

Nick R. Smith

Barnard College
Columbia University
3009 Broadway, Milstein Center
New York, NY 10027

email: nrsmith [at] barnard.edu
website: urbanismsmith.com

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D. (Urban Planning)	2015
Harvard University, A.M. (Architecture)	2011
Harvard University, A.B., <i>summa cum laude</i> (East Asian Studies)	2004

Academic Positions

Barnard College, Columbia University, Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban Studies	2020-
Yale-NUS College, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Urban Studies)	2015-2020

Books

Smith, N. <i>The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China</i> . University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis, MN.	2021
---	------

Refereed Journal Articles

Smith, N., and C. Thony. 2025. "Beyond Borders: The Spatial Politics of Urban Fragmentation in Jakarta." <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> . (Online first). https://doi.org/10.1177/02637758251361705 .	2025
Chuang, J. and N. Smith. "Regimes of Dispossession in China: Intra-state Competition and Land Dispossession Outcomes." <i>The Journal of Peasant Studies</i> . (Online first) https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2025.2453559	2025
Smith, N. "Continental Metropolitanization: Chongqing and the Urban Origins of China's Belt and Road Initiative." <i>Urban Geography</i> 43 (10): 1544–64. https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2021.2014670 .	2022

- Bunnell, T., A. T. Maitrii, J. Clendenning, D. Goh, and N. Smith. 2022
 "Places of the Future: Fictional Narratives and Truth Spots in the Making of Three National Administrative Capitals." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* . 40 (6): 1082–99.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/02637758221133832>.
- Smith, N. "Planning Powers as Property Rights in Contemporary China." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 41 (3): 259–69. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X18787623>. 2021
- Smith, N. "Spatial Poetics Under Authoritarianism: Graffiti and the Contestation of Urban Redevelopment in Contemporary China." *Antipode* 52 (2): 581–601.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12607>. 2020
- Smith, N. "Community Self-Organisation in Contemporary China: Efficiency, Equity and Affect in the Process of Institutional Transformation." *International Development Planning Review* 41 (3): 399–418. <https://doi.org/10.3828/idpr.2019.12>. 2019
- Smith, N., Daniel B. Abramson, and Mi Shih. "An Introduction to Planning China's Communities: Between People and Place." *International Development Planning Review* 41 (3): 247–67.
<https://doi.org/10.3828/idpr.2019.20>. 2019
- Smith, N. "One Village, One Product: Agro-Industrial Village Corporatism in Contemporary China." *Journal of Agrarian Change* . 19 (2): 249–269. doi:10.1111/joac.12301 2019
- Smith, N. "Living on the Edge: Household Registration Reform and Peri-urban Precarity in China." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 36 (S1): 1–15. doi:10.1111/juaf.12107 2014
- Smith, N. "Beyond Top-Down/Bottom-Up: Village Transformation on China's Urban Edge." *Cities* 41, Part B (December): 209–20. doi:10.1016/j.cities.2014.01.006. 2014
- Book Chapters**
- Smith, N. "Land, Land Reform, and Land as Means of Reform." 2026
 In Hoffman, Lisa, Jennifer Hubbert, and Zhilin Liu, eds. *SAGE Handbook of Urbanization in China* . Forthcoming.

Smith, N. "Continental Metropolitanisation: Chongqing and the Urban Origins of China's Belt and Road Initiative." In *The Urbanising Dynamics of Global China: Speculation, Articulation, and Transition in Global Capitalism*, Shin, Hyun Bang, Yimin Zhao, and Sin Yee Koh, eds. London, UK: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003621775-5> 2025

Smith, N. "Bukit Brown and the Illiberal Ghosts of the Singapore Model." In "Resistance and Response in Planning." Fainstein, Susan, and John Forester, eds. *Planning Theory & Practice*, April, 268-272. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2023.2190681>. 2023

Smith, N. "Suburban Stories." In *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies*, Anthony Orum, ed. John Wiley & Sons. 1-4. doi.org/10.1002/9781118568446.eurs0330. 2019

