

**Professor Ben Gerlofs**

Assistant Professor

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Biography

Professor Ben Gerlofs is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Hong Kong.

Professor Gerlofs works at the intersection of urban, cultural, political, and historical geography. His current projects are concentrated around three major foci: 1) the political economy of urbanization in historical perspective; 2) the dynamics of contemporary urban social movements; and 3) processes related to neighborhood change, including but not limited to gentrification. Much of his work has explored these issues in the dynamic hyper-metropolis that is Mexico City—the most populous urban area in the western hemisphere—whose historic neighborhoods are being demographically and aesthetically altered at an incredible rate, and whose systems of governance are on the edge of wholesale renovation as the city sheds the guise of the Federal District and is reborn as the State of Mexico City for the first time since the Mexican Revolution. His current book project *Monstrous Politics: Geography, Rights, and the Urban Revolution in Mexico City* interrogates the multivalent transformations of the Mexican capital from the last years of the Porfiriato to the present. He is in the process of developing new comparative urban research based in Hong Kong.