

Winter Semester 2022/2023

SDAC Guest Lecture Series

Chinese State Capital in Africa and its Bounded Improvisation

Zhengli Huang
Tongji University, China

Monday
05.12.22
18-20:00 c.t.
Online

*The lecture will be held via Zoom



Dr. Zhengli Huang is Post-doctoral Researcher for Urban and Rural Planning at the University of Tongji, Shanghai. She has international experience in China-Africa studies. She has worked as Research Associate at the University of Sheffield in the UK and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She was also Luce Visiting Scholar in Trinity College in the US. Her work focuses on African urbanization and China's impact on urban development, especially on housing, urban governance, and development finance, and geographically covers Ethiopia and the East African Region.

China has channeled billions of dollars into building regional corridors on the continent of Africa, and Chinese state-owned contractors dominate its construction market. This lecture will look into the changing roles of the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in the globalisation of China's infrastructure capital through the case study of Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). China Road and Bridge Corporation, the SGR contractor, has been constantly shifting its strategies, as the pursuit of economic productivity gives way to political priorities, also responding to changing socio-political circumstances in Kenya and across East Africa. It will also analyse the specific ways in which state infrastructure capital traverses borders, and how these SOEs implement their "bounded improvisation" in their overseas practices. The lecture will also reflect on how access (or lack thereof) to data and research informants shapes the conceptual vectors and the positionality of the researchers.

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to register:

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