

CURRICULUM VITAE

Karen P.Y. Lai 黎碧瑶

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Financial centres | Digital economy | Fintech | Political economy of Asia

APPOINTMENTS

2025 – present | Professor, Department of Geography, Durham University, UK

2019 – 2025 | Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Durham University, UK

2011 – 2019 | Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore (NUS)

2008 – 2010 | Killam Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada

EDUCATION

2008 | Ph.D in Economic Geography, University of Nottingham, UK

2004 | M.Soc.Sci. (Research) in Geography, National University of Singapore

2002 | B.Soc.Sci. (Honours) in Geography, First Class, National University of Singapore

2001 | B.A. in Geography, Pass with Merit, National University of Singapore

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

Lai, Karen P. Y. (Forthcoming) 'Financial Geography III: Everyday Lives of Finance', *Progress in Human Geography*.

Wójcik, Dariusz, Bassens, David., Lai, Karen P. Y., Sohns, Franziska, Grandi, Silvia and Tan, Gordon (2025). FinGeo in transition. Finance and Space, 2(1), 510–523. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2833115X.2025.2589603>

McLean, Jessica, Reid, Louise, Lai, Karen P. Y., Roos, Markus and Krishnan, Sneha (2025) 'Geographies of Responsibility, Care and Repair in Digital Worlds of AI: Introduction to the Themed Intervention', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, e70045. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.70045>.

Chu, Jing, Fang, Cheng & Lai, Karen P. Y. (2025). 'Reshaping state-finance-tech nexus through central bank digital currencies: the case of the mBridge project' *Finance and Space*, Volume 2, 281–304. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2833115X.2025.2539714>

Liu, Felicia H.M., Lai, Karen P.Y., Seah, Bertrand and Chow, Winston T.L. (2025) 'Decarbonising digital infrastructure and urban sustainability in the case of data centres', *npj Urban Sustainability*, Vol. 5, Article No. 15, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42949-025-00203-1>

Lai, Karen P. Y. (2025) 'Financial Geography II: Green Finance and Climate Transition', *Progress in Human Geography*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/03091325251315158>

Bassens, D., Knox-Hayes, J., Lai, K., Pan, F. and Wójcik, D. (2024) 'Finance in the age of geoeconomics: intersections of finance, production, and digital technology', *Finance and Space*, Volume 1, 542–555. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2833115X.2024.2433898>

Bassens, David, Hendrikse, Reijer, Lai, Karen P. Y. and van Meeteren, Michiel (2024) 'World cities under conditions of digitization and platform capitalism: Updating the advanced producer services complex', *Geoforum*, Volume 152, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2024.104021>

Wójcik, Dariusz, Bassens, David, Knox-Hayes, Janelle and Lai, Karen P. Y. (2024) 'Revolution, evolution, progress: Finance & Space manifesto', *Finance and Space*, Volume 1, 1-12, <https://doi.org/10.1080/2833115X.2023.2275952>

Lai, Karen P. Y. and Langley, Paul (2024) 'Playful finance: Gamification and intermediation in FinTech economies', *Geoforum*, Volume 151, 103848, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2023.103848>

Thomsen, Lotte, Lai, Karen P. Y., and Ponte, Stefano (2023) State action and inaction in the shaping of value and wealth entanglements: The role of Singapore in the global 'gold chain.' *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 56(8): 2174-2195.

Lai, Karen P. Y. (2023) 'Financial Geography I: The State-Finance Nexus', *Progress in Human Geography*, 47(4): 591–603.

Dörny, Sabine; Wojcik, Dariusz; Lai, Karen P. Y. and Aalbers, Manuel (2023) 'Lost (in) space for dialogue: On the (abandoned) need for Working Papers in Human Geography', in *Environment and Planning F: Philosophy, Theory, Models, Methods and Practice*, 2(3): 438–456.

Bailey, A. J., Breines, M., Emmerson, P., Esson, J., Halvorsen, S., Hope, J. C., Joronen, M., Koh, S. Y., Krishnan, S., Lai, K., McFarlane, C., McLean, J., Reid, L., and Sparke, M. (2023) 'Care for Transactions', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 48(1): 2–8.

