# A Review of the Situatedness of Place Attachment in Environment: Tracing Origins and Development Path

## Kang Yao[1], Mohd Hisyam Bin Rasidi[2]

[1]Landscape Architecture, University of Technology Malaysia, 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia, [2]Art and Design, Communication University of Kunming, Chenggong District, Kunming City, Yunnan Province, China.
Email: kangyao@graduate.utm.my

**Abstract**
This study reviews previous research on place attachment and its related situatedness in landscapes, analyzing over 200 journal articles that meet the selection criteria. The results were divided into three categories. 1. Development process: the development of place attachment has progressed from the initial concept of "Topophilia" to the broader notion of "Sense of Place." As the term "Sense of Place" is somewhat ambiguous, encompassing both positive and negative emotions, "Place Attachment" was introduced and gradually acknowledged as a positive emotion within the sense of place. 2. Situatedness of place attachment: there are six types of situatedness have been identified in global, namely community spaces, commercial places, tourist destinations, parks, heritage sites, workplaces, and religious sites. 3. Place Attachment in China: The development of place attachment in China started slightly later than globally, and the distribution of research across provinces is uneven. Research is more abundant in cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, and Hong Kong, while there is relatively less research in regions like Yunnan and Qinghai. The three outcomes of this study provide a foundation for future research, helping to understand the development context and situatedness of place attachment in landscapes, and assisting scholars in identifying research gaps.
**Keywords:** Place attachment, Development Process, Situatednes, Global to China

**Introduction**
The development of place attachment spans multiple disciplines, including psychology, sociology, and anthropology. It not only examines how individuals develop affective connections with places but also investigates how these connections influence the behaviors and cultures of social groups (Scannell & Gifford, 2010). This study focuses its on the realm of landscape, specifically examining how place attachment originates and evolves within landscape environments. During this process, the study will delve into the situatednes of place

attachment, particularly within the frameworks of rural communities and heritage sites. At the same time, taking into account the diversity of place attachment across different cultural contexts, this study will also explore its unique developmental status in China, analyzing the position and developmental trends of place attachment within the landscape environment of the Chinese context. Place attachment endows an environment with cultural identity and continuity (Relph, 1976). According to Smith & Mcalister, (2015), the physical aspects of space are imbued with meaning based on the values people assign to a place (Zakariya, Mohyuddin, & Yaman, 2007). The landscape environment is not merely a physical entity but also a cultural vessel carrying values and meanings. As a result of the interaction between humans and nature, landscape environments embody the history, culture, and lifestyle of specific social groups, encompassing values such as ecological conservation, cultural heritage, and social identity. Therefore, in the field of landscape research, place attachment will occupy a significant position.

This literature review aims to clarify the research issues within the existing studies on place attachment. Specifically, the following key research gaps have been identified: Despite the significance of sense of place and place attachment in the field of place research, an absence of analysis concerning the distinction and connection between the two currently exists. This ambiguity impedes further theoretical development and application. Although numerous studies have statistically and analytically addressed the dimensions of place attachment, less attention has been paid to the specific contexts and backgrounds in which place attachment occurs. According to Kamani Fard & Paydar, (2024), factors deemed significant in one context may not hold the same importance in another. Consequently, it is recommended to contextualize place attachment rather than treating it as a universal phenomenon. 3. In the context of Chinese regional attachment research, although certain areas (such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong) have received substantial attention, studies on place attachment in ethnic minority-concentrated regions like Yunnan remain insufficient. This gap hinders a comprehensive understanding of the manifestations and significance of place attachment within a multicultural framework.

Objectives of this research review: 1) to elucidate the relationship between sense of place and place attachment; 2) to identify the contexts in which place attachment occurs; and 3) to explore the necessity of conducting place attachment research in Yunnan Province, analyzing its potential value for sustainable socio-cultural development.

The literature review revolves around three sections. The first focuses on the origin and development of place attachment, tracing the evolution of this concept within academic research. Initially, the term "topophilia" served as an early descriptor for human-place emotional relationships. As research progressed, "sense of place" emerged as the second widely accepted notion, used to convey the emotional bond between humans and place. Nevertheless, some scholars have pointed out that the term "sense of place" is too vague to be defined precisely. It is only in recent years that "place attachment" has emerged as the dominant terminology in academic circles, gaining broader recognition and undergoing continuous evolution. The second section pertains to the situatednes classification of place attachment across various articles. This section encapsulates six types of situatednes. The third section delves into the development of place attachment in China. Each of these three sections has produced its own research findings.

## Development Process

### Tracing the Origins

The first term used to describe the emotional bond between people and places is called " Topophilia " and was first used by Tuan(1961) in the journal article called Scenery. Topophilia is not the most powerful human emotion, but from a theoretical point of view, it is the most accurate description of the indescribable feeling that exists between a person and their environment. It includes those up until now unremarkable but enjoyable environmental experiences in which we focus on how the spiritual elements of the place affect a person (Pocock et al., 1994). More and more people started to pay attention to the environmental psychology studies about 40 years ago. This discipline represents the convergence and expansion of environmental science and psychology. Scholars have further developed the concept of the sense of place on the Topophilia theory. Sense of place is a comprehensive concept in which people feel places and give them meaning (Hashem Hashemnezhad, 2013). This concept provides a framework for exploring how people's behavior, thoughts, and emotions are influenced by various environmental factors, such as natural environment (Farnum, 2005; Lin & Lockwood, 2014), architectural environment (Najafi & Shariff, 2011; Kalandides, 2011), and social environment(Shamai, 1991; Shamai & Ilatov, 2005).

