, University of Washington
1987. BA, East Asian Studies, Colby College

SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Rippa, A. and T. Oakes.** 2023. Infrastructural thinking in China: a research agenda. *The China Quarterly* 255, 547-559.
- Oakes, T.** 2023. The National New Area as an infrastructure space: urbanization and the new regime of circulation in China. *The China Quarterly* 255, 575-590.
- Chen, X. and T. Oakes.** 2023. Time-space companions: digital surveillance, social management, and abuse of power during the Covid-19 pandemic in China. *Critical Asian Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14672715.2023.2191248>.
- Oakes, T.** 2022. From creation city to infrastructural urbanism: the Chinese National New Area as an infrastructure space. In Hirsh, M. and Mostowlansky, T. (eds.), *Infrastructure and the Remaking of Asia*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, pp. 157-177.
- Oakes, T.** 2022. Ordering the frontiers: purification projects as a territorializing strategy in southwestern China. *Eurasian Geography and Economics* <https://doi.org/10.1080/15387216.2022.2095520>.
- Oakes, T., J. Clendenning, J. DiCarlo, M. Erie, M. Hirsh, A. Joniak-Lüthi, H. Karrar, V. La Mela, J. Lu, T. Mostowlansky, G. Murton, H. Ng, R. Norum, N. Plachta, B. Reichhardt, A. Rippa, J. Sarma, E. Sulek, D. Tang, Z. Urmanbetova and T. White.** 2022. *China's global development model: Looking beyond the Belt and Road Initiative*. Fribourg, Munich, and Boulder. Available at: chinadevelopmentmodel.roadworkasia.com.

- Joniak-Lüthi, A., A. Rippa, J. Clendenning, J. DiCarlo, M. Erie, M. Hirsh, H. Karrar, V. La Mela, J. Lu, T. Mostowlansky, G. Murton, H. Ng, R. Norum, **T. Oakes**, N. Plachta, B. Reichhardt, J. Sarma, E. Sulek, D. Tang, Z. Urmanbetova and T. White. 2022. *Demystifying the Belt and Road Initiative*. Fribourg, Munich and Boulder. Available at: BRI.roadworkasia.com.
- Oakes, T.** and Z. Zuo. 2022. Remoteness and connectivity: the variegated geographies of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Highland Asia* (London & New York: Routledge).
- Oakes, T.** 2021. The Belt & Road as method: geopolitics, technopolitics and power through an infrastructure lens. *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/apv.12319>.
- Oakes, T.** and Y. Yang. 2021. Dance machine: performing the city in China's public space. *Civilizations* 69(1): 49-66.
- Oakes, T.** 2021. Afterword: A critical reckoning with the 'Asian Century' in the shadow of the Anthropocene. *Tourism Geographies*. 23(4): 937-943. Reprinted in Sin, H.L et al. (eds.), *Recentering Tourism Geographies in the 'Asian Century'* (London & New York: Routledge, 2022).
- Oakes, T.** 2021. Heritage, ritual space, and contested urbanization in Shenzhen. In Wang, S., M. Rowlands, and Y. Zhu (eds.), *Heritage and Religion in East Asia* (London & New York: Routledge), 105-124.
- Oakes, T.** 2021. The BRI as an exercise in infrastructure thinking. In "Transformations: Downstream Effects of the BRI," *The BRI in Global Perspective* (Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto), <https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/beltandroad/article/the-bri-as-an-exercise-in-infrastructural-thinking/>.
- Oakes, T.** 2020. Leisure as governable space: transcultural leisure and governmentality in contemporary China. In R. Wagner, C. Yeh, E. Menegon, and R. Weller (eds.) *Testing the Margins of Leisure: Case Studies on China, Japan, and Indonesia* (Heidelberg: Heidelberg University Press), 13-41.
- Oakes, T.** 2020. Infrastructures of permanence and deserted architecture in China. *Roadsides* 4: 68-75. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26034/roadsides-202000409>.
- Oakes, T.** 2020. Not urban yet, no longer rural. In *China Goes Urban: The City to Come*, eds. M. Bonino, F. Carota, F. Governa & S. Pellicchia (Milan: Skira), 198-209.
- Chan, K.W., Gentile, M., Kinossian, N., **Oakes, T.** & Young, C. 2020. "More-than-viral" Eurasian geographies: interconnections, inequalities, geopolitics and the covid-19 pandemic. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. 61(4-5): 343-361.
- Oakes, T.** 2019. China's urban ideology: new towns, creation cities, and contested landscapes of memory. *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 60(4): 400-421. Reprinted in Tang, W.S. and K.W. Chan (eds.), *Urban China Reframed: A Critical Appreciation* (London & New York: Routledge, 2021).
- Oakes, T.** 2019. China Made: infrastructure thinking in a Chinese register. *Made in China* 4(2), 66-71.
- Luo, Y., **T. Oakes** and L. Schein. 2019. Resourcing remoteness and the "post-alteric" imaginary in China. *Social Anthropology* 27(2): 270-285.
- Oakes, T.** 2019. Introduction: Making cultural cities in China: governance, state-building, and precarious creativity. *Environment and Planning A: Economy & Space* 51(1): 178-186.
- Oakes, T.** 2019. Happy town: cultural governance and biopolitical urbanism in China. *Environment and Planning A* 51(1): 244-262.