Fang, Cheng, Fenghua, Pan and Lai, Karen P.Y. (2023) 'The brokerage role of Hong Kong in global financial networks: the case of mainland Chinese companies' US listings', *Regional Studies*, 57(2): 317-329.

Liu, Felicia and Lai, Karen P.Y. (2021) 'Ecologies of Green Finance: Green *Sukuk* and Development of Green Islamic Finance in Malaysia', *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 53(8): 1896-1914.

Lai, Karen P.Y. and Samers, Michael (2021) 'Towards an economic geography of FinTech', *Progress in Human Geography*, 45(4): 720-739.

Lai, Karen P.Y. and Pan, Fenghua (2021) 'Brexit and shifting geographies of financial centres in Asia', *Geoforum*, 125: 201-202.

Lai, Karen P.Y., Lin, Shaun and Sidaway, James D. (2020) 'Financing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): Research agendas beyond the "debt-trap" discourse', *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 61(2): 109-124.

Lai, Karen P.Y., Pan, Fenghua, Sokol, Martin and Wójcik, Dariusz (2020) 'New financial geographies of Asia', *Regional Studies*, 54(2): 143-148.

Gemici, Kurtuluş and Lai, Karen P.Y. (2020) 'How 'global' are investment banks? An analysis of investment banking networks in Asian equity capital markets', *Regional Studies*, 54(2): 149-161.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2018) 'Agency, power and state-firm relations in global financial networks', *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 8(3): 285–288.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2017) 'Unpacking financial subjectivities: Intimacies, governance and socio-economic practices in financialisation', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 35(5): 913–932.

Lai, Karen P.Y. and Samers, Michael (2017) 'Conceptualizing Islamic banking and finance: A comparison of its development and governance in Malaysia and Singapore', *The Pacific Review*, 30(3): 405–424.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2016) 'Financial advisors, financial ecologies and the variegated financialisation of everyday investors', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 41(1): 27–40.

Lai, Karen P.Y. and Tan, Choon Hang (2015) '“Neighbours First, Bankers Second”: Mobilising financial citizenship in Singapore', *Geoforum*, 64: 65–77.

Clark, Gordon L., Lai, Karen P.Y. and Wojcik, Dariusz (2015) 'Editorial introduction to the special section: Deconstructing offshore finance', *Economic Geography*, 91(3): 237–249.

Coe, Neil M., Lai, Karen P.Y. and Wójcik, Dariusz (2014) 'Integrating Finance into Global Production Networks', *Regional Studies*, 48(5): 761–777.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2013) 'The Lehman Minibonds crisis and financialisation of investor subjects in Singapore', *Area*, 45(3): 273–282.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2012) 'Differentiated markets: Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong in China's financial centre network', *Urban Studies*, 49(6): 1275–1296.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2011) 'Marketisation through contestation: Reconfiguring China's financial markets through knowledge networks', *Journal of Economic Geography*, 11(1): 87–117.

Lai, Karen (2009) 'New Spatial Logics in Global Cities Research: Networks, Flows and New Political Spaces', *Geography Compass*, 3(3): 997–1012.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2006) 'Imagineering' Asian Emerging Markets: Financial Knowledge Networks in the Fund Management Industry, *Geoforum*, 37: 627–642.

Lai, Karen P.Y. and Yeung, Henry W.C. (2003) 'Contesting the State: Discourses of the Asian Economic Crisis and Mediating Strategies of Electronic Firms in Singapore', *Environment and Planning A*, 35(3): 463–488

Book

Yeoh, Brenda S.A., Teo, Peggy, Ooi, Giok Ling, and Lai, Karen P.Y. (2004) *Changing Landscapes of Singapore*, Singapore: McGraw-Hill.

Book chapters

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2025) 'Fintech: Making finance fun', in Yuko Aoyama, Daniel Haberly, Rory Horner, Seth Schindler (Eds.), *A Research Agenda for Economic Geography*, Edward Elgar, pp. 175–188.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2024) 'Jessie Poon: International Trade and Geographies of Finance', in Jennifer Johns and Sarah Marie Hall (Eds.) *Contemporary Economic Geographies: Inspiring, Critical and Plural Perspectives*, Bristol: Bristol University Press, pp. 65–76.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2022) 'Financial Geography' in Douglas Richardson (Editor-in-Chief), *The International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology*, New York, NY: Wiley-Blackwell, <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118786352.wbieg0656.pub2>.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2020) 'FinTech: The dis/re-intermediation of finance?' in Janelle Knox-Hayes and Dariusz Wójcik (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Financial Geography*, London: Routledge, pp. 440-458.

