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### Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies at Suffolk University Annual Report for 2017-2018

Rosenberg Institute

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# **Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies**

**Suffolk University, Boston**

## **Annual Report for 2017-2018 Academic Year**

**Ronald Suleski, PhD, Director**

### **Overview**

**The 2017-2018 academic year was a year in which the Rosenberg Institute awarded its largest number to date of student scholarships for Suffolk students traveling to Asia for study abroad. We also made a grant to launch the joint Suffolk-Fudan Workshop on Urban Ecological Security and Sustainability.** These and all of our major activities are reported more fully below.

**In the spring of 2018 Dr. Marisa Kelly was appointed President of Suffolk University Boston.** Her appointment continued the sense of stability and orderly process for Suffolk which began when she was named acting president in August 2016.

**In September 2017 Dean Maria Toyoda appointed an Advisory Council for the Rosenberg Institute.** Members are all professors in various departments. The Director is Micky Lee (Communication and Journalism) who is also Director of our Program in Asian Studies, Audrey Goldstein (Chair of NESAD), Patricia Hogan (Center for Urban Ecology), Kathy Sparaco (Director of INTO Program), Jane Zhu (Marketing). The Council met repeatedly in the course of the academic year to consider budgetary and program issues.

This past academic year the Institute awarded **Rosenberg Asian Studies Scholarships** to 7 students who attended programs in Asia for study abroad at our

partner institutions. These institutions are in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and India.

For the **Alternative Winter Break** Program in January 2018, the Institute awarded partial scholarships to 10 Suffolk students who traveled to **Cambodia**. The program is also funded by the Center for Community Engagement at Suffolk; the professor accompanying the students was Roberto Dominguez (Government).

An **Alternative Spring Program** saw 6 students travel to **Vietnam** with their professor Elizabeth Robinson (Sociology). They were studying teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) and actually taught some classes while in Vietnam.

At the request of the **China Travel Seminar Program** run by the Sawyer Business School, the Institute was able to provide partial scholarships to 6 students who went on the program to **China**.

The Institute made a grant to help fund the **2018 Workshop on Urban Ecological Security and Sustainability**, held in June 2018. The project was spearheaded by Professor Patricia Hogan, a member of our Council, who made the proposal to us in the fall of 2017. The Workshop is co-organized with Fudan University, one of China's top-rated research schools. The Fudan organizer was Professor Wang Xiangrong, Director of their Center for Urban Eco-Planning and Design. It is envisioned that this Workshop will be held yearly, alternating between the two campuses.

In the fall of 2017 the Institute once again co-sponsored the **China Town Hall** forum. The nation-wide meeting conducted partially via a web broadcast, was organized by the National Committee on US-China Relations, and is co-sponsored in Boston by Suffolk and with WorldBoston, a member of the World Affairs Council.

The Institute continued to sponsor academic lectures held on campus that were open to the university community and the wider public. We also continued our outreach activities with the Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE) and with the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Community Center (BCNC).

## Activities

In Summer 2017 Suffolk once again hosted a group of Chinese students from Beijing on our campus. They were part of the **Suffolk English Language Program (SELP)**, which is well-organized to offer English language instruction for speakers of other languages. They were accompanied by two professors.

Below is a photo taken at the conclusion of the graduation ceremonies.



In August 2017 Suffolk hosted a group of sixty-four new **Fulbright scholars**. These scholars were graduate students coming from universities all over the world. They had just entered the United States, and before proceeding to their graduate

programs they were invited to Suffolk for several days for an introduction to American academic life. It is called the **Fulbright Gateway Program**.

**Suffolk University Chaplain Rev. Amy Fisher** gave a talk **An Introduction to World Religions: What is Religion?** On 14 September 2017. The talk was part of History 100, Introduction to Asian Studies. It was sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute and was open to the public.

The Government Department at Suffolk presented a talk: **Military First! What Makes North Korean Tick?** Speakers were **Professor Gregory Fried**, Chair of Philosophy; **Professor Friedrich Lohr**, former German Ambassador to North Korea; **Professor Weiqi Zhang** who was teaching a class on Introduction to Comparative Politics; and **Professor Ronald Suleski**, Director of the Rosenberg Institute. Members of the general public joined many Suffolk students for the presentation. This was held on 3 October 2017, sponsored by the government Department and the Rosenberg Institute.

