



## Regional Integration in the Horn of Africa: An Inter-city Connectivity Perspective

**Speaker:** **Dr Mingshu Wang**  
School of Geographical and Earth Sciences,  
University of Glasgow

**Chair:** **Dr Wei Luo**  
Department of Geography, NUS

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, 18 October 2022, 3.30pm

**Place:** AS2-03-02, Seminar Room

### Abstract

Urban challenges are increasingly framed in the context of broader objectives of socio-economic development and macro-regional evolutions. Cities and the myriad networks in which they are embedded have thus been placed at the center of regional integration agendas. This research benchmarks contemporary regional integration levels in the Horn of Africa by examining its cities' connectivity in transport networks. To this end, we specify a composite network consisting of air/train/road connectivity and analyze cities' eigenvector and betweenness centralities within these networks. We find that the importance of national spaces for inter-city connectivity is much more evident in the Horn of Africa than in other parts of the world, which is also visible in the peripheralization of cities in borderlands. We argue that the region's connectivity needs to be understood from a multiscalar and multimodal perspective and provide a baseline against which the impact of future interventions aimed at enhancing city connectivity/regional integration can be examined.

### About the Speaker



Dr. Mingshu Wang is a Senior Lecturer (Tenured Associate Professor) of Geospatial Data Science at the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow. He is also an Associated Scientist at the 4TU Centre for Resilience Engineering of the Netherlands.

His research integrates geospatial data and computational methods to understand urban systems and development. His work received grants from the World Bank, Dutch Research Council, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Microsoft Azure. Currently, he is an Editor of *Asian Geographer* and an Associate Editor of *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information (IJGI)* and *Regional Studies, Regional Science*.

ADMISSION IS FREE – ALL ARE WELCOME

CONVENORS:  [Prof Henry Yeung](#)  [Prof Lu Xi Xi](#)  [Prof Elaine Ho](#)  [Dr Miles Kenney-Lazar](#)

ENQUIRIES: Sakinah – 65163559