Stolz, Dennis and Lai, Karen P.Y. (2020) 'Impact investing, social enterprises and global development', in Phil Mader, Daniel Mertens and Natascha van der Zwan (Eds.), *International Handbook of Financialization*, London: Routledge, pp. 288-300.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2018) 'Singapore: Connecting Asian markets with global finance' in Youssef Cassis and Dariusz Wójcik (Eds.) *International Financial Centres: After the Global Financial Crisis and Brexit*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 154-181.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2018) 'Financialisation of everyday life', in G.L. Clark, M. Feldmann, M. Gertler, and D. Wojcik (Eds.). *The New Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 611-627.

Lai, Karen P.Y. and Daniels, Joseph A. (2017) 'Financialization of Singaporean banks and the production of variegated financial capitalism', in B. Christophers, A. Leyshon and G. Mann (Eds.) *Money and Finance After the Crisis: Critical Thinking for Uncertain Times*, Antipode Book Series, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 217-244.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2017) 'Financial Geography', in N. Castree, M. Goodchild, W. Liu, A. Kobayashi, R. Marston, and D. Richardson (Eds.), *The International Encyclopaedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology*, Wiley-Blackwell.

Lai, Karen (2013) 'Singapore's economic landscapes: local transformation and global networks', in Elaine Ho, Chih Yuan Woon and Kamalini Ramdas (eds.) *Changing Landscapes of Singapore: Old Tensions, New Discoveries*, Singapore: NUS Press, pp. 196-217.

Lai, Karen (2012) 'From "Paris of the East" to "New York of Asia"? The (re)development of Shanghai as a financial centre' in Peter Daniels, K.C. Ho and Tom Hutton (eds.) *New Economic Spaces of Asian Cities: From Industrial Restructuring to the Cultural Turn*, London: Routledge, pp. 150-165.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2011) 'Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong within a financial centre network' in Ben Derudder, Michael Hoyler, Peter J. Taylor and Frank Witlox (eds.) *The International Handbook of Globalization and World Cities*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 429-436.

French, Shaun, Lai, Karen and Leyshon, Andrew (2010) 'Banking on financial services', in Andrew Jones and Neil Coe (eds.) *Economic Geography of the UK*, London: Sage, pp. 61-78.

Yeoh, Brenda S.A., Lai, Karen P.Y. Charney, Michael W. and Tong, Chee Kiong (2003) 'Approaching Transnationalisms' in Yeoh, Brenda S.A., Charney, Michael W., and Tong, Chee Kiong (eds.) *Approaching Transnationalisms: Studies on Transnational Societies, Multicultural Contacts, and Imaginings of Home*, Massachusetts: Kluwer Academic Publishers, pp. 1-13

Reports & working papers

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2025) 'Finfluencers, Gamification and Youthful Finance', Financial Geography Working Paper Series #38, January 2025, Global Network on Financial Geography (FinGeo), <https://www.fingeo.net/files/ugd/e87d7ff8281b7b10a40fb953971cb5c1db2f0.pdf>.

Chow, Winston, Lai, Karen P. Y., Liu, Felicia and Seah, Bertrand (2024) White Paper: Green FinTech and Data Centres in Singapore, April 2024, Singapore: Singapore Green Finance Centre, <https://www.singaporegreenfinance.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/White-Paper-Green-FinTech-and-Data-Centres-in-Singapore.pdf>

Chow, Winston, Lai, Karen P. Y. and Liu, Felicia (2023) Interim Report: Green FinTech and Data Centres in Singapore, August 2023, Singapore: Singapore Green Finance Centre, <https://www.singaporegreenfinance.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Interim-Report-Green-FinTech-and-Data-Centres-in-Singapore-Final.pdf>

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2018) 'The changing nature of service sectors', *Geography Digest*, 2018 Issue 2, pp. 25-34, Geography Unit, Humanities Branch, Curriculum Planning and Development Division 2, Ministry of Education, Singapore.

