

**Call for Papers**  
**COVID-19, Cities, and Inequality**  
**A Special Issue of *Applied Geography* (AG)**

**Guest Editors:**

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**Introduction**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been reshaping our economy, society and politics, and their associated geographies. Cities have been at the center of the storm and have been undergoing rapid change in multiple dimensions (Florida et al., 2021). However, the literature linking COVID-19 and cities is dominated by studies that focus on COVID-19 transmission and health outcomes (e.g., Carozzi et al., 2020; Hamidi et al., 2020; Kadi & Khelifaoui, 2020; McFarlane, 2021). Far fewer studies have explored how COVID-19 changes the geographies of cities, communities, and inequality. Research needs to move beyond the short-term effect of the pandemic, and focus on the structural impacts of COVID-19 on cities and inequality. Rigorous, quantitative, and comprehensive studies are needed to trace how cities have changed since the pandemic, explore spatiotemporal patterns and dynamics, and examine if the changes are transitory or structural.

**Objectives and Research Questions**

This special issue aims to provide timely geographical perspectives on the impacts of COVID-19 on cities and inequality in different world regions. The focus is on how the pandemic alters the way people commute, work, collaborate, and consume, and the associated reflections on urban space in various dimensions, including population distribution, economic development, labor market, housing market, spatial inequality, public policies, etc. The special issue will contribute to broadening understanding of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and provide insights for urban planners and administrators to improve preparedness for future hazards and disasters. This special issue will feature: 1) spatial perspective and approaches, 2) global coverage, 3) a focus on the structural impacts. We invite theoretically guided, quantitatively supported, and empirical research articles. We welcome articles that address questions such as the following:

- How have urban space and inequality changed since the pandemic?
- What are the temporal/spatial dynamics and structural changes?
- What is the role of COVID-19 in urban changes?
- What are the theoretical and policy implications of the research?

**Paper Selection**

The selection of the papers will be based on how they consider and address the problem-oriented and application-oriented focus of *AG*. The authors are expected to provide state-of-the-art theoretical and empirical analyses, broad interpretations of their findings, and ways to translate research into policy measures. All the submitted papers will be reviewed following the *AG*'s review protocol and quality standards.

**Timetable (Deadlines)**

Abstracts should be submitted to both guest editors. Selected authors will be asked to prepare and submit their manuscripts through the *AG* website for formal review.

- March 1, 2022                      Submission of titles, abstracts and bios to the editors
- June 1, 2022                      Submission of draft papers to the editors
- July 1, 2022                        Submission of manuscripts to *AG* for review

## **The Editors**

**Han Li** (Ph.D., U of Utah) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Sustainable Development at the University of Miami. His research uses the technical advancements in GIS spatial modeling, remote sensing, and spatial statistics to examine patterns, dynamics, and consequences of urban development and inequality in the United States, China, and Southeast Asia. He has published 25 journal articles, including leading journals in geography and urban studies, such as *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* and *Landscape and Urban Planning*.

**Yehua Dennis Wei** (Ph.D., UCLA) is a Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Utah. He has published 4 books and more than 200 referred journal articles and book chapters, including leading journals in geography, urban studies/planning, and regional studies, such as *Economic Geography* and *Progress in Human Geography*. He has also edited a dozen journal special issues, including Spatiality of Regional Inequality (*Applied Geography*, 2015), Urban Expansion, Sprawl and Inequality (*Landscape and Urban Planning*, 2018). He has received excellence in research awards from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Association of American Geographers' (AAG) Regional Development and Planning (RDP) Specialty Group, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. His professional services include associate editor of *AG*, advisor/panelist for the US National Science Foundation, Chair of AAG's China Geography, Asian Geography, and Regional Development and Planning specialty groups, and vice president of Chinese Professionals in GIS.