Subsequently, sense of place was proposed in this field. Sense of places is an integrated, multidimensional phenomenon(Canter, 1991, Altman & Low, 1992). It is an overarching perception of how people feel, sense, and ascribes concepts and values to places. The concept of a sense of place is primarily shaped by cultural factors when utilized to examine the relationships between humans and their environment, the emotional bond individuals have with particular areas, and the significance given to these places (Najafi & Shariff, 2011). However, numerous academics argue that the notion of a sense of place is ambiguous. They argue that the notion of "sense of place" is a complex term. The dimensions of sense of place, place identity, place attachment, and place dependence, only represent its positive aspects (e.g., Hashem Hashemnezhad, 2013), Chen et al., 2014, Brown et al., 2016). McKinzie, (2019) proposed 'negative sense of place'. They suggest that the existence and intensity of this sensation are also intertwined with social and cultural factors, including ethnic and religious heritage, and that it is characterized by both positive and negative aspects (e.g.. Relph, 1976; Shamai, 1991; Shamai & Ilatov, 2005).

In the realm of studying the sense of place, (Relph, 1976) introduced the notion of Placelessness. He believes that when a place lacks cultural recognition, people lose their sense of place. Therefore, placelessness is caused by a loss of cultural identity. Placelessness can be conceptualized as the tangible attributes of a nonplace, a location that exhibits uniformity across all areas and lacks a distinct cultural identity. In contrast, Placeness is proposed in Yi-Fu Tuan's (1977) book Space and Place. The concept of placeness is commonly understood as the outcome of individuals' emotional connection to a specific place. Zhang et al., (2023) believe unique cultural resources are needed to generate Placeness. Besides, people have emotional connections to places with cultural overlays because they symbolise a combination of context-specific and personal emotions that are essential to both individual and collective identity. Therefore, we can find that a rich cultural background promotes a sense of place, including personal attachment, dependence, belonging, and other emotions.

*Continuation Growth*
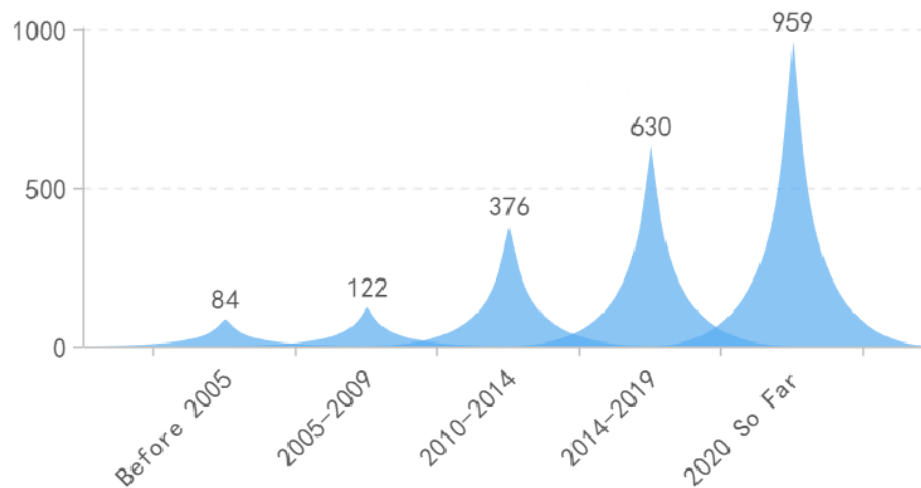


Place attachment is a positive emotional connection that falls under the category of sense of place. It has a positive impact on individuals, satisfying certain emotional needs (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2006; Hashem Hashemnezhad, 2013). Approximately four decades ago, an increasing number of people started to pay attention to research related to place attachment, and the research content is diverse (Figure 1-2). As place attachment is an emotion generated within the mind of the perceiver in a specific environment, it can also be referred to as a special dimension of environmental perception. This dimension that place attachment is an attribute that develops as a positive emotional bond between individuals and their environment (Hummon, 1992; Altman & Low, 1992; Moore & Graefe, 1994; Hashem Hashemnezhad, 2013; Kaltenborn, 1997). These studies employ the concept of place attachment as a mediator between individuals and their environment, primarily to explain its complex internal dynamics. This encompasses the characteristics of cognitive processes, the significance of spatial attributes, and the temporal and spatial structures of the interaction between individuals and their environment. The complex structure of these links will serve to highlight the relationship between place attachment, which refers to the positive emotional connection between individuals and their surroundings Figure1: Research of place attachment shows an increasing trend
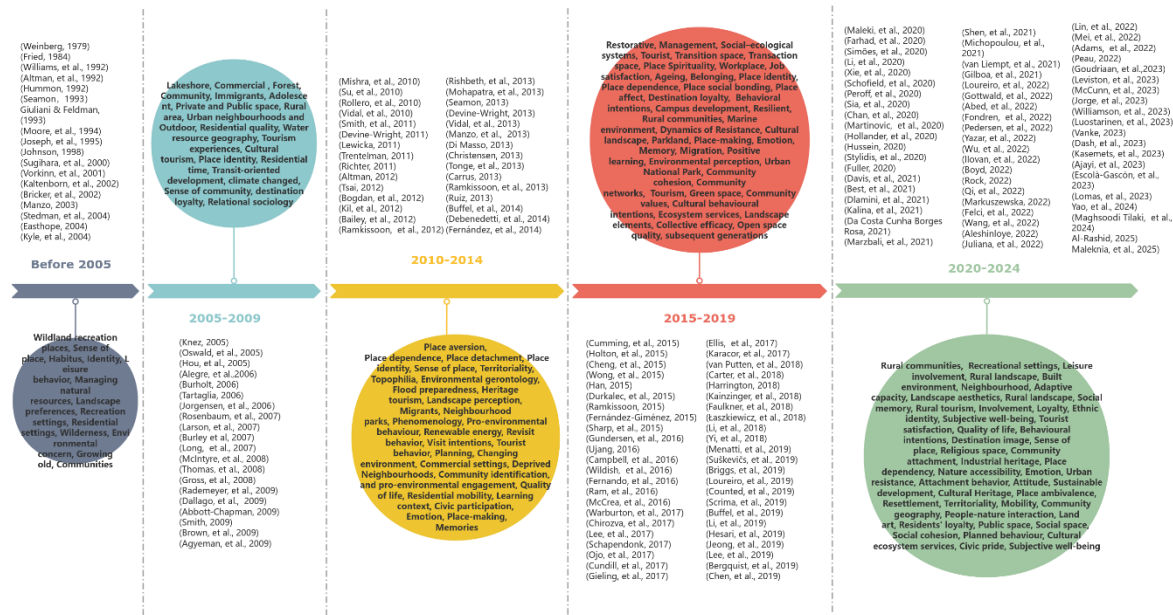
**Before 2005**