Stolz, Dennis and Lai, Karen P.Y. (2018) 'Philanthro-capitalism, social enterprises and global development', Financial Geography Working Paper Series #13, March 2018, Oxford: Global Network on Financial Geography (FinGeo), <http://www.fingeo.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Stolz-and-Lai-Philanthro-capitalism-WP13-27March2018.pdf>

Lai, Karen P.Y. and Daniels, Joseph A. (2015) 'Banking on finance in Singapore: The state-led financialisation of banking firms', GPN Working Paper Series, GPN2015-002, Global Production Networks Centre, National University of Singapore, <http://gpn.nus.edu.sg/file/Karen%20Lai-GPN2015-002.pdf>

French, Shaun, Lai, Karen and Leyshon, Andrew (2008) The Place of Nottingham as a Financial Centre, report prepared for Nottingham City Council, March 2008.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2006) 'Developing Shanghai as an International Financial Centre: Progress and Prospects', Discussion Paper 4, China Policy Institute, University of Nottingham.

Reviews & commentaries

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2025) 'Atlas of Finance: Seeing and Communicating the (Financial) World Differently', Commentary for *Geoforum* on "Atlas of Finance: Mapping the Global Story of Money" (2024) by Wojcik, D., Iliopoulos, P., Ioannou, S., Keenan, L., Migozzi, J., Monteath, T., Pazitka, V., Torrance, M. and Urban, M., Yale University Press. In *Geoforum*, Volume 160, 104229, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2025.104229>.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2019) 'Refining the state-finance nexus through urban infrastructure', Book symposium: Pike et al.'s *Financialising City Statecraft and Infrastructure: A reader's guide*, *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 52(4): 790-813, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X19889058>.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2017) Authors Meet Critics Book Symposium: Review of World City Network, by Peter J. Taylor and Ben Derudder. Reviewed in: *Urban Geography*, 38(1): 153-154.

Lai, Karen P.Y. (2015) Banking across boundaries: Placing finance in capitalism, by Brett Christophers. Reviewed in: *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 36(1): 127-128.

Lai, Karen (2011) Globalization: key thinkers by Andrew Jones. Reviewed in: *Geografiska Annaler: Series B*, 39(3): 274-276.

Lai, Karen (2010) Liquidated: an ethnography of Wall Street by Karen Ho. Reviewed in: *Journal of Economic Geography*, 10(5): 788-790.

RESEARCH FUNDING

The University of Hong Kong Urban Systems Institute Fellowship Grant (Co-Investigator)

2026-2027 | Project title -- Infrastructuring “Digital China”: The emergence and socio-environmental impacts of urban data centres in Guangzhou. HKD\$261,000.

Regional Studies Association Network Grant (Lead Organiser)

2024-2026 | The Regional Studies Association (RSA) Research Network on Financial Geographies (FinGeo), GBPE7,500

Singapore Green Finance Centre (Co-Investigator)

2022-2024 | Project title – Green FinTech and data centres in Southeast Asia. SGD\$120,000.

Durham University Geography Research Development Fund (Co-Investigator)

2020-2021 | Project title – FinTech and the gamification of finance. GBPE1956.40. Seed funding for exploring new research, funding period extended due to Covid-19.

Regional Studies Association Network Grant (Lead Organiser)

2020-2022 | The Regional Studies Association (RSA) Research Network on Financial Geographies (FinGeo), GBPE7,500

Durham University Start-up Fund (Principle Investigator)

2019-2022 | Project title – FinTech and financial ecologies, GBPE10,000. Funding period extended due to Covid-19.

MOE Academic Research Fund Tier 1 (Principle Investigator)

2018-2021 | Project title – FinTech and financial ecologies in Singapore and Hong Kong. SGD\$41,731. Grant ended prematurely in 2019 due to overseas relocation.

NUS Strategic Research Grant (Collaborator)

2014-2019 | Project title – Global production networks, global value chains and East Asian development. SGD\$4.95 million. In charge of finance team research on investment banking networks.

