

Symposium

Everyday Urbanism and People-Centred Smart Cities in China and the Nordics

17–18 October 2025

Nordic Centre, Fudan University, Shanghai

CALL FOR PAPERS

Digitalisation and everyday life are entangled in a dynamic and reciprocal relationship, shaped by diverse cultural and socio-political contexts (e.g., norms, policies, governance). The applications and outcomes of digitalisation both shape and are shaped by people's interactions with digital technologies, broader societal dynamics, the transformation of urban spaces, and impacts on human life. This symposium provides an opportunity to explore the intersections of everyday urbanism, digitalisation, and urban governance in Sino-Nordic contexts.

We invite scholars to contribute to this symposium by submitting a 150 word abstract by August 11.

Email the organizers to submit

Cecilia: Cecilia.Cassinger@iko.lu.se

Johan: Johan.Vaide@lnu.se

Call for Papers

Symposium:

Everyday Urbanism and People-Centred Smart Cities in China and the Nordics

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Aims of the symposium

This multidisciplinary symposium brings together early-career and senior researchers to examine the impact of digitalisation on everyday urban life. The primary goal is to advance Sino-Nordic scholarly discussions on the intersections of everyday life, digitalisation, and urban governance. Everyday urbanism, rooted in the study of ordinary daily events in cities, emphasizes lived experience (Chase et al., 1999; Lefebvre, 1991). Closely linked to concepts such as platform urbanism and the platform society, studies of the digital often examine the applications and outcomes of digitalisation in urban settings (Barns, 2020). Our research agenda, however, extends this focus by exploring not only how people engage with digital technologies, but also the broader societal implications of these interactions (Kim & Chung, 2023; Park et al., 2024). This includes examining transformations in urban spaces and rethinking fundamental aspects of what it means to be human (Low & Sturup, 2018).

We welcome papers from scholars across diverse disciplines that explicitly engage with the symposium theme. Theoretically, methodologically, and/or empirically innovative contributions to the study of urban everyday life, smartness, and digitalisation are particularly encouraged.

Selected contributions may be considered for inclusion in the forthcoming 2026 special issue, *People-Centred Smart Cities: Exploring the Intersection Between Everyday Urbanism and Digitalisation*, published in the *International Journal of Urban Sciences*. The call for papers is available here: https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/people-centred-smart-cities/.

Organizers

The symposium is organized by faculty members from Lund University, Linnaeus University, the University of Gothenburg, Aalborg University, and Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. It will be hosted by the Nordic Centre at Fudan University. The organizing committee comprises Cecilia Cassinger, Emma Björner, Johan Vaide, Erin McClellan, Sophie Sturup, Kon Kim, and Ju Hyun Lee. Funding for the event has been provided by the Nordic Centre.

Practical information

The symposium will run over two full days and is structured to balance academic discussion, policy insights, and industry engagement. The first day will centre on academic exchange, featuring an opening session, a thematic discussion, and parallel research presentations. The second day will broaden the discussion to include industry and policy perspectives, with invited talks on digitalisation, urban governance, and management. Additional research sessions will precede a collaborative panel on future research directions.

The workshop begins at 10:00 AM on 17 October and concludes at 6:00 PM on 18 October. A paper abstract (max. 150 words) will be required from those interested in attending. Please send your abstract to the main organisers, Cecilia Cassinger and Johan Vaide (contact details below).

The workshop is supported by the Nordic Centre. The grant we have received from the Centre allows us to cover the conference dinner, lunch, and coffee for all participants. We also have limited funding available to support travel for participants who cannot cover these expenses through existing research project grants.

Please contact Cecilia or Johan for any questions:

Cecilia: cecilia.cassinger@iko.lu.se

Johan: johan.vaide@lnu.se

Preliminary Key Dates

Deadline for abstracts: August 11, 2025

Notification of acceptance: August 29, 2025

Registration: September 8, 2025

Workshop: October 17-18, 2025

Location: Fudan University, Shanghai, China