RECENT RESEARCH & PROGRAM GRANTS and FELLOWSHIPS

Research grants

- 2024.** Fulbright Global Scholar Award – \$28,560 “The Hinterlands of Global China: infrastructures of life beyond the urban” (University of Oslo and National University of Singapore).
- 2017.** Henry Luce Foundation Asia Responsive Grant program - \$390,000 (total project budget \$485,273) “China Made: Asian Infrastructures and the China Model of Development” (Center for Asian Studies, Hong Kong Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences – PI Oakes).

Program grants (Center for Asian Studies)

- 2022.** US Department of Education, \$1,094,300: “University of Colorado National Resource Center for Asian Studies” (Center for Asian Studies, PD Oakes).
- 2022.** US Department of Education, \$1,056,760: University of Colorado Asian Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships” (Center for Asian Studies, PD Oakes).
- 2020.** US Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program (UISFL), \$196,918: “Creating a Certificate Program in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies” (Center for Asian Studies, PI Oakes).
- 2020.** Albert Smith Nuclear Age Fund - \$35,000 “A Tale of Two Asias: Living in and Beyond the Nuclear Age” (Center for Asian Studies, PI Oakes).
- 2019.** United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program – FLTA award in Indonesian (Center for Asian Studies, PI Oakes).
- 2017.** University of Colorado, College of Arts & Sciences Fund for Excellence - \$1,000 “Mediating Asia: Information, Democracy and the State in and before the Digital Age” (Center for Asian Studies, PI Oakes).
- 2017.** University of Colorado College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Education Development Program Grant, \$25,000 “Culture and Language Across the Curriculum” (Center for Asian Studies, PI Oakes).

Fellowships and Awards

- 2023.** American Association of Geographers China Geography Specialty Group Outstanding Service Award.
- 2022.** University of Colorado Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award.
- 2017.** University of Hong Kong Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, Visiting Professorship.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Invited keynotes

- 2022, December.** 10th East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography, National Taiwan University, Taipei. Keynote address: “Seeing like a Chinese city: rethinking the politics of infrastructure from the edges of urbanization”
- 2022, May.** McGill New Cities Lab Workshop: Concrete Futures? The (Im)material Lives of New Cities Built From Scratch. Keynote address: “Suspension cities: infrastructures of post-urbanism in China”
- 2022, February.** Finnish Society for Development Research Annual Meetings: Development Days 2022. Keynote address: “Cities just beyond reach: infrastructures of post-urbanism in China”
- 2021, September.** Wakayama University Center for Tourism Research Conference: Tourism Geographies in the ‘Asian Century’. Keynote address: “What does a critical tourism studies look like in the ‘Asian Century’?”

