

Workshop Agenda (Side Event 28)

Culture and Innovation in City Building in Canada, China and Africa  
Culture et Innovation dans la Construction de Villes au Canada, en Chine et en Afrique  
中国, 加拿大与非洲城市建设中的文化与创新

Mobilizing Ethnic Minorities to Support Culture and Innovation in City Building:  
a Case Study of Bai People in Dali, China

Huhua Cao & Huier Ma  
University of Ottawa, Canada

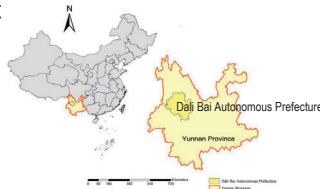
February 10, 2020 12:30 – 1:30 Hall 2, Room 8  
Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Outline:

- o Context
- o Definition of Local Traditional Knowledge
- o Research Objective and Questions
- o Data and Method
- o Findings and Conclusion

Context (2):

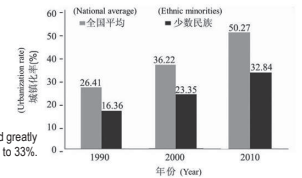
- With 68% of Bai people, Dali City is located in Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture of northwestern Yunnan Province.
- Dali City has been struggling by incorporating local traditional knowledge (LTK) in urban development during last decades.
- LTK from the perspective of local people should play an increasing role in Dali's urbanization.



Context (1):

- Habitat III New Urban Agenda (2016) emphasises a sustainable and inclusive urbanization.
- China's New Urbanization Strategy (2014) adopts People-centred urban development.
- Ethnic minority areas in western China is experiencing increased urbanization.

Since 1990, the urbanization rate among minorities accelerated greatly from 16% to 33%.



Research Objective & Questions

Objective:

Mobilizing Ethnic Minorities to Support Culture and Innovation in City Building

Questions:

- How do local Bai people understand the application of their LTK in the city building?
- How do Bai people altered their perceptions of traditional practices?



What is Local Traditional Knowledge ?

LTK is comprised of experiences and skills that are adopted and transmitted from generation to generation.

3 aspects focused in the research:

- 1) Bai architecture
- 2) Ritual practices (i.e. religion)
- 3) Folk life (i.e. language, costumes)



Demographic Characteristics of the Questionnaire Sample

Categories	Frequency	Percentage	Categories	Frequency	Percentage	
Gender	Male	40	50%	factory worker/company employee	2	3%
	Female	40	50%	farmer	24	30%
	Total	80	100%	merchant	6	8%
Age	18-25	25	31%	teacher	4	5%
	26-35	19	24%	student	12	15%
	36-55	25	31%	government official/employee	10	13%
	over 56	11	14%	retired	2	3%
	never	72	90%	unemployed	1	1%
Knowledge of Bai language	No	8	10%	other	19	24%
	Yes	72	90%	2000 or less	37	46%
Language spoken most often at home	Bai	66	83%	2001-4000	21	28%
	Mandarin	12	15%	4001-6000	13	16%
	Both	2	2%	6001-8000	6	8%
Reside in Dali all year round	10 years-20	18	23%	8001 or more	7	9%
	20 or over 20	64	80%	Buddha (college gods)	36	45%
Registered in urban household status	Yes	78	98%	Faotism	2	3%
	No	2	2%	Buddhism	6	8%
Education	primary school or less	7	9%	Islam	1	1%
	junior high school	19	24%	Christianity/ Catholicism	2	3%
	senior high school	21	28%	no religion	23	31%
	undergraduate college	11	14%	other prefer not to answer	8	10%
	graduate	21	26%			

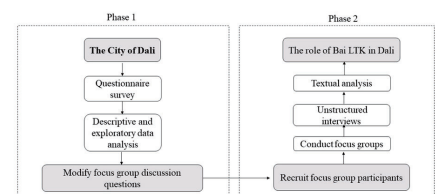
Demographic characteristics of the questionnaire sample. Source: Gao et al. (2017)

Data and Method

Case Study with Surveys on Bai people:

- Questionnaire surveys: 80
- Focus groups: 3
- Interviews: 29

Research Flowchart



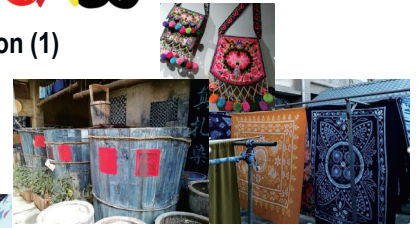
### Findings and Conclusion (2)

- 3) Redefining Bai culture/LTK
  - Protecting traditional value
  - Promoting bilingual teaching
  - Creating a new identity
- 4) Adopting an innovative urban governance
  - From Top-down to Bottom-up
  - Recognizing Right to the City
  - Building an inclusive decision-making approach



### Findings and Conclusion (1)

- 1) Assimilation of Bai Culture
  - Language
  - Religion
  - Architecture, etc.



#### 2) Managing the difference

- Urban-rural difference
- Varied perceptions of Bai LTK
- Balance between traditional and modern lifestyles

Thank you!

Merci!

谢谢!

For all the details, visit at [www.icccasu.org](http://www.icccasu.org)