



GEOGRAPHY DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

Urbanization and Climate Change: Lessons from China and India



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CIB 2055
November, 8th (Fri) 2:00 PM

This talk examines contemporary patterns of urbanization in China and India and their implications for climate change mitigation. Drawing upon satellite data, field surveys, and extensive interviews with both public and private sectors, it discusses the opportunities and challenges for more sustainable pathways of urbanization.

Karen Seto is a Professor at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. Prior to joining Yale in 2008, she was on the faculty at Stanford University for eight years. Professor Seto's research is on the human transformation of land and the links between urbanization, global change, and sustainability. A geographer by training, her research includes understanding urbanization dynamics, forecasting urban growth, and examining the environmental consequences of land-use change and urban expansion. She is an expert in satellite remote sensing analysis and has pioneered methods to reconstruct historical land-use and to develop empirical models to explain and forecast the expansion of urban areas. Her geographic regions of specialization are China and India, where she has conducted urbanization research for more than fifteen years.