- 2019, November.** New Zealand Asian Studies Society 23rd Biennial Conference. Presented “Infrastructure maniac 基建狂魔: the techno-politics of the ‘China Model’ of development.”
- 2019, September.** China Global Summer Seminar: the Politics of Infrastructure, Nottingham University, Ningbo. Presented “Infrastructure maniac 基建狂魔: the techno-politics of the ‘China Model’ of development.”

Presentations at professional meetings

- 2022, October.** University of Toronto Workshop on “Roads, Political Imaginaries and State Building in Asia”, Toronto, ON: “Passageway culture: the mythology and materiality of roads in Guizhou”
- 2022, May.** 4th ChinaMade Workshop “From ‘China Model’ to Global China”, Asian Institute, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON: “Zone infrastructures”
- 2022, March.** Annual Meetings of the Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI: “Speed and suspension: urban China’s fitful lurch into the future”
- 2019, April.** Annual Meetings of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, DC: “Zone infrastructures: China’s new urban paradigm and export product”

Invited lectures and colloquia

- 2023, October.** Rutgers Center for Chinese Studies (RCCS): “Global China and infrastructure power: the techno-politics of the ‘China model’ of development.”
- 2023, January.** University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy: “Thinking infrastructurally about Global China: materiality, techno-politics, power”
- 2022, October.** USC US-China Institute workshop on Cultural Preservation and Heritage in China: “Urban heritage and ritual space in Shenzhen”
- 2022, March.** Duke Kunshan University Center for Contemporary Chinese Studies Spring Speaker Series: “Heritage, ritual space, and contested urbanization in southern China.”
- 2022, March.** Harvard University Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies – MIT Sustainable Urbanization Lab joint Spring Speaker Series: “Post-urbanism 2.0: Infrastructure spaces and half-finished cities in China”
- 2021, December.** Newcastle University Distinguished Chinese Lecture: “Heritage, ritual space, and contested urbanization in southern China.”
- 2021, March.** University of Hong Kong China Development Studies Elite Seminar Series on China’s Evolving Spaces of Economic Development, “The National New Area as an infrastructure space.”
- 2020, October.** Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Global China Centre Virtual Engagements on Global China Speaker Series, “City in a box? Rethinking the Special Economic Zone as the ‘China model’ of development”
- 2019, November.** University of Colorado Environmental Studies Colloquium, “Infrastructural urbanism and the techno-politics of zone development in China”
- 2019, June.** University College London Department of Geography Seminar Series: “China’s urban ideology”
- 2019, March.** Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen: “China’s urban revolution: the dialectic of the ideological and infrastructure city”

Invited panels, workshops and symposia

- 2023, November.** Rural-Urban Lives, Locations & (Dis)Connections During COVID and Beyond. Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Invited discussant.
- 2023, August.** PolGRG Book Prize Panel: Alessandro Rippa's *Borderland Infrastructures*. RGS-IBG Annual Conference. Invited panelist.
- 2022, November.** What is Global China? Panel discussion sponsored by the Mapping Global China project, NYU Shanghai. Invited panelist.
- 2022, October.** Research and Practice in Road Development: Challenges and Possibilities for Generative Dialogue. University of Toronto. Invited commentary: "How do research and practice intersect"
- 2022, January.** Rigid Demand: Finding Homes in Post-Socialist China. Book Workshop, Duke University. Invited panelist.
- 2021, April.** New Districts and Beautified Villages in Urban China. A dialogue with Gary Hack, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Tim Oakes, University of Colorado Boulder. China Goes Urban: The City to Come, Head to Head Interview Series, MAO Museo d'Arte Orientale di Torino.
- 2021, February.** China Made: the Technopolitics, Materialities, and Legacies of Infrastructure Development. Panel discussion at The New School India China Institute. Presented "Special economic zones and new areas as infrastructure spaces."
- 2020, September.** AAS-in-Asia 2020 virtual panel: "Critical Perspectives on Chinese Infrastructures." Invited discussant
- 2019, December.** Columbia University Center for Science and Society and Weatherhead East Asian Institute Conference on "Rethinking craft in Post-Industrial Society." Presented "Branded heritage: ICH and craft commerce in Southwest China."
- 2019, October.** "Empire, Infrastructure, and Labor" panelist for the University of Colorado Center of the American West Symposium on Immigrant Workers, Roads, and Nation Building: Legacies of the Transcontinental Railroad on its 150th Anniversary
- 2019, April.** "Recentring tourism geographies in the 'Asian Century'," Annual Meetings of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, DC. Invited panelist.
- 2019, January.** Ludwig Maximilian University Munich Workshop on Mapping Asia: "China Made and the infrastructure turn"

