

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue of *Journal of Leisure Research*

“Leisure and China in the Global Context”

Strong manuscripts based on research in other East Asian cultures and countries will also be considered

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The purpose of the special issue “Leisure and China in the Global Context” is to showcase cutting-edge research being conducted on leisure in China and among Chinese populations abroad. In 2009, China replaced Japan to become the second largest economy. Although China’s per capita GDP is lower than that of the U.S., it is predicted to surpass the U.S. level in 2029 (Scott & Sam, 2018). At the same time, China has approximately the same proportion of city residents as the U.S. had in 1940 (Scott & Sam, 2018). With this combination of rapid economic development and urbanization, recreation and leisure have become critical elements in Chinese people’s daily lives. In recent decades, China introduced a number of changes to its government policies, including a 5-day workweek and three-week-long vacations. These have led to a significant increase in leisure time available to urban residents (Yin, 2005) and to the development of the leisure infrastructure (Dong, Li, & Kim, 2014). Leisure has diversified from traditional activities (e.g., playing Chinese chess, Taichi, and table tennis) to those seen in modern contexts (e.g., the Internet, outdoor recreation, travel and tourism, sport participation) (Lin & Dong, 2017). Growth in disposable income, the emergence of a large and affluent middle class, and the relaxation of visa restrictions have also allowed Chinese citizens to increase their leisure spending and to travel abroad for pleasure, education, and shopping (Cripps, 2013; Liang & Walker, 2011; UNWTO, 2018).

Conspicuous consumption of leisure-related goods has become an indispensable symbol of social status, prestige, and success among the Chinese elite and middle class (Wang, Chen, Chan, & Chen, 2000). The Chinese population is also increasingly mobile and cosmopolitan. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese students study abroad at North American, European, and Australian universities, children of high-school and middle-school-age are sent to prestigious schools abroad, and Chinese entrepreneurs lead transnational lives commuting between their residences in China and abroad (Statista, 2019). On the other hand, China faces growing class divisions that have had a negative impact on building a “harmonious society” and have decreased the overall quality of life (Peopledaily, n.d.). In order to create more equal leisure opportunities for Chinese citizens, the government of the PRC instituted free admission to all museums, free public transportation for elderly people, lowered the cost of airline tickets, and is building a national park system (Zhongguowang, 2008; Yang, 2018). Better educational opportunities, access to

medical services and higher-paying jobs in large urban centers such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen have led to unprecedented domestic migrations and the emergence of an urban underclass (Ngok, 2012). The effects of domestic and international migrations on leisure behaviors of Chinese rural migrants and the “left behind” populations, however, are only beginning to be examined (Li & Stodolska, 2018a, b). These trends have triggered a renewed interest among Chinese and foreign scholars in the leisure, sport, and travel experiences of the Chinese population.

The literature on the nature of leisure experience among the Chinese is rapidly growing. The existing research has focused primarily on the realm of travel among domestic and outbound Chinese travelers (e.g., Cai, Li, & Knutson, 2008; Huang, Li, & Li, 2015; Law, Fong, Fong, & Fu, 2016; Jin & Wang, 2016; Zhang, 2012; Zhong, Wu, & Morrison, 2015), definitions of leisure (Gui, Walker, & Harshaw, 2019; Liu, Yeh, Chick, & Zinn, 2008), the cultural and philosophical underpinnings of Chinese leisure (Gong, 1998; Liang & Walker, 2011; Ma & Liu, 2009; Schutte & Ciarlante, 1998), and leisure constraints (Dong & Chick, 2012; Zheng & Zhu, 2006).