(Weinberg, 1979)
(Fried, 1984)
(Williams, et al., 1992)
(Altman, et al., 1992)
(Hummon, 1992)
(Seamon, 1993)
Giuliani & Feldman, (1993)
(Moore, et al., 1994)
(Joseph, et al., 1995)
(Johnson, 1998)
(Sugihara, et al., 2000)
(Vorkinn, et al., 2001)
(Kaltenborn, et al., 2002)
(Bricker, et al., 2002)
(Manzo, 2003)
(Stedman, et al., 2004)
(Easthope, 2004)
(Kyle, et al., 2004)

Wildland recreation places, Sense of place, Habitus, Identity, Leisure behavior, Managing natural resources, Landscape preferences, Recreation settings, Residential settings, Wilderness, Environmental concern, Growing old, Communities

**2005–2009**

Lakeshore, Commercial, Forest, Community, Immigrants, Adolescent, Private and Public space, Rural area, Urban neighbourhoods and Outdoor, Residential quality, Water resource geography, Tourism experiences, Cultural tourism, Place identity, Residential development, climate changed, Sense of community, destination loyalty, Relational sociology

(Knez, 2005)
(Oswald, et al., 2005)
(Hou, et al., 2005)
(Alegre, et al., 2006)
(Burholt, 2006)
(Tartaglia, 2006)
(Jorgensen, et al., 2006)
(Rosenbaum, et al., 2007)
(Larson, et al., 2007)
(Burley et al., 2007)
(Long, et al., 2007)
(McIntyre, et al., 2008)
(Thomas, et al., 2008)
(Gross, et al., 2008)
(Rademeyer, et al., 2009)
(Dallago, et al., 2009)
(Abbott-Chapman, 2009)
(Smith, 2009)
(Brown, et al., 2009)
(Agyeman, et al., 2009)

**2010-2014**

(Mishra, et al., 2010)
(Su, et al., 2010)
(Rollero, et al., 2010)
(Vidal, et al., 2010)
(Smith, et al., 2011)
(Devine-Wright, 2011)
(Lewicka, 2011)
(Trentelman, 2011)
(Richter, 2011)
(Altman, 2012)
(Tsai, 2012)
(Bogdan, et al., 2012)
(Kil, et al., 2012)
(Bailey, et al., 2012)
(Ramkissoon, et al., 2012)

(Rishbeth, et al., 2013)
(Mohapatra, et al., 2013)
(Seamon, 2013)
(Devine-Wright, 2013)
(Vidal, et al., 2013)
(Manzo, et al., 2013)
(Di Masso, 2013)
(Christensen, 2013)
(Tonge, et al., 2013)
(Carrus, 2013)
(Ramkissoon, et al., 2013)
(Ruiz, 2013)
(Buffel, et al., 2014)
(Debenedetti, et al., 2014)
(Fernández, et al., 2014)

Place aversion, Place dependence, Place detachment, Place identity, Sense of place, Territoriality, Topophilia, Environmental gerontology, Flood preparedness, Heritage tourism, Landscape perception, Migrants, Neighbourhood parks, Phenomenology, Pro-environmental behaviour, Renewable energy, Revisit behavior, Visit intentions, Tourist behavior, Planning, Changing environment, Commercial settings, Deprived Neighbourhoods, Community identification, and pro-environmental engagement, Quality of life, Residential mobility, Learning context, Civic participation, Emotion, Place-making, Memories

**2015-2019**

Restorative, Management, Social–ecological systems, Tourist, Transition space, Transaction space, Place Spirituality, Workplace, Job satisfaction, Ageing, Belonging, Place identity, Place dependence, Place social bonding, Place affect, Destination loyalty, Behavioral intentions, Campus development, Resilient, Rural communities, Marine environment, Dynamics of Resistance, Cultural landscape, Parkland, Place-making, Emotion, Memory, Migration, Positive learning, Environmental perception, Urban National Park, Community cohesion, Community networks, Tourism, Green space, Community values, Cultural behavioural intentions, Ecosystem services, Landscape elements, Collective efficacy, Open space quality, subsequent generations

(Cumming, et al., 2015)
(Holton, et al., 2015)
(Cheng, et al., 2015)
(Wong, et al., 2015)
(Han, 2015)
(Durkalec, et al., 2015)
(Ramkissoon, 2015)
(Fernández-Giménez, 2015)
(Sharp, et al., 2015)
(Gundersen, et al., 2016)
(Ujang, 2016)
(Campbell, et al., 2016)
(Wildish, et al., 2016)
(Fernando, et al., 2016)
(Ram, et al., 2016)
(McCrea, et al., 2016)
(Warburton, et al., 2017)
(Chirozva, et al., 2017)
(Lee, et al., 2017)
(Schapendonk, 2017)
(Ojo, et al., 2017)
(Cundill, et al., 2017)
(Gieling, et al., 2017)