**Suffolk University celebrated DIWALI** the Indian festival of light. Families in India set up candles in front of their homes once night falls. They enjoy a meal together. They make symbolic patterns using sand and colored stones, called Rangoli. Suffolk celebrated this on the evening of 19 October 2017. An image of a hand-made Rangoli is below.





Again in 2017 Suffolk hosted the **China Town Hall**. It featured a special guest via live webcast, **Hon. Susan E. Rice**, former National Security Advisor and U.S. Ambassador to the UN. Visiting the Suffolk campus was **Professor Joseph Fewsmith** from Boston University, a respected scholar on elite politics in China. The meeting was Free and Open to the Public. Refreshments were Served. The meeting was organized by the National Committee on United States-China Relations (NYC), and co-sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute and WorldBoston. Held on 24 October 2017.

Suffolk University had an opportunity to meet local **movie director Ken Eng**, on Monday 6 November 2017. He spoke in Professor Micky Lee's class. Later his recent film "**Kokoyakyu High School Baseball**," was shown on 9 November 2017. This was part of the Suffolk Cinema Series, co-sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies, the Japanese Studies Association, and the Asian Studies Program at Suffolk.

**“DACA: A Story of Dreams and Fears,”** was a talk presented by **Stephen H. Legomsky**. It is the story of the “Dreamers” who were brought to the United States illegally as children. It was the **4th Harry Dow Lecture Series on Immigration Law**, held on 15 November 2017. The event was co-sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute, The Office of Advancement, the Moakley Archive and Institute, and the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund.

On 16 November 2017 the Rosenberg Institute arranged for a delegation of scholars from China, funded by the Chinese government, to visit the Suffolk campus. They were all specialists on Contemporary China, and briefly presented their major research findings. The seminar was titled **China in the New Era**.



# China in the New Era 中国之新世纪

**A Delegation of Distinguished Scholars from Top  
Academic Institutions in China Visit Suffolk.  
They will Speak about Their Research and Open  
the Session for Q&A.**

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**

**From 10:50am to 12:05pm**

**Sawyer Building Room 410**

**8 Ashburton Place, Boston, MA**

**Lu Keli (路克利):** Renmin University, Beijing, "The Thinking of  
China's Leader Xi Jinping and Communist Party Leadership." (习近平  
思想成为指导思想: 中共意识形态的发展)

**Zhao Zhikui (赵智奎):** Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.  
"Chinese Communist Party Re-Evaluations of its Past." (从新阶段到新  
时代: 对中共关于历史方位的新判断的分析)

**Ding Junping (丁俊萍):** Wuhan University. "How will the  
Communist Party Change in the Future? (新时代党建的总要求)

**Zhang Hairong (张海蓉):** Beijing Normal University. "How the  
Communist Party Talks About Itself." (微观研究与中共学的话语提升)

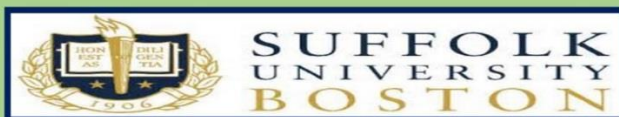
**Song Jian (宋俭):** Wuhan University. "The Newest Political  
Thinking in China." (中国政治改革思路的重大转变)

**The Seminar is Free and Open to the Public**

**Sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies  
Suffolk University Boston  
Contact: rsuleski@suffolk.edu**



**THE ROSENBERG INSTITUTE  
FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES AT SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY  
美國薩福克大學羅森伯格東亞研究所**







Ding Junping of Wuhan University, Zhang Hairong of Beijing Normal University, and Suffolk VP for Diversity, Access & Inclusion **Joyya Smith** are seated. Behind them are Sawyer Library Director **Sharon Britton**, Rosenberg Institute Director **Ronald Suleski**, Peking University graduate student Zhang Shuwei, Lu Keli of Renmin University, Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence Director **Linda Bruenjes**, Song Jian of Wuhan University, and Zhao Zhikui of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

**Jane Hirshfield visited Suffolk on 7 February 2018.** Her poetry talks about desire and loss, beauty and impermanence. Her poetry draws on ideas taken from Buddhism, and the “succinct wisdom” of Haiku. Her books of poems keep winning national prizes. Her visit was sponsored by the Poetry Project/Day One Fund, the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies, the English Department, and the CAS Dean’s Office.

