

Undergraduate Initiative Grant Application  
December 16, 2015  
Qingyang Xie

**Documenting the Spatial Reconfiguration of Dujiangyan City  
after 2008 Sichuan Earthquake**

I seek funds to cover half of the expenses for my 2-week

label the specific buildings and the street views are not available. It is also hard to know how the local residents interact with the spaces in the reconstructed city based on archives and online research. Therefore, I p



relocation of residents were not simply forced onto the residents. There were many negotiations going on between the residents and the government, and my analyses focus mainly on the impact of the residents' agency on the location of reconstructed residential areas and their spatial configuration. I will observe the spatial configuration of the new city center at Juyuan and the number of residents living there and their use of the space. I will mainly focus my observation on the alleged separation of function (political, cultural and commercial functions), the design of transportation system and public transportation (configuration of streets, width of streets, pedestrian and bike lanes, parking space, etc.), connectivity with the old city center and other regions of the city, street and place names with potential symbolic meanings, the architectural style, public services available, and assess the impacts of these factors on the life quality of the residents and their interactions with the space.

#### *Y e Re de a A ea*

*Yijiequ*, a major reconstruction project headed by the Shanghai city government, is also a site of interest due to the fact that it was transformed from farmland completely based on the post-earthquake design of city planners and the Dujiangyan city government. The new area will therefore reveal visions and discourse of the ideally modern yet traditionally rooted comfortable living environment for common people. It is located at the edge of the urban area that serves as relocation housing for residents dislocated in the earthquake. The space *yijiequ* occupies used to be agricultural land and several small factories. The detailed construction plan for *yijiequ* maintains that the style of the residential area is intended to be modern and yet traditional, ecological and urban, presenting natural landscape but culturally rich, comfortable for living and convenient for employment, and both quotidian and prepared for emergency in disaster (Shanghai Tongji City Design and Research Institute, 2009: 11). I will observe how the buildings, the man-made "natural" scenery, the building style, and the spatial configuration of residential buildings, schools, recreation facilities and public services attempt to embody the design concepts. Another important component of my observation is the residents' interactions with the space. Other than a residential area, *yijiequ* is also designated as a tourist attraction because of its beautiful man-made lake and landscape. Therefore, I also intend to collect tourist brochures and advertisement billboards, observe the amount of tourists in the area, and assess their impacts and interactions with the local residents.

#### *Earthquake Memorial Spaces*

I will also observe and interact with the new memorial spaces for the earthquake in Dujiangyan to understand how these spaces narrate the events of earthquake, how they construct memory, and how the audiences react to the narratives. Dujiangyan has two earthquake memorial sites, but not many photographs and contents of the memorial spaces are available online. One is the Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction Memorial Museum in *yijiequ*, a completely reconstructed city district to the north of the old city center, and it is a "patriotic education" base that supposedly demonstrates the courage and resilience people showed in the earthquake (Dujiangyan government website, 2015). Another is the Hongkou Shenxigou Earthquake Relics Memorial Site, which used to be a natural reserve. After the earthquake, geological earthquake relics are preserved on the site and the natural reserve is transformed into an earthquake tourist site. I will go to the two memorial spaces, experience them as an audience member and observe other people's interactions with them. I will take photos and videos of the spaces for future

reference and analysis. If available, I will also attend the guided tour of both memorial spaces.

### **Contacts and Preparation**

So far, I have two contacts in the

Shanghai Tongji City Planning and Design Institute. 2009. *Detailed Construction Plan (First Construction Period) for Yijiequ, Dujiangyan* (d O 3 ; 4 [ & ° i l " ž = > a X \_ # ).

Sichuan Daily. 2014. "Dujiangyan's Four Development Plans: Pushing Development of Satellite City Forward."