(Ellis, et al., 2017)
(Karacor, et al., 2017)
(van Putten, et al., 2018)
(Carter, et al., 2018)
(Harrington, 2018)
(Kainzinger, et al., 2018)
(Faulkner, et al., 2018)
(Laszkiewicz, et al., 2018)
(Li, et al., 2018)
(Yi, et al., 2018)
(Menatti, et al., 2019)
(Suškevičs, et al., 2019)
(Briggs, et al., 2019)
(Loureiro, et al., 2019)
(Counted, et al., 2019)
(Scrima, et al., 2019)
(Buffel, et al., 2019)
(Li, et al., 2019)
(Hesari, et al., 2019)
(Jeong, et al., 2019)
(Lee, et al., 2019)
(Bergquist, et al., 2019)
(Chen, et al., 2019)

**2020-2024**

(Maleki, et al., 2020)
(Farhad, et al., 2020)
(Simões, et al., 2020)
(Li, et al., 2020)
(Xie, et al., 2020)
(Schofield, et al., 2020)
(Peroff, et al., 2020)
(Sia, et al., 2020)
(Chan, et al., 2020)
(Martinovic, et al., 2020)
(Hollander, et al., 2020)
(Hussein, 2020)
(Stylidis, et al., 2020)
(Fuller, 2020)
(Davis, et al., 2021)
(Best, et al., 2021)
(Dlamini, et al., 2021)
(Kalina, et al., 2021)
(Da Costa Cunha Borges Rosa, 2021)
(Marzbali, et al., 2021)

(Shen, et al., 2021)
(Michopoulou, et al., 2021)
(van Liempt, et al., 2021)
(Gilboa, et al., 2021)
(Loureiro, et al., 2022)
(Gottwald, et al., 2022)
(Abed, et al., 2022)
(Fondren, et al., 2022)
(Pedersen, et al., 2022)
(Yazar, et al., 2022)
(Wu, et al., 2022)
(Ilovan, et al., 2022)
(Boyd, 2022)
(Rock, 2022)
(Qi, et al., 2022)
(Markuszewska, 2022)
(Felci, et al., 2022)
(Wang, et al., 2022)
(Aleshinloye, 2022)
(Juliana, et al., 2022)

(Lin, et al., 2022)
(Mei, et al., 2022)
(Adams, et al., 2022)
(Peau, 2022)
(Goudriaan, et al., 2023)
(Leviston, et al., 2023)
(McCunn, et al., 2023)
(Jorge, et al., 2023)
(Williamson, et al., 2023)
(Luostarinen, et al., 2023)
(Vanke, 2023)
(Dash, et al., 2023)
(Kasemets, et al., 2023)
(Ajayi, et al., 2023)
(Escolà-Gascón, et al., 2023)
(Lomas, et al., 2023)
(Yao, et al., 2024)
(Maghsoodi Tilaki, et al., 2024)
(Al-Rashid, 2025)
Maleknia, et al., 2025)

Rural communities, Recreational settings, Leisure involvement, Rural landscape, Built environment, Neighbourhood, Adaptive capacity, Landscape aesthetics, Rural landscape, Social memory, Rural tourism, Involvement, Loyalty, Ethnic identity, Subjective well-being, Tourist satisfaction, Quality of life, Behavioural intentions, Destination image, Sense of place, Religious space, Community attachment, Industrial heritage, Place dependency, Nature accessibility, Emotion, Urban resistance, Attachment behavior, Attitude, Sustainable development, Cultural Heritage, Place ambivalence, Resettlement, Territoriality, Mobility, Community geography, People-nature interaction, Land art, Residents' loyalty, Public space, Social space, Social cohesion, Planned behaviour, Cultural ecosystem services, Civic pride, Subjective well-being

Figure 2 Trend Map of Place Attachment Study Form 1979-2025

*Situatedness of Place Attachment in Global*
Shumaker, (1983) defined place attachment as an interpersonal bond that evolves from specific place conditions and individual characteristics. People attribute meaning to their environment in a way that reflects their social and cultural experiences. That is, the meaning of the environment is not inherent but socially constructed (Stedman, 2003). Therefore, in study of environmental landscape, there is intersected and combine in sociology and landscape psychology. According to sociology, the construction of society represents the culmination of human cognition. In landscape psychology, Place attachment is the emotional and cognitive connection formed between an individual and a specific place, representing the individual's experiences and the ultimate outcome of their environmental emotions. Additionally, Greider & Garkovich, (1994) state that landscapes are reflections of social and cultural attributes that are about us, rather than about the natural environment. Social and cultural attributes and technologies shape the landscape environment, and people's attachment to the landscape is closely related to these social and cultural attributes (Altman & Low, 1992). For this reason, the detection of social and cultural attributes implies a direct perception of place attachment.

Place can be understood as a unit of environmental experience (Canter, 1986), a convergence of cognitions, affect and behaviours of the people who are experiencing them (Canter, 1991). Since place attachment is an emotional relationship between people and places (Hashem Hashemnezhad, 2013), In this situation, the spatial environment that owns both man and place is the research situatedness. According to the result of previous research, the field of place attachment is divided into the following six directions, including community, tourist attractions, parks, heritage sites, commercial places, and work places (Table 1). This means that attributes in their social environment vary and provide different cultural contexts.

