

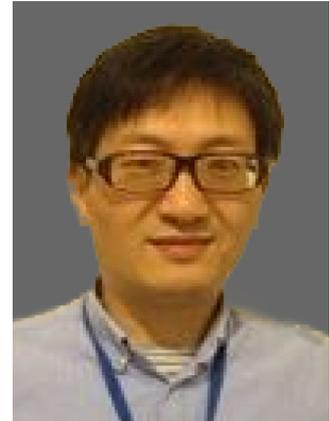


Topic of the Speech:

Sport Infrastructure Development and Its Challenges for Healthy City in China

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Dr. Jianquan Cheng works at Department of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). Jianquan is a Reader in Urban Studies who studied and worked in China, Netherlands and Ireland before joining Manchester Metropolitan University in 2006. Jianquan is also a deputy director of MMU Crime and Wellbeing Big Data Centre at which he is particularly in charge of urban analytics, healthy city and China's urban studies.

Jianquan's main research interests include spatial accessibility, geographical mobility, China's urbanization and healthy city.

Recently he is exploring the roles of various technologies for supporting data-driven and evidence-based planning and governance of healthy city, including video analytics and VR/AR. Jianquan has experienced lockdown in both Wuhan and Manchester cities so he has conducted comparative studies on impacts of COVID19 in both countries. His previous roles include Associate Professor, Wuhan University, China (2000-2006). Jianquan is exploring how the sport, green and digital infrastructures promote the health and wellbeing of residents in the English and Chinese cities. He is currently an associate editor for International Review for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development.

Sport Infrastructure Development and Its Challenges for Healthy City in China

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ABSTRACT (NO MORE THAN 500 WORDS:)

China, the largest developing country, has experienced a rapid rate of urbanisation since the economic reform in 1978. The urbanisation rate increased sharply from 17.9% in 1978 to 63.9% in 2020 and is predicted to reach 71% by 2030. The proportion of people aged 7 and over who are physically able to participate in a wide range of physical exercises reached 37.2% in 2020 and is set to increase significantly by 2030. The 2016 Healthy China initiative drew attention to the provision of sports infrastructure. However, the spatial pattern of sport infrastructure development and in particular the driving forces from urbanisation across China have not yet been examined in the literature. This paper aims to explore how the national sports infrastructure in mainland China is driven and scaled by urbanisation, using data from the 2013 national sports census and spatial analysis approach. The results revealed strong regional inequality in the development of sports infrastructure in the current stage of accelerating urbanisation in China, with better provision of sports infrastructure in eastern than in western regions. The three dimensions of urbanisation (urban population, public financial expenditure and built-up area) significantly explained the spatial disparity between 341 cities at prefecture-city level. An Inequality Reinforcement Model for developing countries was proposed to understand the interactions between urbanisation and sports infrastructure development. A Sport Inequality Alert was conceptualised as a policy instrument for reducing regional inequality and governing the development of sports infrastructure. It is argued that sports infrastructure development should be integrated into the national strategy for sustainable New-type Urbanisation. In addition to the Healthy China 2030 initiative, the Chinese central government launched a “National Fitness Program” in 2021, which leads to an increasing demand for sport textile market. The paper will also explore the impacts of such sport infrastructure development on sport textile industry.

Keywords: Sports infrastructure development, New-type Urbanisation, Physical exercise, Sport textile industry.