

## INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC DEFENSE

### Space-Time Flexibility of Shopping Activities: On the Role of ICT and the Built Environment

You are kindly invited to the public defense of the doctoral thesis of

**Rui Shao**

Monday, October 30 2023, 12:30 (CET)

Lecture room 2.2, Building S8

Campus Sterre, Ghent University, Krijgslaan 281, 9000 Ghent

Follow the livestream of the defense through this link: <https://urlverkorten.com/TeZGJ>

After the defense, you are welcome to attend the reception. Please confirm your in-person attendance before October 25 by e-mail: [rui.shao@ugent.be](mailto:rui.shao@ugent.be)



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### Summary

Space-time flexibility – referring to the extent to which people can freely choose when and where to participate in activities – is a core concept in time geography. Improving space-time flexibility of daily activities is expected to promote quality of life and sustainable transportation. Drawing on time geography, this dissertation explores the potential influences of the built environment on the space-time flexibility of shopping activities, as well as the possible transformations induced by the application of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The results highlight the significant roles of the built environment in shaping the space-time flexibility of shopping activities and the complex implications arising from the proliferation of ICTs. The findings contribute to advancing our knowledge and understanding of the challenges and opportunities brought about by ICTs for the development of sustainable cities and society.

### About the author

Rui Shao is a doctoral researcher at the Department of Geography of Ghent University. She received her bachelor's degree in Human Geography from Lanzhou University (China) and her master's degree in Geography from Beijing Normal University (China). In 2018, she started her Ph.D. program at the Social and Economic Geography Research Group. Her doctoral research was jointly funded by the China Scholarship Council (CSC) and the Special Research Fund (BOF) of Ghent University. Her research interests revolve around time geography, urban mobility, and spatial planning.