NUS Start-up Fund (Principle Investigator)

2011-2014 | Project title – The making of financial subjects: investigating financial knowledge and practices in Singapore’s retail banking industry. SGD\$24,882

Killam Trusts (Principle Investigator)

2008-2010 | Project title – Market mobilities: Tracing networks of capital and knowledge in Hong Kong and Greater China. CAD\$6,000. Research grant under Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

China Policy Institute Research Grant, University of Nottingham (Principle Investigator)

2006-2008 | Project title – Approaches to ‘markets’: The development of Shanghai as an international financial centre. GBPE5,000

NUS Academic Research Fund (Collaborator)

2002-2004 | Project title – Imagineering ‘Emerging Markets’: fund managers and financial knowledge networks in Singapore, Hong Kong and London. SGD\$10,700

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (SINCE 2017)

** Denotes fully funded invitations from host universities/organisers*

2025

* Keynote speaker: 'Making finance fun in the fintech economy', Interim Conference of the Swiss Sociological Association's Economic Sociology Network, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland, 4 September.

* Invited speaker: 'Reshaping state-finance-tech nexus through central bank digital currency: The case of mBridge in Hong Kong', Department of Geography and Resource Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 13 March.

* Invited speaker: 'Navigating the challenges of digital growth and decarbonisation through the lens of data centres', School of Geographic Sciences, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China, 7 March.

2024

Co-presenter: 'Green FinTech and sustainable finance: The case of data centres in Singapore' (with Felicia Liu), Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) (RGS-IBG) Annual International Conference 2024, London, UK, 27-30 August.

Presenter: 'Finfluencers, gamification and making finance fun', 2024 Regional Studies Association Annual Conference, Florence, Italy, 12-14 June.

* Invited participant: 'Value and wealth in GFN and GPN: the case of gold as commodity', 2024 GFN-GPN Workshop, Beijing Normal University Zhuhai Campus, China, 1-3 March.

2023

* Keynote speaker: 'From fintech to finlife', Intersections of Finance and Society Conference 2023, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, 15 September.

Co-presenter: 'Growth and trajectory of data centres in Singapore: Finance, development and sustainability pathways' (with Felicia Liu), RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2023, London, UK, 29 August-1 September.

2022

* Invited speaker: 'How 'green' is green fintech? A critical enquiry into the growth of data centres in Southeast Asia', LISER Research Seminar Series, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), 13 September.

Organiser and chair: Panel on 'Conceptualising Production Networks and Digital Platforms', 6th Global Conference on Economic Geography, Dublin, Ireland, 7-10 June.

Invited speaker: 'The political economy of new financial technologies', Forum on Post-Covid Digital Finance, UCL Institute for Global Prosperity, 30 March. [Held online]

Invited speaker: 'FinTech in Southeast Asia: Observations Across Production and Consumption Dynamics', LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre, 3 March. [Held online]

2021

Panellist: 'Career Development Session', 2nd FinGeo Summer School, 21-24 June, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA [held online].

* Invited speaker: 'Emerging Economic Geographies of FinTech', China Development Studies Elite Seminar Series 2021, The University of Hong Kong, 28 April. [Honorarium for virtual seminar in place of funded visit.]

Co-presenter: 'Ecologies of Green Finance in Islamic Financial Centre Development: The Case of Green Sukuk in Malaysia' (with Felicia Liu), CURDS External Seminar Series 2021, Newcastle University, 15 April. [Held online]

2020

Co-presenter: 'FinTech and the gamification of finance', (co-authored with Paul Langley), FinGeo Online Workshop on 'Evolving Geographies of FinTech', 25-26 November.

Co-presenter: 'Creating, capturing and protecting value and wealth: The role of Singapore in the global gold chain' (co-authored with Lotte Thompson and Stefano Ponte), Copenhagen Business School Centre for Business and Development Studies and Institute of Development Studies CBDS-IDS Virtual Seminar Series 2020, 1 October.

2019

Chair and organiser: Plenary session 'Global financial shifts? Intersecting global finance with geopolitics', 1st FinGeo Global Conference, 15-18 September, Beijing, China.

Presenter: 'FinTech: The dis/re-intermediation of finance?', 2019 Annual Meeting of the AAG, 3-7 April, Washington D.C., USA.

Invited speaker: Webinar on 'Investment banking networks in Asian financial centres', Young Scholars Initiative, Institute for New Economic Thinking, 28 February.

2018

Presenter: 'Finance's hydra: towards an economic geography of FinTech' (co-authored with Michael Samers), 5th Global Conference on Economic Geography, 24-28 July, Cologne, Germany.