The second strand of research of relevance to this special issue is the scholarship on Chinese populations abroad. Research on leisure behavior among Chinese immigrants and students is quite extensive and examines a large plethora of subjects. They include, among others, leisure participation patterns (e.g., Walker, Halpenny, Spiers, & Deng, 2011; Zhang & Gobster, 1998), motivations (e.g., Walker, 2009, 2010; Walker, Deng, & Dierker, 2005), constraints (e.g., Hudson, Walker, Simpson, & Hinch, 2013; Li & Stodolska, 2007), satisfaction (Walker, Halpenny, & Deng, 2011; Walker, Halpenny, Spiers, & Deng, 2011), attitudes (Deng, Walker, & Swinnerton, 2005), leisure and health (Chick, Dong, & Iarmolenko, 2014), and leisure and happiness and quality of life (Spiers & Walker, 2009). The topics that have been relatively little explored include leisure behavior among Chinese transnational split families (Huang & Yeoh, 2005), leisure among Chinese expatriate entrepreneurs, Chinese transracial adoptees, and cultural changes related to leisure among the second and third generation Chinese immigrants (Huang, Norman, Ramshaw, & Haller, 2015).

In light of the rapid social, cultural, and economic transformations that are occurring in China, the increased role of leisure in the lives of Chinese citizens, and the growing mobility of Chinese populations, research on leisure behavior in China in the global context is needed. Such research will contribute to the broadening of the scope of leisure research, better understanding of leisure behavior among non-Western populations, testing existing leisure theories, and enhancing the development of leisure studies in a global context.

Pursuant to the above background and justification, this special issue calls for papers on topics including but not limited to the following:

- The ethnography of leisure among domestic and overseas Chinese
- Consumerism and conspicuous consumption in the realm of leisure in China
- Leisure attitudes, values, and participation patterns in China and among overseas Chinese
- Chinese domestic migrations and leisure
- Leisure lifestyles and health outcomes in China

- Time use in China
- Leisure, happiness, and life satisfaction among the Chinese
- Leisure, public policy, and planning in Chinese contexts
- Family leisure in China
- Leisure and technological change in Chinese contexts
- Leisure space in urban areas of China
- Leisure of ethnic minorities in China
- Other research related to leisure among domestic and overseas Chinese

TIMELINE AND REVIEW PROCESS

If you are interested in publishing a paper in this special issue of *Journal of Leisure Research*, you can either:

1. **E-mail a one-page abstract** of your paper to Dr. Monika Stodolska at stodolsk@illinois.edu and Dr. Erwei Dong at dongerwei@hotmail.com. You will receive an e-mail confirmation from either Dr. Stodolska or Dr. Dong that your abstract has been received. If you have not received confirmation, make sure to re-send your abstract.

OR

2. **Submit a one-page abstract of your paper for the China-International Leisure Research Association conference (CILRA)** to be held in Champaign-Urbana on 2/9/2020-2/10/2020, in conjunction with the TALS 2020 conference. You can upload your abstract for the CILRA conference using this link:

<https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/5221811>

The top 10-12 abstracts submitted to the general call and to the CILRA 2020 conference will be invited to submit full manuscripts to the special issue.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts (for the general call and for the conference) is September 10, 2019.

All abstracts must include a title and appropriate subheadings (e.g., Introduction, Methods, Findings, Discussion/Conclusions). Abstracts reporting conceptual and theoretical discussions should also have an effective set of subheadings. Use single space, 12-point font, Times Roman, and one-inch (2.54 cm) margins on sides, top and bottom. You should submit the files as a Word for Windows document.

Abstracts submitted through e-mail should be prepared in English only. They should have a cover page that includes authors' names, affiliations and contact information.

Abstracts submitted through the CILRA conference page should be prepared in English and Chinese and should NOT have a cover page.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the special issue guest editors. They will be considered with respect to appropriateness (i.e., the content being relevant to leisure or recreational sport in East Asia) and quality (i.e., theoretical contribution, use of appropriate methods, and adequacy of data).

The authors will be notified by **mid-November** if they have been invited to submit a full paper for the special issue. The deadline for the submission of **full papers** will be **May 15, 2020**.

The papers will undergo a standard blind peer-review process. The maximum length of the manuscripts will be 9,000 words (not including the abstract or tables/figures), unless the need for an extended length is clear (e.g., highly advanced statistics that require elaboration or complex interpretive studies). The special issue will be published in **mid-2021**.

Questions regarding the special issue should be directed to Drs. Monika Stodolska (stodolsk@illinois.edu), Erwei Dong (dongerwei@hotmail.com), or Garry Chick (gchick@psu.edu).

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