

# COLLOQUIUM BY JAMES REYNOLDS

## URBANIZATION IN CHINA: THE HEAT IS ON!

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TIME: 5-6PM, WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2016

VENUE: AB 1079

**Speaker:** James Reynolds, Professor of Environmental Sciences and Biology, Duke University

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### ABSTRACT:

Human societies across the globe are being transformed by an unprecedented rise in urbanization. China now has more than 50% of its population living in cities. While the drivers underlying this rise in urbanization are usually expressed in economic terms, the long-term trade-offs are complex and uncertain. Of special concern are potential increases in global aridity and subsequent water shortages. Are cities prepared for the socio-economic-environmental consequences of this threat? The heat is on!

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### BIO:

James Reynolds is a graduate of New Mexico State University, he currently holds positions as Professor of Environmental Sciences and Biology at Duke University, Distinguished Professor of Environmental Sciences at Lanzhou University and Humboldtian Awardee at the University of Bayreuth in Germany. His research concentrates on global issues of land degradation and desertification. His current research is to quantify global trends of urbanization in terms of their potential socioeconomic and environmental consequences given projections of future climate change and water shortages.

Prof. James Reynolds is currently teaching in the GLS program the course of *Human Domination of the Earth*, and *Systems Thinking*.