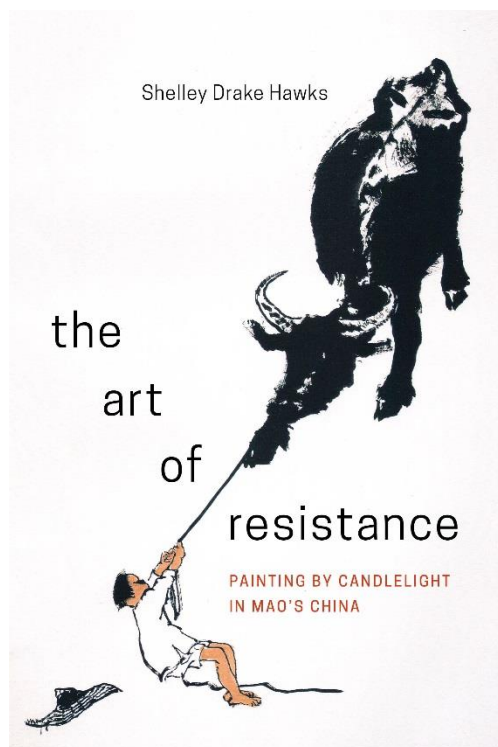
**Professor Monica Fan was a Visiting Scholar at Suffolk 2017-18.** She teaches at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. She talked to us on 6 March 2018 about why scholars need to emphasize personal history and individual experience when they write biographical studies. Here in Boston she has been consulting several archives about many Chinese Americans whose papers are held in local collections. The program was sponsored by the English Department and the Asian Studies Program.

**Arn Chorn Pond** was about to be killed. It was in Cambodia in the late 1970s and the Khmer Rouge killed wantonly. His teacher and friends were killed, but as a child of 10 he managed to survive. He told us about his experiences and about how music and the arts kept him sane. The title of his talk was **Healing from Genocide: Creating Peace Through the Arts in Cambodia**. Held on 8 March 2018. This program was part of the Alternative Winter Break Program. It was sponsored by the Center for Community Development, the Government Department, the Philosophy Department, and the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies at Suffolk.

**Documentary Film GOOK Shown at Suffolk.** The Los Angeles Riots took place in 1992. Many black people clashed with the Koreans living within their community. The Koreans often ran small shops which in some cases became targets of looters, and in other cases strengthened the friendships between the beleaguered Koreans and their black neighbors. The Koreans were derisively referred to by the term “gook.” This is the title of the film recounting those days and the complex interactions behind the riots. **The film GOOK was shown 27 March 2018 at Suffolk.** This event was sponsored by the Communication and Journalism Department, the Sociology Department, the Public Policy and Practice Hub, the Asian Studies Program, and the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies, all at Suffolk University Boston.

A number of our Suffolk students are studying the European Union, and they want to explore **How the EU deals with China**. Suffolk invited an expert Team Leader of the EU’s Asia Pacific and Research Network to speak to us. **Dr. May-Britt Stumbaum**, who also is affiliated with the free University of Berlin, spoke about **Germany and the EU’s China Policy: Analysis, Assessment and Areas for Competition and Cooperation with the US**. Her talk was on 17 April 2018. The program was sponsored by the Warburg Chapter of the American Council on Germany and Suffolk. It was hosted by Professor Frederick Lohr of the Government Department. The Rosenberg Institute was involved in advertising the program.

