

## Dr. Sylvia He Credits Frank Scholarship with Helping Her Cure Hong Kong Transport



*Dr. Sylvia He (Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Resource Management at the Chinese University of Hong Kong), 2017*

Sometimes following the money reveals a wonderful thing. Recently, the METRANS Transportation Research Center welcomed Dr. Sylvia He, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Resource Management at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. There to talk about transit-oriented development and community in Hong Kong, Dr. He also represents something else. In 2009, WTS-LA awarded her the Myra L. Frank Memorial Graduate Scholarship. And that award and the chapter made a very real difference for her.



“Winning that award provided great encouragement for me to stay on this path during my transportation studies. It’s still a male-dominated industry. So this scholarship and this organization really provide an opportunity for both male and female professionals to give students and scholars motivation and financial support to continue the task of pursuing a better career in the transportation industry and academia as well. It’s also a very nice network with great activities throughout the year. Throughout my studies at USC (an MA and a Ph.D.), I really enjoyed being a part of WTS-LA.”

And that is exactly what the chapter and the WTS-LA scholarship program are supposed to do. WTS-LA Scholarship Committee chair Elisabeth Rosenson adds, “WTS-LA is proud to support outstanding students such as Sylvia with meaningful scholarships to help them achieve their educational goals. We’re gratified to see these women succeed and become the next generation of leaders in the transportation field.”

And Dr. He *is* succeeding in her field. According to METRANS associate director and WTS-LA member Victoria Deguzman, Dr. He is already making quite a name for herself in transportation.

“Sylvia was one of our most promising and recognized doctoral students in transportation policy and she has continued to amaze us with her accomplishments. In addition to being one of the founding members of the Urban Studies Program at her university, she has conducted valuable and innovative research in

transportation and urban planning. Recent projects include a study of optimal location for EV (electric vehicle) charging stations in Beijing to maximize access and encourage EV adoption, an analysis of best global practices of low carbon transport for application in Hong Kong, and a study of the effects of perceptions on travel mode choice and car ownership in Guangzhou.”

Dr. He returns the compliment, citing METRANS as a “very great research center.” She specifically credits METRANS director Genevieve Giuliano and associate director Victoria Deguzman for their outstanding leadership and tireless, informed support. And that inspiration shows in Dr. He’s pivotal work on low-carbon transportation.

Her current project includes three parts: a best practices review of low-carbon transport strategies for global cities; interviews with transport experts including government officials, industry managers, and NGOs; and a 1200-person survey of Hong Kong residents to obtain public opinion to shape policy. Between her projects and teaching, her transportation plate is full. But she still has time for another endeavor.

“There is no organization like WTS in Hong Kong. We have the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT). It’s originally from the UK, but they have branches and offices around the world and there’s one in Hong Kong. I became a chartered member last year. So I go to meetings and seminars and there is a very small part of the CILT that promotes women in transportation. But I’m not sure it provides as many activities or scholarships for women as WTS-LA does. Maybe WTS can open a chapter in Hong Kong.”