Tuvshinzaya Amarzaya Bio

Tuvshinzaya Amarzaya is a third-year Ph.D. student in the department of Design and Environmental Analysis. Tuvshinzaya received a B.A. in psychology from Berea College, where she completed an honors thesis on effect of stereotype threat in female athletes. After graduating in 2015, she set out on her year of solo around-the-world trip to explore martial arts and self-identity as a Thomas Watson (IBM) fellow. During her travels in 9 countries and 15 cities, she was knocked-out flat when she observed how powerful the physical design of cities and neighborhoods was in shaping people’s behavior and their experiences of life. She then started her pursuit of applying environmental psychology research to improve life quality through reducing inequality and divide between people. With National Geographic’s support, she is now studying how affordable housing design and choice can alleviate the stresses of migration and improve social integration of rural migrants in Mongolia. Outside research, she loves practicing Muay Thai, climbing rocks and trees, SUP paddling, figure skating, and tinkering with burr puzzles.

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