About the Seminar

Although the human-ecology approach has been widely regarded as a fundamental premise of early sociological inquiries, advances in conceptual frameworks and data analysis have motivated major shifts in the research on urban sociology and subsequently affected how urban neighborhoods are perceived, measured and investigated in empirical research. This lecture tries to provide a preliminary assessment of the co-evolution of conceptual frameworks and data analysis since the era of human ecology. I critically examine the conceptual and methodological advances in the recent century that may sharpen our understanding of the possible mechanisms linking urban environment with depression, which are further employed to identify distinct pathways explaining the downside of large urban neighborhoods in a Chinese city.

About the speaker

Qiang Fu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. As the co-PI, he coordinates the Big Data and Computational Social Science Research Cluster at UBC. His research areas include urban studies, social networks, mental health, demography, computational social science and Chinese societies. He has published about 30 peer-reviewed articles in American Journal of Sociology, American Behavioral Scientist, Communications in Statistics, Environment and Behavior, Environment and Planning A, Health & Place, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Journal of Environmental Psychology, Population, Space and Place, Social Science & Medicine, Social Science Research, Sociological Methods & Research, Sociology of Health and Illness, and Urban Studies.