

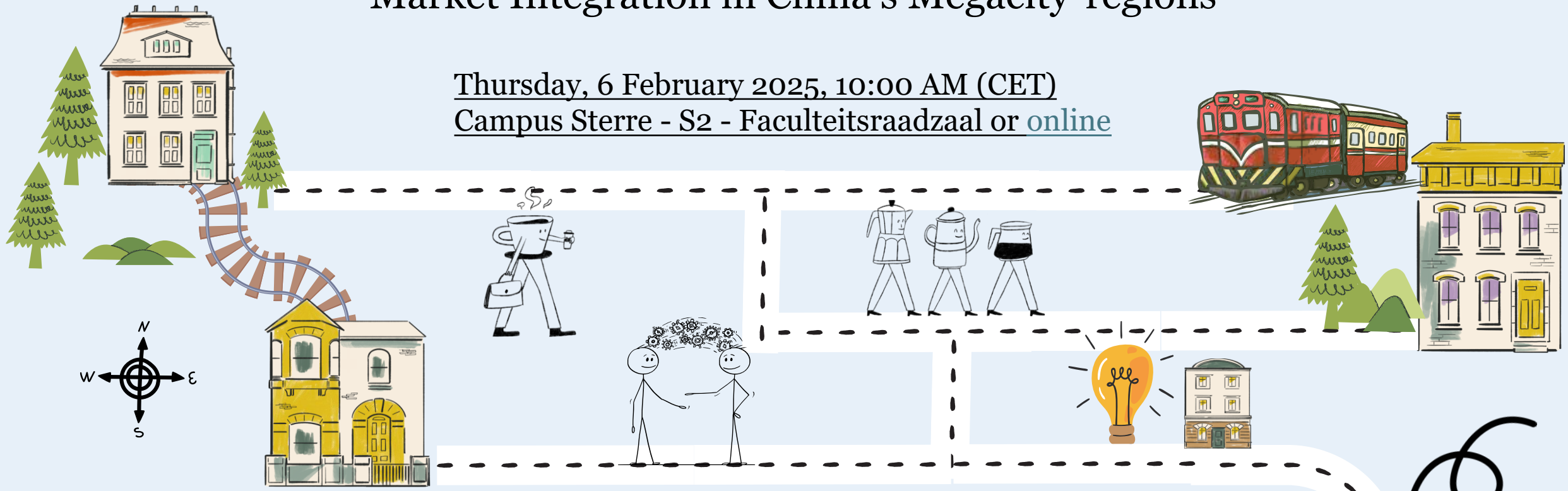
You are kindly invited to attend the public PhD defense of the doctoral dissertation of

Xueqing Liu

Interconnected Cities, Integrated Markets: Dynamics of Urban Networks in Explaining Regional Market Integration in China's Megacity-regions

Thursday, 6 February 2025, 10:00 AM (CET)

Campus Sterre - S2 - Faculteitsraadzaal or [online](#)



You are welcome to the reception afterwards. Please confirm your in-person attendance before 31 January 2025 via this [link](#) or by e-mail (Xueqing.Liu@UGent.be).



Summary

Despite increasing scientific and policy attention to the role of urban networks in regional market integration, there has been limited evidence substantiating these claims. The dissertation is motivated by this observed paradox – exploring the link between urban networks and market integration within China's megacity-regions, focusing on three key themes: (1) the varied effects of urban networks on regional market integration; (2) the underlying mechanisms, explored through network externalities and regional synergies; and (3) the additional roles of cities' spatial attributes in shaping the dynamics of network-integration relations. Employing a combination of (spatial) economic modeling techniques, this dissertation delivers robust evidence on the role of urban networks in explaining China's integration dynamics. Key findings reveal that urban networks exert varied effects on market integration, especially through the presence of network externalities and synergy effects. These effects are influenced by the heterogeneous types of networks and markets and are conditionally shaped by cities' spatial attributes. This research contributes to both scientific discourse and policy debates on the implications of urban networks in market integration and regional development dynamics.

Supervisors

Prof. Dr. Frank Witlox, Ghent University
Prof. Dr. Ben Derudder, KU Leuven, Ghent University

Examination Committee

Prof. Dr. Nico Van de Weghe (Chair), Ghent University
Prof. Dr. Kurt Fuellhart, Ghent University
Prof. Dr. Jonathan Beaverstock, University of Bristol
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About the author

Xueqing Liu (1995). In 2018, she obtained her bachelor's degree in Management from Nanjing Agricultural University (China). In 2019, she obtained her Master's degree in Science (Real Estate and Regional Planning) from the University of Manchester (U.K.). In 2021, she started her Ph.D. program at the Department of Geography at Ghent University. She has broad interests in regional studies, specifically in urban networks and market integration in China.