Furthermore, scholars have proposed the inclusion of spatial dimensions in field investigations associated with the concept of place attachment in order to better represent

variations in geographical areas and specific environmental attributes that impact individual and collective identity, emotional connection, and behavioral preferences (Cuba & Hummon, 1993; Syme et al., 2002). Although social elements have been found to be the most reliable indicator of attachment to one's place of residence in many studies, physical space variables have also proven to be significant. In several cases, the combination of both social factor and physical space has provided a more comprehensive understanding of the particular reasons underlying attachment to a place of residence (Dash & Thilagam, 2023). By analysing the research on people's attachment to place outlined in the extant literature, Especially focusing on more analytical dimensions, a more comprehensive understanding of place can be attained (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2006). This way lets us learn more about how people think and feel, which helps us understand how people feel about environment and how important place is in their lives.

For instance, one of the famous public open spaces in Semarang City is the Simpang Lima area that serves as not only a public interaction space, but also a landmark of the city. According to studies, users' attachment to a location depends on both how they feel when they are in a public space and how that space is perceived (Purwanto & Harani, 2020). However, in the past, the study of space was primarily focused on its physical characteristics. The place attachment of in residents is given less consideration (Moulay et al., 2018). The previous example shows how learning about a place's unseen attributes can reveal a lot more.

Table 1
*Situatedness of Place Attachment*

| Types of Situatedness | Details | Authors（year） |
|---|---|---|
| Community | House, Lakeshore, Immigrant, Rural, Neiborhood, Woodland, Island, Public Space, Street, Coastal community | Altman&Low, 1992, Jorgensen&Stedman, 2006, D. Drozdzewski, 2007, (Jorgensen et al., 2007), (Dubois et al., 2021), (Wang et al., 2023) |
| Commercial Place | Market, Third-place(network), Hunter Street Mall, Stores, Whitewater recreation, Old commercial district | (Rosenbaum et al., 2007), (Mele et al., 2015), (Bricker & Kerstetter, 2000), (Thungsakul & Nilsakul, 2020), (Borghini et al., 2021), (Ertan Meric & Meric, 2022) |
| Tourist Attractions | Accommodation, Sumatra island, Unconventional Attractions, Diaspora tourism, Tourism place making | (Wildish et al., 2016), (Teviana et al., 2021), (Xu et al., 2022), (Vong et al., 2017), (Chang & Oh, 2022) |
| Park | neighborhood parks, marine, emotional connections, urban parkland, Mountain forests, Landscape preference, Multi-cultural engagement, Therapeutic gardens | (Moulay et al., 2018), (Tonge et al., 2013), (Wynveen & Kyle, 2015), (Campbell et al., 2016), (Lee & Lee, 2017), (Sharp et al., 2015), (Griggs & Lacey, 2022), (Sia et al., 2020) |
| Heritage Place | Natural heritage,Place identity, Cultural heritage, Historical Urban, | (Ramkissoon, 2015), (Dameria et al., 2020), (Ujang, 2016), (Fu & Luo, 2023), |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Cultural Identity, Cohesion Social, Heritage City, Monumental Landscapes, Iconicity heritage | (Prayitno, 2017), (Adams & Larkham, 2022), (Ram et al., 2016) |
| Workplace | Job satisfaction, Commuter partnership, Belongingness, Corporate real estate, Environmental management | (Scrima et al., 2019), (van der Klis & Karsten, 2009), (Gao et al., 2022), (Inalhan & Finch, 2004), (Mura et al., 2023) |
| Religious place | Sense of traditional religious festival identity, Community cohesion, Uniqueness of architectural manifestation, Spiritual beliefs, Sense of belonging, Spiritual attachment(divine), Functional dependence, Destination loyalty | (Lee et al., 2015), (Puspitasari et al., 2022), (Nursanty et al., 2020), (Kala, 2021), (Chen et al., 2015), (Counted et al., 2019), (Yu et al., 2017), (Ruttanavisanon et al., 2022) |

The earlier place attachment research has focused on the community. Place attachment was initially used to measure how much residents affected dwelling choices. Numerous statistics demonstrate that people frequently have a strong sense of community identification and that they work to select residences that they feel an emotional connection (WEINBERG & ATKINSON, 1979). Following research has discovered that a meaningful places including place attachment, community awareness, and community participation. They are all the success of people-place studies of communities (Konduri & Lee, 2023). Residents in a community are more likely to have a sense of place connection, and the creation of these intangible feelings is directly related to the activities in public spaces (Ujang & Zakariya, 2015).

Despite the fact that some researchers point out that place attachment in rural communities has received less attention (Kaltenborn & Bjerke, 2002), Place attachment is more likely to occur in traditional settings, such small towns and villages, and is stronger there than in cities, according to a important studies(Buttel et al., 1979; Wasserman, 1982, Lewicka, 2005, Wu et al., 2022). According to Gieling et al., (2019), despite the wide region and longer distances between individuals in rural areas compared to urban areas, the authors argue that the huge geographic width in rural regions does not significantly impact residents' sense of place attachment within these places. Contrarily, as a result of the imperative need for survival, there is an increase in the duration of time that residents spend on outdoor activities, thus leading to a rise in possibilities for social interaction, thereby enhancing their overall outdoor activity experience. That is, we intend to predict whether place attachment exists in a place. Villages and small towns tend to have a higher probability of finding it than urban communities.