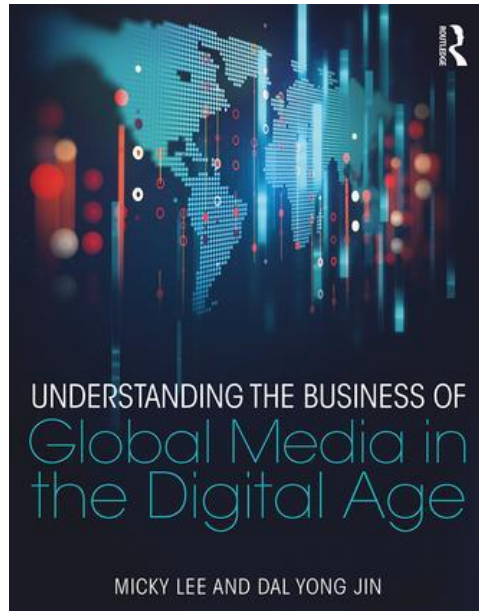
**The Art of Resistance**, a talk about Chinese writers who opposed the oppression of Mao Zedong. Before 1976 during the difficult days of rule by Mao Zedong in China, artists were especially watched. Their ability to express themselves by drawing images or painting a picture were powerful ways to convey ideas. The Communist Party only wanted its own approved ideas circulated, so they feared and persecuted artists who had their talent as powerful tools. Artists also often had a free spirit inside themselves, struggling to fly with their own ideas. **Dr. Shelley Drake Hawk** recently published an illustrated book about artists in Communist China during the Cultural Revolution who resisted the extreme Communist ideology, titled **The Art of Resistance**. She spoke to us on 18 April 2018. The talk was sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies.



North Korea was much in the news in April and May 2018. **Dr. Micky Lee** of Communication and Journalism gave a talk on **Pop Culture in East Asia: The Korean Wave in North Korea**, based on her recently published research. The talk was on 25 April 2018. It was sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies at Suffolk University Boston.

# **Pop Culture in East Asia**

## **The Korean Wave in North Korea**



### **Professor Micky Lee**

Talks about research she did with fellow Suffolk professor **Weiqi Zhang**, about how the youth in reclusive North Korea have been able to enjoy pop music from South Korea. As explained in her recently published book *Understanding the Business of Global Media in the Digital Age*

**Wednesday 25 April 2018    73 Tremont Street**  
**Boston    Room 5040    3:05pm to 4:30pm**  
**The Talk is Free and Open to the Public**

**Sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies at  
Suffolk University Boston**

**Alternative Spring Break in Vietnam.** Six students went with their professor **Elizabeth Robinson** in order to teach in Vietnamese schools. The students were in the **TESOL (Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages)** program and all were working to earn the TESOL Certificate. The Vietnamese students were eager to learn from native English speakers, so the experience was a win-win situation. The Rosenberg Institute helped to subsidize the cost of this experience for our students. A review of the experience and student presentations was held on the Suffolk campus following the trip

## Student Teachers Learn Priceless Lessons in Vietnam



June 11, 2018

Students explored a market on their teaching trip to Hanoi, Vietnam. (Photo: Elie Crief)

Two weeks before Spring Break, eight Suffolk students learned they'd be traveling halfway around the world from snow-covered Boston to humid Hanoi for a whirlwind week of student teaching. They set out with their newly-obtained VISAs, a few helpful Vietnamese conversational phrases, and teaching theories they'd learned but never practiced. They returned with a wealth of experience and, for some, a passion for teaching abroad.

Full cultural immersion

The students are enrolled in the [teaching English to speakers of other languages](#) (TESOL) certificate program, which offers international teaching preparation and opportunities to work with international students studying in



the United States. The Hanoi trip fulfilled the program's practicum requirement, as students worked with a wide variety of English language learners throughout the week.

Funds from the [Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies](#) helped defray the students' travel costs, making the life-changing trip possible on short notice. Travel scholarships from the Rosenberg Institute have allowed Suffolk students to study in Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Vietnam.



TESOL students and Professor Elizabeth Robinson visited the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (Photo: Elie Crief)

Benjamin Mimoso's family experience spurred an enduring interest in how non-native speakers learn English. His father grew up in a Portuguese-speaking community in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and learned English at school. Mimoso, Class of 2019, a history major, wants to teach English as a second language overseas before pursuing a career as a history teacher. The trip to Vietnam was his first time leaving the United States. "I thought I'd be uncomfortable and in culture shock," he says. "Instead, I fell in love with everything quickly. We weren't in tourist areas. We were riding motorbikes through the city, and little kids would shout 'hello' from the backs of their bikes."

#### [Gaining classroom experience](#)

For Georgia Bourikas, Class of 2018, the trip was a chance to have a fully immersive cultural experience before graduation. Bourikas is a fine arts

major and [all-star basketball player](#) for the Suffolk Rams whose year-round practice and game schedule precluded a traditional study abroad semester. Although she has worked as a teaching assistant in the Art & Design Department's printmaking shop, Bourikas had never before been in charge of a classroom. That changed as she and her classmates planned for and taught English lessons to Vietnamese students ranging in age from 18 months to 45 years-old.