Panels or symposia organized

- 2023, November.** Infrastructure and the Remaking of Asia: book launch roundtable and brainstorming session. Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.
- 2023, October.** Fallout: Asian Networks of Nuclearity. Center for Asian Studies, Boulder, CO.
- 2022, October.** Global Asia Cyber Chat: Globalization and the Circulation of Asian Popular Culture. Center for Asian Studies and Center for Humanities and Arts, Boulder, CO.
- 2022, June.** Beyond Exception: the Chinese 'Zone' as an Export Model Across Asian Borderlands, co-organized for the 7th Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network, Seoul, Korea.
- 2022, May.** Fourth ChinaMade Workshop: From 'China Model' to 'Global China'. University of Toronto Asian Institute.
- 2022, April.** China's Nuclear Belt & Road: Socio-Technical Perspectives on China's Export Nuclear Infrastructures. Boulder, CO.
- 2021, October.** Global Chinese Infrastructures: A Writing Workshop. Splügen, Switzerland. Co-organizer.

- 2021, May.** Third ChinaMade Workshop: The Social Life of Chinese Infrastructures in Southeast Asia. National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute (held remotely).
- 2021, April.** The techno-politics of the 'China Model' of development. Annual Meetings of the American Association of Geographers, Seattle (held remotely). Organizer, moderator, and discussant.
- 2021, March.** A Decade of Fukushima: Socio-Technical Perspectives on Surviving the Nuclear Age in Japan. China Made / Albert Smith Nuclear Age Symposium organizer, host, moderator, and discussant.
- 2020, February.** Center for Asian Studies Teach-In on the COVID-19 Crisis. Organizer and moderator.
- 2019, April.** Critically engaging the 'China Model' of development: infrastructures, BRI, and technopolitics, Annual Meetings of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, DC. Co-organizer and chair.
- 2019, March.** Center for Asian Studies Roundtable on Xinjiang: Perspectives from the Field on China's Mass Incarceration of Turkic Muslims." Co-organizer.

RECENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Courses recently taught

Advanced Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 2092)
Geography of China (GEOG 3822)
Global China (GEOG 4002/5100)
Seminar in Cultural Geography (GEOG 6742)

Students currently advised

PhD: Xiaoling Chen, David Bachrach

Students advised to completion in past 5 years

PhD: Yang Yang ("Seeking knowledge even unto China' via alternative routes: grassroots Muslim connections, the New Silk Road, and the Hui in Xi'an, China," 2019)

Undergraduate Honors: Makinna Miller (2021), Morgan Roach (2021), Lily Demuth (2022)

Postdoctoral supervision

Alessandro Rippa (2018-19)
Darren Byler (2020-21)

RECENT SERVICE to the PROFESSION

Advisory Board, Hong Kong Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences
ACLS Program in China Studies, Selection Committee
Advisory Council, University of Colorado Denver Institute for International Business Center for International Business Education Research (CIBER)
Associate Editor, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*
Editorial Board: *New Mobilities in Asia* (Amsterdam University Press book series),
Tourism Geographies, *Tourist Studies*

Recent Outreach and Consulting Activities

- "South China Sea: the territorialization of maritime space," presented for the CAS professional development workshop on Geography, Geopolitics and Media in Southeast Asia. Boulder, CO. December, 2023.
- "Urban heritage and ritual space in Shenzhen," presented for the USC US-China Institute workshop on Cultural Preservation and Heritage in China (remote presentation). October, 2022.
- "Global China: the view from the ground." Invited online talk for the International Business Circle, Denver, CO. May, 2022.