The growing interest in attachment to places other than a residence has been one of the most notable recent trends in place attachment research over the past decade. Examples include summer homes (Beckley, 2003; Williams & McIntyre, 2001). Second Residence (Gustafson, 2006; McHugh & Mings, 1996; Stedman, 2006; Van Patten & Williams, 2008), outdoor recreation venues such as landscapes (Fishwick & Vining, 1992; Kaltenborn & Bjerke, 2002), Forest (Smaldone, 2006), Lake (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2001; 2006) and the Lake District (Williams & Van Patten, 1998, Rivers (Davenport & Anderson, 2005) and wild rivers (Hammitt et al., 2006), coasts (Kelly & Hosking, 2008), mountains (Kyle et al., 2003) and wilderness areas (Williams et al., 1992). In the past, there has been much attention surrounding research

pertaining to the human environment, especially those that can increase the emotional ties between positive mental and behavioural processes (Zhu & Chiou, 2022). Ujang, (2016) dwells into residents' perspectives,, emotions, and memories can be influenced by heritage sites. Findings indicate that urbanites' experience, role, length of association, and age provided varying reactions that defined the attachment, knowledge, and memory about the places. It is obvious that the study of place attachment in the past represents a reinterpretation of culture, experience, emotion and perception.

*Place Attachment in China*
The initiation of research of place attachment in China can be traced back to the year 2008. In their study, Gu & Ryan, (2008) conducted an analysis on the phenomenon of place attachment and attitude among residents of Hutong in Beijing, taking into consideration the concurrent increase of tourism in the area. In their study, Xu et al, (2009) put forth a theoretical framework that examines the influence of people's place attachment on their support for tourism development in core tourism areas. This framework incorporates the concept of expectation, drawing upon existing literature on place attachment and expectation theory. Subsequently, there has been consistent growth in the research conducted on place attachment in China, as depicted in Figure 2.4. Previous research has indicated that there is a greater emphasis on tourism within the field of place attachment in China. The majority of these studies focus on the emotional effects of tourism on local inhabitants (e.g., Gu & Ryan, 2008,Xu et al., 2009; Cui & Ryan, 2011; Chen et al., 2014; Fan & Qiu, 2014; Ai et al., 2022). In addition, study of place attachment in China also focuses on the psychological adaptation of individuals following population migration, as evidenced by previous research conducted by Qian & Zhu, (2014), Li & McKercher, (2016), Du, (2017), and Xie & Huang, (2022). Furthermore, the impact of PA on individuals' pro-environmental actions has been examined in several studies (e.g., J. Xu & Han, 2019; Cheung & Hui, 2018; Zhao et al., 2018; Cheng et al., 2021). Additionally, the psychological aspects of place attachment in relation to residents' reconstruction efforts following disasters have been investigated (e.g., Guo et al., 2018; Zheng et al., 2019; D. Xu et al., 2017; Peng et al., 2017). These four predominant study directions mostly fall under the domain of community research, constituting a significant proportion in all study of place attachment.
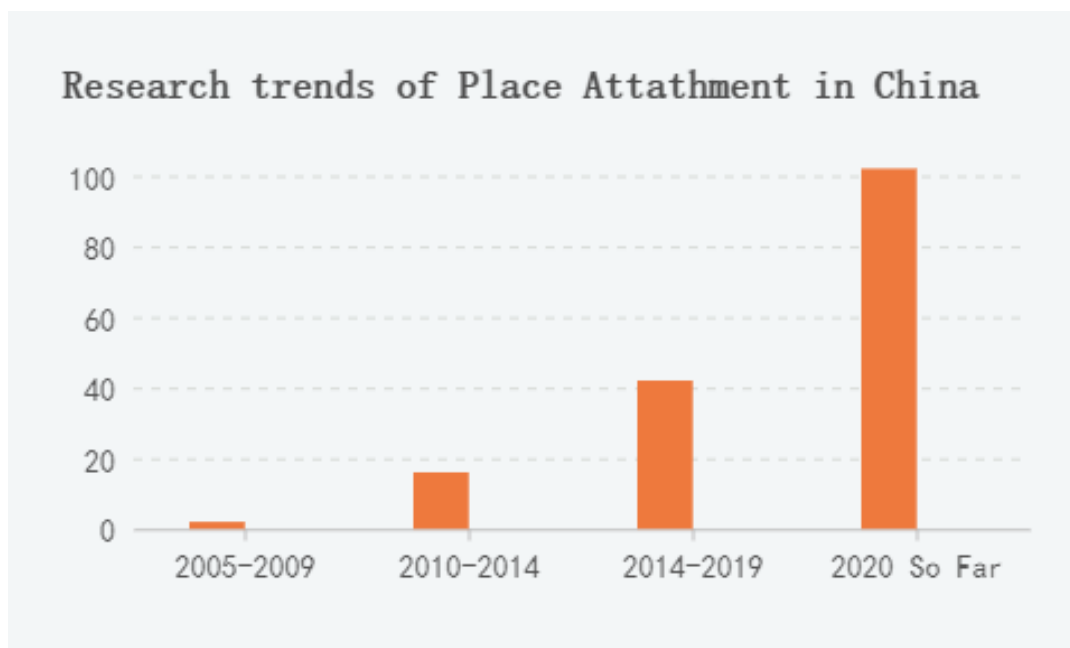
Figure 3 Growth Trend Map of Place Attachment Study in China

In the rural regions of China, the majority of academic research pertaining to place attachment mostly centres around examining the effects of tourist development on the indigenous population (e.g., Z. Zhao et al., 2022; Jia et al., 2023; Z. Jia et al., 2020). In recent times, the process of urbanisation in China has resulted in a decline in the rural population. Within this particular environment that we have presented the policy pertaining to the revitalization of rural regions. Urbanisation in China results in the depletion of rural people, which is undesirable. Hence, it is imperative to develop rural areas in order to mitigate population decline. However, the development of rural areas should not solely focus on tangible elements but also consider intangible aspects. Examples of such relationships include the connection between humans and the earth, as well as the emotional bond to a certain area.Consequently, there has been a notable increase in the promotion of studies on place attachment in rural regions in recent years, as evidenced by the works of Lin et al., (2021), Xie & Huang, (2022), and Hanbei et al., (2020). In China, community is a potential resource for rural revitalization. In other words, if people want to strengthen their place attachment to the countryside, they need to pay attention to community (D. Xu et al., 2017). The rural residential environment plays an essential part in promoting livability and sustainability within rural regions throughout the world. Developing emotional connections to these locations, it assists in the pursuit of an improved rural living environment (S. Huang et al., 2018). Moreover, Chinese minority groups have distinct cultural beliefs and landscape traditions. Their survival, way of life, habitat, and beliefs of these minorities are interconnected, with the passing on of these beliefs occurring across generations (D. Xu et al., 2017). Despite the various experiences and emotional developments encountered in everyday life, individuals from different generations commonly possess a shared perception of an "emotional home."(X. Chen et al., 2021).

