

Final Report: Junior Research Stay at Peking University

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This is my second research stay at Peking University. I wanted to investigate the local policy experiment on low carbon community pilots, and the local network that has emerged in this framework. The research stay in Peking University proved to be very fruitful.

Prof. Zhang Shiqiu kindly invited me to Peking University for the second time, and provided very helpful comments on my research results in existence. Prof. Berthold Kuhn was very nice to introduce me to his network. Prof. Xu Jianhua discussed with me on my topic and introduced me to other experts relevant with my research. She also recommends very interesting literature on my topic. The discussions with researchers in Peking University and Tsinghua University make me clear about the big picture of state-society network, which was helpful for me to understand the local network in low carbon community pilots. Ms. Zhu Siying in International office in Peking University kindly provided me with recommendation letter, which makes my fieldworks in local cities much more convenient. I also met with PhD students in Peking University that I was acquainted before to discuss about progress and challenges of our research.

Sunday B106 salon in Peking University gives very interesting presentations every weekend. I went there twice to listen to the local officials' perspective in rural development, and the development of Environment Politics as an academic discipline in China. Presenters are experts in their field. They provide very updated and practical information about their work in progress.

I managed to participate in Zhenjiang Low Carbon Tech Expo held on November 28-29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 so as to understand the different stakeholders' perspective on Chinese low carbon transition. Zhenjiang was one of the most advanced low carbon city pilots in China, and the Expo attracted various stakeholders. I talked to carbon consultancy companies, energy companies, research institutes, and local SOE companies at the Expo. I also identified several typical low carbon projects in other Chinese local cities. The live experience in the Expo is both interesting and helpful for me to understand what is going on regarding Chinese low carbon transition.

I also expanded my case cities to include Hangzhou and Chongqing, besides visiting my previous cases. Fieldwork in multiple local cities has enriched the empirical thoroughness of my research. I was impressed by the variety of Chinese low carbon policy experiments and the difficulty to develop a framework to understand them.

I benefited a lot from talks and discussions in Hongzhi Café and Friends of Nature. They have very interesting discussions relevant with my research interests.

During my research stay in Peking University, I was also involved in the research fieldwork of Ms. Natasha Donevska, who is also PhD candidate at Freie Universität Berlin. We managed to make interviews with several experts on nature reserves in China, with the kind accompany with Ms. Wen Hui, PhD candidate in Peking University. We are cooperating on a working paper now.

I really appreciate the UAS partnership as it not only provides funding for the stay, but also the very helpful networking for us to observe and investigate what is happening on the ground, which I think is very important value of the partnership. It encourages reality oriented investigation and substantial understanding of what is happening.