Smith, N. "The City-in-the-Village: Huanggang and China's Urban Renewal." In *Village in the City: A Guide to South China's Informal Settlements*. Stephan Al, ed. Hong Kong University Press: Hong Kong. 34-46. 2014

Review Essays

Smith, N. "Building Colonial Hong Kong: Speculative Development and Segregation in the City." *Journal of the American Planning Association* 89 (2): 255-56. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2022.2133324>. 2023

Smith, N. "Rural Perspectives on Asia's Urban-Rural Relations." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 80 (2): 540-43. [doi:10.1017/S0021911821000553](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021911821000553). 2021

Smith, N. "State of Contradiction: The Singapore Model and Its Others." *Planning Theory & Practice*, July, 1-3. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2021.1951591>. 2021

Smith, N. "Chinese City and Regional Planning Systems." *China Quarterly* 220 (December): 1161-1162. 2014

Smith, N. "Building Resilient Cities in China: The Nexus Between Planning and Science: The Seventh Annual International Association for China Planning Conference, Shanghai, 29 June-1 July 2013" *Town Planning Review* 85 (1): 127-42. [doi:10.3828/tpr.2014.8](https://doi.org/10.3828/tpr.2014.8). 2014

Guest Editorships

Smith, Nick R., Daniel B. Abramson, and Mi Shih eds. "Community Development and Planning in China." Special Issue of the <i>International Development Planning Review</i> 41 (3).	2019
---	------

Visiting and Affiliate Positions

Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University, Faculty Affiliate	2021-
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Research Associate	2019-2020
Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, Visiting Scholar	2017-2018
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Assistant Professor	2016-2018
Oxford China Centre, Oxford University, Academic Visitor	2012-2013
Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, Chongqing University, Advanced Visiting Student	2011-2012
History Department, People's University of China, Visiting Student	2004-2005

Fellowships and Grants (Selected)

Public Intellectual Program Fellow, National Committee on US-China Relations	2023-2025
Tan Chin Tuan China Studies Grant, National University of Singapore, SG	2019-2022
J Y Pillay Fellowship, National University of Singapore, SG	2018-2020
Start-up Grant, National University of Singapore, SG	2015-2019
GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University	2014-2015
Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation	2010-2014
Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, The Wenner-Gren Foundation	2011-2012
Desmond and Whitney Shum Fellowship, The Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University	2011-2012
Gill Chin Lim Student Travel Grant, Global Educators Interest Group, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning	2010

Foreign Language Acquisition Scholarship	2009
Fulbright Scholarship (China)	2004-2005
Teaching	
"Urban Revolution: The City in Politics", Urban Studies Program, Barnard College	2025-
"The City: Thinking with the Urban Built Environment", Architecture Department, Barnard College	2025-
"Urban Elsewheres: Exploring a World of Cities", Urban Studies Program, Barnard College	2021-
"The Just City: Global Debates in Urban Planning and Policy", Architecture Department, Barnard College	2021-
"Global Urban Research Lab", Urban Studies Program, Barnard College	2020-
"Urbanizing China", Architecture Department, Barnard College	2020-
"Modern Social Thought", Common Curriculum, Yale-NUS College	2018-2019
"Key Debates in Urban Planning and Policy", Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College	2016, 2019
"Urbanisation in China", Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College	2015, 2018
"Urban Theory", Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College	2016-2018
"Community Development: In Search of the Kampung Spirit", Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College	2017
"Place-making LAB: Community and Neighborhood in San Francisco", Learning Across Boundaries, Yale-NUS College	2017
"Urban Studio", Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College	2016
"American Pastoral: Open Space and the Modern City", Learning Across Boundaries, Yale-NUS College	2016
"Living on the Edge: The Experience of Peri-urbanisation", Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College	2016