Mazumdar et al., (2000) further opined in their article that ethnic enclaves possess an inherent magnetism, akin to an intangible centripetal force. They function as a focal point, a physical space where individuals feel compelled to visit. They feel compelled to reside there, as their emotional bond runs deep and is firmly rooted in that particular place. Shutika, (2008),

in studying ethnic integration among migrants, posits that ethnicultural activities can enhance community belongingness. According to Jelić & Stanić, (2014), populations that are more ethnically or racially homogeneous may foster stronger feelings of belonging or local allegiance. This is primarily due to the shared cultural practices, languages, religious beliefs, and social norms that such homogeneous groups possess, which facilitate mutual recognition and trust, and cultivate a sense of community. Additionally, these communities tend to form close-knit social networks, providing individuals with a sense of belonging and security. Furthermore, shared history and collective memory strengthen their emotional ties to the location, enhancing their attachment to the place. Skovse, (2018) posits that a common national language fosters stronger connections among residents, thereby deepening their emotional attachment to the locale. This supports the assertion by Jelić & Stanić, (2014) that a greater uniformity or similarity in ethnic or racial backgrounds within a group can enhance their sense of belonging or attachment to a particular place. Patwardhan et al., (2020) suggest that religious festivals rich in ethnic and cultural elements can bolster emotional cohesiveness, which in turn moderates the influence of place attachment on place loyalty. Barcus & Shugatai, (2022) explored how the Kazakh community sustains and develops its place attachment through positive recollections of the homeland, material artifacts, traditional festivals, music, and crafts. The study concludes that ethnic culture serves as a robust foundation for place attachment.

The researcher's analysis and consolidation reveals that studies on place attachment in China predominantly focus on regions such as Guangdong, Sichuan, Beijing, and Shanghai (see Table 2). However, previous studies indicate that areas with higher levels of ethnic diversity are more prone to place attachment. Being the province with the highest number of ethnic minorities in China, Yunnan, Province should naturally be an important area for place attachment research, yet there are surprisingly few studies on this topic. This finding suggests that scholars should pay greater attention to the geographical distribution of place attachment research and strengthen studies in regions with higher ethnic diversity.

Table 2
*Area of Place Attachment in China*

| Time Period | Situatedness | Province/City/Town | Authors（year） |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-2009 | Urban community, Tourism community | Beijing Hutong(heritage); Jiuzaigou, Cichuan(heritage) | Gu & Ryan,(2008), Xu et al., (2009) |
| 2010-2014 | Urban community; Urban tourism; Rural community; Park, Urban and rural community; Heritage tourism; | Guangzhou migrants; Shanghai; Zhejiang; Village of Hongcun, Anhui; Yancheng, Ankang; Changcheng, Beijing(heritage); Jiuzaigou, Cichuan(heritage); Qingdao; | (Qian & Zhu, 2014), (Qian et al., 2011), (Chen et al., 2014), (Fan & Qiu, 2014), (Gu & Ryan, 2010), (Yeh et al., 2012), (Cui & Ryan, 2011), (Su & Wall, 2010), (Song et al., 2012), (Huimin & Ryan, 2012), (Ji & Wall, 2011) |

| 2015-2019 | Urban community; Rural tourism; Urban tourism; Rural community; Heritage torism; Urban Park; Exhibition setting; Religion place Recreation Place | Shenyang; Guangzhou; Sanya, Hainan; Wenchuan, Sichuan; Southeast China; Lijiang, Guilin; Tianjing; Wuwei; Peri-urban areas of Guangzhou; Yuyuantan, Beijing; Wenzhou; Hutong, Beijing; Hongkong; Macau; Hainan; | (Li et al., 2019), (Du et al., 2018), (Ramos-Tumanan & Ryan, 2019), (Wu et al., 2015), (Zhu & Fu, 2017), (Li & McKercher, 2016), (Zheng et al., 2019), (Liu et al., 2018), (Huang et al., 2018), (Li & McKercher, 2016), (Chen et al., 2019), (Jin et al., 2019), (Luo et al., 2016) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 So Far | Urban community; Work place; Island community; Religion place; Rural community; Recreation Place Urban tourism; Park; Urban tourism; Heritage tourism; Rural tourism; Standium | Beichuan; Ganzi, Sichuan; Jiangxi; Nnanhai; Guangzhou; Beijing; Taiwan; Hongkong; Hainan; Hangzhou; Panxi; Guilin; Wuhan; Zhuanghe; Yaxi; Shaxi; Fuzhou, Fujian; Xiamen; Shenzhen; Chengdu; Zhongshan; Dujiangyan, Sichuan; Tanhualin, Wuhan; Hukou; Shaoguan; Zhujiajiao, Shanghai; Yaxi; | (Qian et al., 2021), (Chen et al., 2021), (Ai et al., 2022), (Wang & Bennett, 2020), (Mei et al., 2022), (Shen & Shen, 2021), (Li et al., 2020), (Liu et al., 2022), (Chen et al., 2022), (Tian & Wise, 2022), (Lam & Ryan, 2021), (Zhao & Li, 2022), (Xu et al., 2022), (Xiao et al., 2021), (Qu et al., 2021), (Zhou et al., 2023) (Li et al., 2022), (Wang et al., 2022), (Zhong et al., 2021), (Zhang et al., 2023), (Guo et al., 2022), (Pan & Cobbinah, 2023) |