"Working with little kids is very difficult, but they were remarkable. Three year-olds could have little conversations with us in English already, telling time, counting, sharing emotions," says Mimoso.



Working with pre-schoolers at Golden Key Language School (Photo: Mai Tran)

Bourikas and Mimoso teamed up to present a conversational English class on clothing and shopping to a group of first-year students at Hanoi University. The experience gave them practice with crafting and presenting a lesson and also led to valuable cultural exchange with their peers.

"They wanted to know about American culture -- like are we obsessed with superheroes? -- and we talked about the differences in our schools. We became Facebook friends," says Bourikas.

One common bond was music, says Mimoso, who noted that a love for the rapper Jay-Z knows no geographical bounds.



Teaching at Hanoi University (Photo: Mai Tran)

### Exploring Vietnam

The director of the Golden Key Language School, which provides English-language instruction for students of all ages, hosted the Suffolk students. And although the students spent long days teaching and many evenings lesson planning, they were able to experience some of the sights -- and tastes -- of Vietnam.

Bourikas and Mimoso both enjoyed the country's food culture, which included everything from a wide array of vegetarian options for Mimoso to a feel-good start to their kindergarten teaching day preparing a hot breakfasts for the kids.

They visited temples and waited in a silent, winding line for three hours to enter the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, one of Vietnam's most popular and revered sites.

A trip outside the city to Vietnam's oldest pottery workshop showed the students another side of Vietnamese life and made a big impression on fine arts major Bourikas, who reveled in watching the delicate hand-painting by skilled craftspeople.





Suffolk students try their hands at pottery-making (Photo: Elie Crief)

### Lasting lessons

Working with students in Vietnam has reaffirmed Mimoso's plans to pursue a teaching career. "It was interesting to see how another culture teaches," he said. "Taking the positive and negative lessons from that will make me a better teacher."

Running wildly different classes each day was an eye-opening trial by fire for Bourikas:

"I learned that it's never a good idea to fly by the seat of your pants.

Prepare, and be ready to handle the things that can go wrong. As a teacher you need to have a bag of tricks and be able to improvise. If I want to teach, now I know I can do it."



A class of young students in Vietnam visit with the American teachers from Suffolk University Boston.

**In June Suffolk hosted the 2018 International Workshop on Urban Ecological Security and Sustainability.** This was jointly organized by Professor Patricia Hogan at Suffolk and Professor Xiangrong Wang of Fudan University in Shanghai. Fudan is one of China's leading universities with many



international research and outreach programs. During the meetings colleagues from Suffolk and other institutions in Boston, and from various academic institutions in China came together to discuss pressing issues such as Urban Planning and Sustainability, Climate Change Responses, and Data Collection and Interpretation. They also held a planning session to arrange for the next Workshop, which will be held next year on the Fudan campus. A group of local high school students were invited to attend sessions on virtual reality and visit our new physics, science, and IT laboratories. Major funding for the Workshop was provided by the Rosenberg Institute, with additional funds from the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office. The logo used by the Workshop shown below was designed by Peter Kery who teaches in the Department of Art and Design at Suffolk.

2 0 1 8   I n t e r n a t i o n a l   W o r k s h o p   o n



## **Urban Ecological Security & Sustainability**

A Joint Collaboration of

F u d a n   U n i v e r s i t y • S u f f o l k   U n i v e r s i t y

The Workshop was a major international initiative for Suffolk and a major project for the Rosenberg Institute. A report prepared by Professor Hogan is below.

## Working Together for a Greener World

July 17, 2018



Xiangrong Wang, Director of the Center for Urban Eco-Planning & Design at Fudan University, addressed the International Workshop on Urban Ecological Security & Sustainability at Suffolk University.

Because climate change is a global condition best addressed through interdisciplinary research, institutional investment, and international collaboration, members of the [Center for Urban Ecology & Sustainability](#) (CUES) at Suffolk University are joining forces with their counterparts at the Center for Urban Eco-Planning & Design at Fudan University in Shanghai to work toward a greener future.