"Huizhou: History, Agriculture, and the Future of China's Villages", Learning Across Boundaries, Yale-NUS College	2015
"Designing the American City" (A. Krieger), General Education, Harvard College: Head Teaching Fellow	2014
"Obsolescence and Pathways to Redevelopment: The Shekou Industrial District in Shenzhen, China" (P. Rowe), Option Studio, Department of Urban Planning and Design, Harvard University: Teaching Assistant	2014
"History and Theory of Urban Interventions" (N. Brenner), Department of Urban Planning and Design, Harvard University: Teaching Fellow	2013
"China Village Studio" (D. Abramson), Department of Urban Planning and Design, University of Washington: Teaching Fellow	2013
"History and Theory of Urban Interventions" (S. Fainstein), Department of Urban Planning and Design, Harvard University: Teaching Fellow	2010
Awards and Honors (Selected)	
Best Paper Award, 13th International Congress of Asian Planning Schools Association, Johor Bahru, MY	2015
Best Paper Prize, Next Generation of Urban China Research Conference, Urban China Research Network, Providence	2015
Karen R. Polenske Best Student Paper Award, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference: Minneapolis, Philadelphia	2010, 2014
Karen R. Polenske Best Student Paper Award, International Association for China Planning Annual Conference: Beijing, Guangzhou	2011, 2014
Invited Talks and Keynotes (Recent)	
"Urban Affects: Beyond Economic Determinism in China's Reform Era." Research Center for Anthropology and Health, University of Coimbra. (March)	2026
"Industrial Zone Urbanism in Singapore and China." Cities as Sites and Techniques of Futuring. Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. (August)	2025

"Rural China in Transition." Global Studies and World Language Academy. Norfolk, VA. (May)	2025
"Chinese Cities on the Edge." Today in International Politics Speaker Series. Online. (April)	2025
"The Shekou Ethic and the Spirit of Chinese Urbanization." City and Regional Planning Colloquium. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. (March)	2025
"The Shekou Ethic and the Spirit of Chinese Urbanization." Modern China Seminar, University Seminars. Columbia University. (February)	2025
"The Shekou Ethic and the Spirit of Chinese Urbanization." Frontiers of Social Science Research Seminar Series. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. (December)	2024
"The Jurong Industrial Estate." Capitals of the Future Data Analysis Workshop. Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. (December)	2024
"Politics in the Zone." National Bureau of Asian Research. Seattle, WA. (October)	2024
"The Shekou Ethic and the Affective Roots of Chinese Reform." Hong Kong-Shenzhen Conference. Yale University. (October)	2024
"The Five (Dis-)Connections." Rethinking Hong Kong Urbanism through Infrastructure. Chinese University of Hong Kong. (July)	2024
"Urban Harvest: The Marketization of China's Rural Land." Modernizing Rural China Workshop. Singapore Management University. (February)	2024
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. (February)	2024
"The Urban Origins of China's Belt and Road Initiative." Asia for Educators, Columbia University. (December)	2023
"Community Self-Organization in Contemporary China." 8th Annual SIPA-Peking University Conference on Public Governance. Columbia University. (November)	2023

"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Bloomberg Center for Cities, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. (November)	2023
"How the Biggest City You Never Heard of Inspired China's Plan to Reshape the World." The 92nd Street YMCA, New York, NY. (October)	2023
"The Urban Origins of China's Belt and Road Initiative." Department of Geography, Vassar College. (April)	2023
"Contesting the Built Environment: China's National Program of Rural Urbanization." Department of Urban Planning and Design, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University. (March)	2023
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Northeastern University. (March)	2023
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences, Brown University. (February)	2023
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Global Metropolitan Studies, UC Berkeley. (February)	2023
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA. (February)	2023
"The Political Economy of Chinese Urban Planning." School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. (November)	2022
"The Urban Origins of China's Belt and Road Initiative." Urban China Forum, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Columbia University. (October)	2022
"New Urbanisms of China and India: A Panel Discussion." India China Institute, The New School. (March)	2022
"The Politics of Chinese Urban Planning." Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Hawai'i at Manoa. (March)	2022
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Ethnography and Social Theory Colloquium, Yale University. (February)	2022