## Conclusion and Future Directions

Place attachment is of great significance in landscape, reflecting people's positive emotional connection to a specific place (Tuan1961). This attachment not only shapes a sense of identity, but also inspires the motivation to protect the landscape and promotes cultural inheritance and cohesion (Greider & Garkovich, 1994). Whether it is a natural landscape or a cultural landscape, place attachment gives it a deeper social and cultural value, providing important support for the sustainable development of the landscape (Barcus & Shugatai, 2022). This literature review organizes the relevant studies on place attachment in landscapes. Initially, it outlines the evolution of place attachment within the landscape domain. The researchers trace its origins, elucidating the background from which place attachment

emerged and its initial articulation. Additionally, the review chronicles the ongoing development and expansion of the theory over time. Secondly, the researchers examine the contexts in which place attachment has been investigated globally.Lastly, the researcher focused on the evolution of place attachment in China, discussing the specific contexts of related studies and their distribution across various provinces.

The contributions of this study are primarily demonstrated in three areas, one of which involves the elucidation of the conceptual evolution of place attachment from "topophilia" to "sense of place." The author posits that the meaning of place attachment has stabilized to refer to the positive emotional connection individuals develop towards places, with such emotions potentially arising from cultural identity, social interaction, or a sense of belonging, among other factors. Notably, the article clarifies the distinction between the concepts of "sense of place" and "place attachment": the former encompasses both positive and negative emotions about a place, while the latter specifically denotes a positive emotional bond.Second, six principal types of place attachment scenarios have been identified globally, encompassing community spaces, commercial venues, tourist destinations, parks, heritage sites, workplaces, and religious sites. These scenarios represent the most frequently studied areas in existing research. The contribution of this article lies in systematically identifying the contexts where place attachment has occurred and proposing that future research could explore unexplored or under-researched contextual types. Finally, there is a noticeable imbalance in the regional distribution of place attachment studies in China (see Figure).Certain provinces rich in historical heritage and cultural resources, such as Yunnan and Tibet, have not yet been the focus of research, which is clearly suboptimal. Future studies should endeavor to shift their focus to these regions in order to fill the gaps in relevant fields.
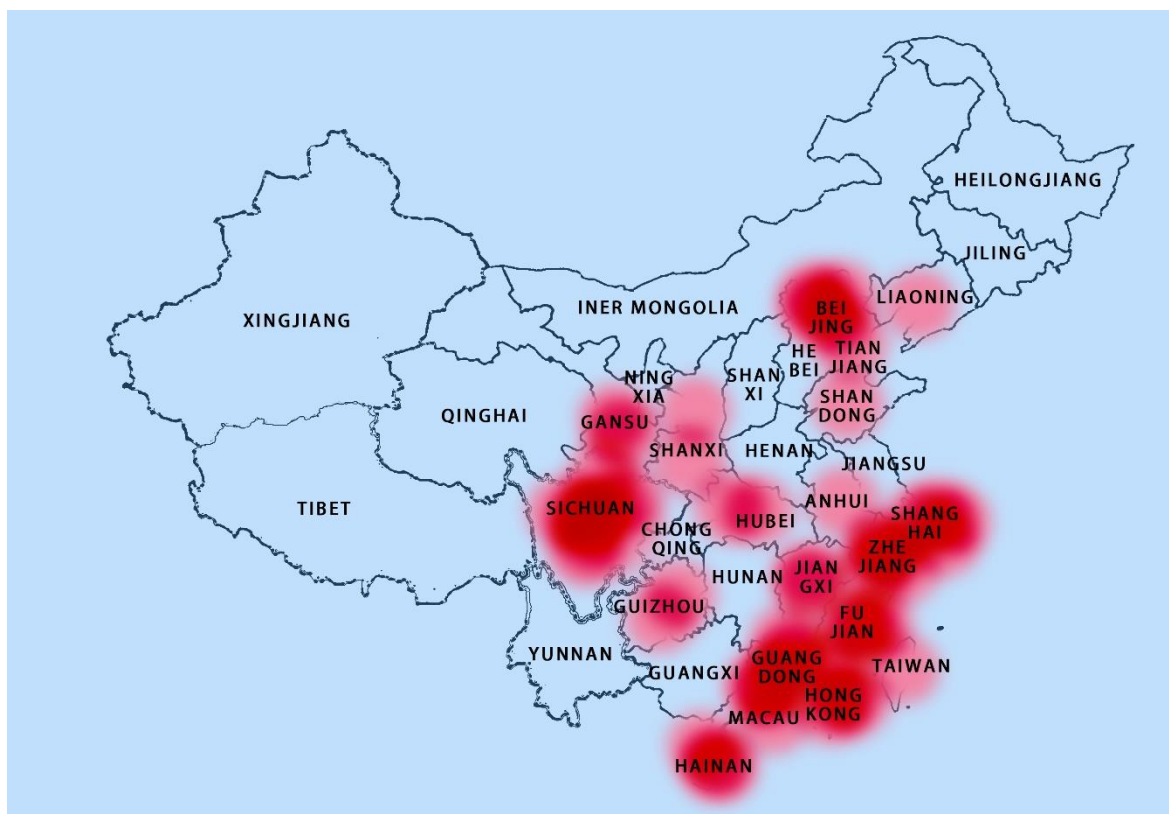


Figure 6 Distribution of place attachment research in China

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