The first step took place in June at the inaugural International Workshop on Urban Ecological Security and Sustainability in Boston, sponsored by the [Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies](#) of Suffolk University.



Patricia Hogan, director of the Center for Urban Ecology & Sustainability at Suffolk University

### All hands on deck

Organized by environmental researchers from both Suffolk and Fudan University, the three-day conference drew wide participation from other research institutions, non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, and professional societies.

Speakers and participants from Fudan University, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing Forestry University, Shanghai Academy of Environmental Sciences, Shanghai Normal University, and Zhejiang University were part of the scientific delegation from the Shanghai area. Local universities represented included Northeastern University, UMASS-Boston, Bunker Hill Community College, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Wentworth Institute of Technology, and Brown University. Boston-area speakers included representatives from GreenRoots, Inc. of Chelsea, the Neponset River Watershed Association, the Institute of International Urban Development, and the Sustainable Remediation Forum.

Faculty from each of Suffolk's three schools attended -- representing departments as diverse as chemistry, biochemistry, art & design, physics, international business, marketing, and law.

“With the multifaceted environmental challenges we’re facing right now, it doesn’t matter what a student’s major is. It’s all hands on deck,” says Suffolk Professor Patricia Hogan, director of the Center for Urban Ecology & Sustainability and co-organizer of the conference.

Topics ranged from broad policy and eco-security issues to detailed research data analysis.

One thread woven throughout the conference was the concept of environmental justice. John Walkey, the waterfront coordinator for Chelsea-based GreenRoots, spoke about reducing disparities in environmental impact and education among Boston-area immigrant communities.

Professor Sean Solley of Suffolk’s Art & Design Department explored a similar theme through the lens of sustainable urban development for the aged, another vulnerable population.



Sean Solley, associate professor & program director, Interior Architecture & Design

“All populations won’t be impacted equally by climate change,” says Hogan. “Those most at risk—the poor and marginalized—will suffer most. We don’t always think of sustainable design in an equitable way, but we need to keep environmental justice at the forefront.”

The workshop also included a session for high school students as both universities share a commitment to involving young people in sustainability work. Students learned about the history of Boston’s development from

History Professor Robert Allison, used virtual reality technology to visualize both the greenest and the most polluted cities around the world with Suffolk's Physics Department, and worked with physical models of the city with Reed Brockman of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section.

### [Problem solving from multiple perspectives](#)

Both China and the United States have work to do to reduce pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change. China is the overall highest carbon dioxide emitter in the world, but the more urbanized U.S. remains the highest emitter per capita. While America grapples with climate change denial and weakening environmental protections, China is in the midst of a “Green China and Eco-civilized China” backlash from industrial urban pollution—even as it continues to invest heavily in a more sustainable economy.

As coastal urban cities, Boston and Shanghai face many of the same climate challenges – but on very different scales. Boston is the largest city in the New England region but Shanghai is one of the largest megacities in the world. Comparing the effects of increasing global temperatures, pollution, and sea-level rise and the efforts to combat these issues could yield valuable data for both cities and others around the world.

“The city of Shanghai is located at the Yangtze River Delta, an area with high economic growth, high urbanization and high eco-environmental risk,” says Hogan’s counterpart Xiangrong Wang, Director of the Center for Urban Eco-Planning & Design at Fudan University. “It has the typical fragile features of the development of urban agglomeration in China. It is of great significance to strengthen the research and the demonstration of ecological security technology and sustainability here.”

### [A path forward](#)

Hogan and Wang plan to establish academic and research collaborations in the coming years, including: joint research projects, student and faculty exchange programs, training and, potentially, joint online courses.

A strategic planning session held on the workshop’s third day brought faculty from both schools together to find common interests and lay the groundwork for future partnerships. The colleagues will meet again next year when Fudan University hosts the second Urban Ecological Security and Sustainability Workshop in Shanghai.



“This workshop is a very good platform for scholars, governmental officials and business people to create academic exchange and potentially explore markets for urban ecological sustainability. It will be huge benefit for both China and America,” says Wang.

“The first workshop was a huge success and opened up many opportunities for cooperation,” says Hogan. “Now we need to take the next steps forward and make these projects and discoveries happen.”



Faculty and researchers from Suffolk University and Fudan University gathered for the three-day workshop.

End