Presenter: 'Supporting or remaking global financial networks? The work of law firms in M&A and capital markets transactions', 5th Global Conference on Economic Geography, 24-28 July, Cologne, Germany.

Presenter: 'Philanthro-capitalism, social enterprise, and global development' (co-authored with Dennis Stolz), Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) Annual Meeting, 23-25 June, Kyoto, Japan.

2017

* Invited participant: Workshop on 'Emerging Geographies of Transnational Monetary Power', 18-19 September, Centre for Rising Powers, University of Cambridge, UK.

* Invited participant: Workshop and seminar on 'International financial centres after the global financial crisis and Brexit', 15-16 June, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, UK.

* Invited participant: Workshop on 'Asia/Global Production Networks', 8-9 June, City University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Baptist University.

Invited panellist: 'Brexit and the City: Financial geography after the UK's EU referendum', 2017 Annual Meeting of the AAG, 5-9 April, Boston, USA.

SELECTED INDUSTRY TALKS

Invited lecture: 'The material weight of the cloud: Data centres, digital economy, and climate crisis', Public lecture Series, Tyne & Wear branch of the Geographical Association, Durham Sixth Form Centre, 5 February 2026.

Industry and policy workshop: 'Green data centre workshop', Centre for Climate Finance & Investment, Imperial College London, UK, 7 November 2024.

Industry workshop: 'Sustainable financing for green data centres', Jones Lang LaSalle (CapitaSpring), Singapore, 20 November 2023.

Industry workshop: 'Green fintech and data centres', Singapore Management University, 19 April 2023.

* Panellist: Forum on 'Financing net zero: How can investment meet the climate challenge?', Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), London, UK, 5 December.

* Industry seminar: 'HSBC Local Insights Presented by NUS GPN Centre', Fullerton Hotel, Singapore, 31 July 2019.

* Invited speaker: 'Singapore as international financial centre: Integrating economic and urban development', 2018 International Forum on Cantonology and Global City Development, Guangzhou, China, 10-11 November 2018.

RESEARCH FEATURED IN MEDIA & REPORTS

2024 | UK parliament POSTnote Research Briefing on 'Energy Security and AI', 10 December, <https://post.parliament.uk/research-briefings/post-pn-0735/>
Interviewed for research on data centres as vital digital infrastructure and their impacts on energy resilience and green transition challenges.

2017 | Article titled '20 years after handover, Hong Kong stands at economic crossroads', newspaper (*Today*), 17 July.
Interviewed as expert on Hong Kong as international financial centre.

2016 | Documentary series 'Inside the Storm', episode on Lehman Brothers, television (*Channel NewsAsia*), 24 January.
Interviewed for research on Lehman Minibonds crisis and banking industry reforms in Singapore.

2015 | News special report on '138 years of POSB Bank', television (Channel 5 Singapore news channel), 2 November.
Interviewed for research on financialisation in Singapore.

DISTINCTIONS

2024-2025 | Visiting scholar, National Foreign Experts Programme, Beijing Normal University, China

2022-2025 | Visiting Faculty, Singapore Green Finance Centre & Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics, Singapore Management University, Singapore
 2023 | Fellow of the Regional Studies Association (FeRSA)
 2016 | Visiting scholar, Department of Human Geography, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany
 2014 | Visiting scholar, School of Geography, Beijing Normal University, China
 2013 | NUS Faculty Teaching Excellence Award 2012/2013
 2009 | PhD Prize, Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG) of the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG)
 2008-2010 | UBC Izaak Walton Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
 2006 | University of Nottingham Graduate School Travel Prize
 2006 | Selected participant, Summer Institute in Economic Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
 2006-2008 | NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship
 2004-2008 | ORAS award (Universities UK) & University of Nottingham PhD Studentship.
 2003-2004 | NUS President's Graduate Fellowship
 2003 | Visiting scholar, Department of Geography, University College London, UK.
 2002-2004 | NUS Research Scholarship
 2002 | NUS Geographical Society Gold Medal & Vice-Chancellor's List
 2001 | Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography Book Prize
 1998-2002 | Local Merit Scholarship, Public Service Commission, Singapore

CURRENT UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Level 1 Human Geography
 Level 2 Economic Geography
 Level 2 Social Research in Geography

POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

2025-present | Cecilia PRICHARD-JONES, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, Durham University (Main supervisor)
 Thesis title – Sociotechnical assemblages and their impact on sociocultural and relational networks in London's M&A workplaces and social spaces

2024-present | Owen RILEY, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, Durham University (Co-supervisor)
 Thesis title – A Financialized Electorate? Exploring How Popular Investment Culture Shapes Political Subjectivities

2023-present | Fauziah Rizki YUNIARTI, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, Durham University & Durham University Business School (Main supervisor)
 Thesis title – The Financial Geography of Sustainable Development Finance

2021-2025 | Cecilia PRICHARD-JONES, part-time MRes candidate, Department of Geography, Durham University (Main supervisor)
 Thesis title – Screens, the M&A Sector and Covid: Reimagining Financial Workplaces, Assemblages and Networks

2021-present | CHEN Qingren, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, Durham University (Main supervisor)
 Thesis title – The Evolution of Logistics Networks: A Study of the Sichuan-Chongqing Steel Industry

2020-present | CHU Jing, part-time PhD candidate, Department of Geography, Durham University (Co-supervisor)

Thesis title – The economic geography of central bank digital currencies: Money and the state

2020-2024 | FANG Cheng, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, Durham University (Main supervisor)

Thesis title – Understanding Chinese companies' overseas stock market listings: Global financial networks and multi-scalar states

2021-2023 | ZHU Xiaoxi, MRes candidate, Department of Geography, Durham University (Main supervisor)

Thesis title – Open banking and changing relationships between the Chinese banks and FinTech providers

2017-2020 | Felicia LIU, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, King's College London and NUS Joint Degree Programme (Co-advisor)

Thesis title – The development of climate finance in Asia: Drivers, processes, outcomes

2017-2019 | Diane Floreal BOULEAU, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, NUS (Main advisor)

Thesis title – Entrepreneurs across borders

2017-2019 | TAN Xuan Kai, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, NUS (Co-advisor)

Thesis title – From national cable lines to global networks: Strategic coupling and evolving state-firm dynamics in Singapore's telecommunications industry

2015-2019 | Jack HARRIS, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, NUS (Thesis committee)

Thesis title – Institutional configurations and the evolution of the London and Singapore DigiTech clusters

2015-2019 | Dennis STOLZ, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, NUS (Main advisor)

Thesis title – Philanthro-capitalism and the production of space: Impact investing and global development in the era of financialisation

2014–2017 | Yvonne GUO, PhD candidate, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS (Co-advisor)

Thesis title – Midshore financial centres and the emerging transparency regime

2013–2016 | LIM Cia Lit Guanie, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, NUS (Thesis committee)

Thesis title – Chains, values, and ethnicity: the political economy of aquaculture in Singapore

THESIS EXAMINATION

2025 | Xinquan WU, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, Durham University (Internal examiner and oral panel member)

Thesis title – Making Carbon Markets in China's Cities

2025 | William BRATTON, DPhil candidate, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford (External examiner and oral panel member)

Thesis title - The Geographies of Financial Information and Knowledge: A Study of Sell-side Equity Research

2024 | Zhenfa LI, PhD candidate, The Bartlett School of Planning, University College London (External examiner and oral panel member)

Thesis title – State-led (de-)financialisation of the city: Local government bonds in China

2022 | Paolo BALMAS, PhD candidate, Department of Urban Development and Mobility, University of Luxembourg (External examiner and oral panel member)

Thesis title – China’s Financial Spaces in Europe: Bank Networks, Currency, Investments

2017 | CHEN Mengyao, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, King’s College London (External examiner and oral panel member)

Thesis title – The location patterns of Transnational Corporations’ Host-country Headquarters in Chinese mainland global cities

2014 | CHUANG May Tiffany Jordan, MSocSci candidate, Department of Sociology, NUS (Internal examiner)

Thesis title – Contextualising ‘Financial Literacy’: Singapore as an Exploratory Case Study

2014 | WOO Jun Jie, PhD candidate, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS (Internal examiner and oral panel member)

Thesis title – Converging Interests, Emerging Diversity: A Nested Instrumental Approach to Financial Policy in Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai

2012 | LIU Yi, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, NUS (Internal examiner and oral panel member)

Thesis title – Global production networks, strategic coupling and dynamics of industrial upgrading in the Pearl River Delta, China

2010 | NG Li Na, MSocSci candidate, Department of Geography, NUS (Internal examiner)

Thesis title – Financialisation of oil: a geographical perspective on oil trading and production

EXTERNAL EXAMINER & REFEREE

2023 | External referee for promotion & tenure, University of California Los Angeles, USA.

