



School of Planning, Design
and Construction
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SEMINAR



Jing Zhou



November 18, 2026



Human Ecology Building 315

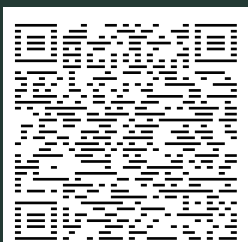


3:30 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

Science in Design: Advancing Zoo Animal Welfare and Zoonotic Disease Mitigation in Urban Environments

Abstract

This seminar explores how evidence-based captive environment design promotes animal welfare and mitigates zoonotic disease risks in urban settings. Integrating empirical zoo exhibit assessments with disease surveillance case studies—including COVID-19 transmission patterns across U.S. zoos—we examine critical misalignments between architectural practices, regulatory standards, and biological needs. By evaluating spatial standards, environmental complexity, and airborne disease vulnerabilities, this presentation provides actionable frameworks to bridge design and welfare science. We demonstrate how scientific enclosure design minimizes zoonotic spillover between humans and captive wildlife while advancing modern conservation goals.



Bio

Jing Zhou is a Ph.D. candidate in Planning, Design, and Construction and Environmental Science and Policy at Michigan State University, holding an M.S. in Integrative Biology and a B.S. in Animal Science. Bridging biological sciences and spatial planning, she leverages professional experience at PGAV Destinations and accredited zoological institutions to evaluate how built environments and regulatory standards influence captive wildlife well-being. Her research focuses on evidence-based exhibit design, disease surveillance, and mitigating zoonotic disease transmission risks in urban and conservation settings.