"Continental Metropolitanization: Chongqing and the Urban Origins of the Belt and Road Initiative." Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK. (January)	2022
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Singapore. (December)	2021
"The Politics of Chinese Urban Planning." School of Urban and Regional Planning, Ryerson University. Toronto, ON. (December)	2021
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, University of Notre Dame. South Bend, IN. (November)	2021
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Columbia University Master of Arts in Regional Studies: East Asia. New York, NY. (October)	2021
"The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China." Urban China Zoom, MIT. Cambridge, MA. (August)	2021
Conference Papers and Presentations (Recent)	
"The Urban Grassroots and Sites of Futuring." Roundtable Participant. Pacific Rim Community Design Network. Bangkok, Thailand. (December)	2025
"The Shekou Ethic and the Spirit of Connectivity: Building a Space for China's Reforms." Association for Asian Studies, Columbus, OH. (March)	2025
"The Affect Machine: Collective Trauma and the Rebirth of Urban Planning in 1980s China." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Seattle, WA. (November)	2024
"The Affective City: An Alternative History of China's Rapid Urbanization." Urban Affairs Association, New York, NY. (April)	2024
"The Affective City: An Alternative History of China's Rapid Urbanization." Urban History Association, Pittsburgh, PA. (October)	2023
"China's Urbanization from the Inside Out: New Research from Inland Regions", Roundtable Participant, Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI. (March)	2022

"Continental Metropolitanization: Chongqing and the Urban Origins of the Belt and Road Initiative." American Association of Geographers, New York, NY. (February)	2022
"The Naturalistic Fallacy in Urban Studies: Reconceptualizing Urban-Rural Relations from China." Dislocating Urban Studies Workshop, Malmo, SE. (May)	2021
"Surprised in the City: Unexpected and Unplanned Urbanism in Cities across Asia." Roundtable Participant. Association for Asian Studies. (March)	2021
Conference Service (Recent)	
Panel Organizer and Chair, "Opening and Reform: Revisiting Guangdong's Role in Connecting China and the World." Association for Asian Studies, Columbus, OH. (March)	2025
Panel Organizer, "Rethinking Urban Rights from the South." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Seattle, WA. (November)	2024
Chair, "Felt Experiences and the Right to the City." Urban History Association, Pittsburgh, PA. (October)	2023
Panel Organizer, "China's Urbanization from the Inside Out: New Research from Inland Regions", Association for Asian Studies Conference, Honolulu, HI. (March)	2022
Discussant, "Migration, Development Practice, and Climate Change", Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Miami, FL. (October)	2021
Academic Service (Recent)	
Peer Reviewer (Current):	
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research	2020-
Urban Geography	2018-
Geography Compass	2021-
China Information Journal	2021-
Journal of Urban Affairs	2015-
China Quarterly	2020-
Planning Theory and Practice	2022-
Journal of Planning Education and Research	2017-
Journal of Agrarian Change	2019-
Eurasian Geography and Economics	2025
Editorial Board, <i>China City Planning Review</i>	2025-

Advisory Board, Urban China Research Network	2015-
Editorial Board, <i>Transactions in Planning and Urban Research—China</i>	2021-
Editorial Advisory Board, <i>Dialogues in Urban Research</i>	2021-
Advising (Recent)	
PhD Advising, Planning Program, Columbia GSAPP	
Samantha Saona	2025-
Maureen Abi Ghanem	2024-
Ranjani Srinivasan	2023-
Major advising, Urban Studies Program, Barnard College	2024-
Athena Fellows Program, Barnard College	2022-2023
Other College and University Service (Recent)	
Organizer and Discussant, "Precarious Geographies: Migrant Labor in China's Network Production." Weatherhead East Asian Institute. (March)	2025
Organizer and Discussant, "Left to Live and Die: Resource Security and the Politics of Land Stockpiling in China." Weatherhead East Asian Institute. (February)	2025
Organizer and Chair, "Power and Restraint in China's Rise." Weatherhead East Asian Institute. (September)	2022
Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University	
China Committee	2021-
Ad Hoc Committee	2024-
Cross-Regional Committee	2024-
Fellowships Committee	2025-
Southeast Asia Committee	2024-2025
Search Committee, Education and Urban Studies, Barnard College	2022-2023
Advisory Board, Athena Leadership Center, Barnard College	2022-
Committee Member, Committee on Honors, Barnard College	2021-2022
Committee Member, Curriculum Review Committee, Urban Studies Program, Barnard College	2021-2022