2022 | External referee for renewal, promotion & tenure, Queen’s University, Canada.

2020-2022 | External examiner for MSc International Financial and Political Relations, Loughborough University, UK.

LANGUAGES

English – Fluent | Mandarin Chinese – Proficient | Cantonese – Basic

EDITORIAL AND REVIEWER SERVICE

Journal Editorial/Advisory Board

2025-present | Editor, Economic Geography

2025-present | Editor, Finance & Space

2023–2025 | Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Finance & Space

2022–2024 | Associate Editor, Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

2025-present | Editorial advisory board member, Contemporary Social Science

2022–present | Editorial board member, Progress in Economic Geography

2022–present | Editorial board member, Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space

2020–present | International advisory board member, Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography

2018–present | Editorial board member, Geoforum

2015–present | Editorial board member, Geography Compass (Economic Geography)

Reviewer for Internationally Refereed Journals

Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Antipode, Area, Area Development and Policy, Big Data & Society, Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society, Competition and Change, Dialogues in Human Geography, Economic Geography, Economy & Society, Environment and Planning A: Economy & Space, Environment and Planning D: Society & Space, Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space, Eurasian Geography and Economics, European Urban and Regional Studies, Finance & Society, Geoforum, Geography Compass, Growth & Change, International Affairs, Journal of Cultural Economy, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of International Relations and Development, Journal of Urban Affairs, Management Development Journal of Singapore, Policy & Society, Political Geography, Progress in Economic Geography, Progress in Human Geography, Regional Studies, Review of International Political Economy, Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, Urban Geography, ZFW Advances in Economic Geography

Reviewer for Books/Edited Volumes

Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers) Book Series
The Wiley-AAG International Encyclopaedia of Geography
Edward Elgar Publishing
Routledge

Reviewer for International Funding Agencies

FWO - Research Foundation, Flanders (The Netherlands)
National Science Foundation (USA)
European Research Council (EU)
EUTOPIA-SIF (EU)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University Service

2025-2026 | Academic Management Roles Review Committee, Department of Geography, Durham University
2022-present | Internationalisation Lead, Department of Geography, Durham University
2020-2021 | Department of Geography Online Teaching Sub-Committee, Durham University
2015-2019 | NUS Department of Geography website & social media management
2017-2019 | NUS Department of Geography space and renovation committee
2014-2018 | Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) discretionary admissions interview panel
2013-2018 | Co-convenor, NUS Department of Geography Seminar Series
2013-2019 | Steering Committee, FASS Global Urban Studies Research Cluster
2012-2019 | Students & External Relations Committee, NUS Department of Geography
2011-2019 | Faculty Advisor (Chair), NUS Geography Challenge

International Service

2025-present | Advisory board member, Global Network on Financial Geography (FinGeo)
2025-2026 | Member of Scientific Committee, 4th FinGeo School and FinGeo International Seminar, University of Bologna.
2023-2025 | Board member, Regional Studies Association
2024-2025 | Member of scientific committee, 7th Global Conference on Economic Geography 2025, Clark, Worcester, USA.
2024-2025 | International advisory board member, 2nd FinGeo Global Conference 2025 and 3rd FinGeo School, National University of Singapore.
2022-2025 | Secretary, FinGeo
2021-2023 | Working Paper Series Co-Editor, FinGeo

2021-2022 | Member of Scientific Committee, 6th Global Conference on Economic Geography 2022, Dublin, Ireland.
2021 | Advisory board member, 2nd FinGeo Summer School 2021, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.
2019-2022 | Social media & web officer, Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG) of the RGS-IBG
2019 | International advisory board member and travel grant award panel, 1st FinGeo Global Conference 2019, Beijing
2018 | Advisory board member, FinGeo Spring School 2018, Brussels
2016-2021 | Founding member and Events Officer, FinGeo
2013-2019 | International Officer, EGRG of the RGS-IBG
2005-2006 | Postgraduate Representative, EGRG of the RGS-IBG