

Urban Aspirations Asia

A Graduate Urban Studies Workshop

14 - 15 August 2014
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore



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Aspirations, Urban Governance, and the Remaking of Asian Cities

In collaboration with the Cities Cluster of the Faculty of Arts and
Social Sciences

THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST 2014	
08:45 – 09:15	REGISTRATION
09:15 – 09:30	INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
09.15	Tim Bunnell <i>National University of Singapore</i>
09:30 – 11:00	SESSION 1: Student Paper Presentations I
	<i>Chairperson: Kelvin Low</i> <i>National University of Singapore</i>
09:30	EXPLORING ASPIRATIONS OF URBAN WATER GOVERNANCE: A CASE STUDY OF JAKARTA Indrawan Prabaharyaka <i>Monash South Africa</i>
09:45	ASPIRATION OF CITIZENSHIP IN MEGACITIES: A CASE OF TRANSFORMATION OF SPACE AND PEOPLE IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF INDIA Achala Gupta <i>National University of Singapore</i>
10:00	SEEKING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH THE REFORM OF THE HUKOU SYSTEM IN CHONGQING, CHINA Samantha Shu Fang Lim <i>National University of Singapore</i>
10:15	OPEN DISCUSSION
11:00 – 11:30	MORNING TEA
11:30 – 13:00	SESSION 2: Plenary I – ACADEMIC URBAN STUDIES AND/AS PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP
	<i>Chairperson: Daniel Goh</i> <i>National University of Singapore</i>
11:30	'WHY URBAN STUDIES NOW?' Ananya Roy Professor of City and Regional Planning and Distinguished Chair in Global Poverty and Practice <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>
	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH

14:00 – 15:30	SESSION 3: Student Paper Presentations II
	<i>Chairperson: Michelle Miller</i> <i>Asia Research Institute</i>
14:00	COMMUNITIES AT THE MARGINS: SECURING THE SAFETY AND INCREASING ADAPTIVE CAPACITIES OF INFORMAL SETTLERS IN URBAN CITIES Benigno C. Balgos <i>Universite Catholique Louvain—University of the Philippines Diliman</i>
14:15	WHO WINS AND WHO LOSES IN HOW ‘FORMAL AND INFORMAL’ URBAN GOVERNANCE PLAYS OUT IN JAYAPURA, PAPUA, INDONESIA Ninik Suhartini <i>University of Sydney</i>
14:30	ACTIVISM AND ASPIRATION IN “NAYA NEPAL”: THE IMPACT OF ARTISTIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM IN NEPAL’S CYBER-URBAN COMMUNITIES ON COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE IN URBAN NEPAL Rachel Amtzis <i>National University of Singapore</i>
14:45	OPEN DISCUSSION
15:30 – 16:00	AFTERNOON TEA

16:00 – 17:30	SESSION 4: Student Paper Presentations III
	<i>Chairperson: Elaine Ho</i> <i>National University of Singapore</i>
16:00	QUEER MEN, THE INTERNET AND URBAN SPACE: IMPLICATIONS OF THE INTERNET ON PRODUCTION OF QUEER URBAN SPACE IN DELHI Kiran Bhairannavar <i>National University of Singapore</i>
16:15	ARCHIVING AND NOT FORGETTING: A CASE OF C20 COMMUNITY IN SURABAYA FOR YOUTH ASPIRATIONS Rahmad Hidayat <i>PGRI Adibuana University</i>
16:30	AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS IN THE CHINESE MEGA-CITY: RECENT TRANSFORMATIONS IN GUANGZHOU'S URBAN ETHNOSCAPES Roberto Castillo <i>Lingnan University, Hong Kong</i>
16:45	OPEN DISCUSSION
17:30	END OF DAY ONE
18:00	BUS TRANSFER for field trip
18:30	FIELDTRIP TO LITTLE INDIA
22:00	BUS TRANSFER TO ACCOMMODATIONS

FRIDAY, 15 AUGUST 2014	
08:45 – 09:15	REGISTRATION
09:15 – 10:30	SESSION 5: Student Paper Presentations IV
	<i>Chairperson: Eli Asher Elinoff</i> <i>Asia Research Institute</i>
09:15	WALKING IN CRYPTO-COLONIAL BANGKOK: CITYSCAPES, HAUNTOLOGIE, AND MICROPOLITICS OF TRANSGRESSIVE SUBJECTS IN “THAI” GHOST STORIES Supakit Janenoppakanjana <i>Chulalongkorn University</i>
09:30	GOVERNING WITH VISIBILITY: ENVISIONING THE IMAGINED HAN-TANG METROPOLIS FOR A FUTURE GLOBAL CITY IN XI’AN, CHINA Yang Yang <i>University of Colorado –Boulder</i>
09:45	OPEN DISCUSSION
10:30 – 11:00	MORNING TEA
11:00 – 12:30	SESSION 6: Plenary II – URBAN STUDIES BEYOND THE ACADEMY
	<i>Chairperson: Tim Bunnell</i> <i>National University of Singapore</i>
11:00	THE MORE THAN ACADEMIC WORK OF HYDERABAD URBAN LAB Anant Maringanti <i>Director, Hyderabad Urban Lab</i>
	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH

13:30 – 15:00	SESSION 7: Student Paper Presentations V
	<i>Chairperson: Vineeta Sinha</i> <i>National University of Singapore</i>
13:30	NEGOTIATING GENTRIFICATION: THE CASE OF TEXTILE MILL WORKERS IN MUMBAI Dwiparna Chatterjee <i>Indian Institute of Technology Bombay</i>
13:45	SPATIAL INJUSTICES AND “RIGHT TO THE CITY” IN VIETNAM UNDER MARKET SOCIALISM: CASE STUDY OF RESETTLEMENT AREAS FOR DISLOCATED PEOPLE IN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF HANOI Tran Thi Mai Thoa <i>Action Center for The City’s Development, Hanoi, Vietnam</i>
14:00	NEGOTIATING URBAN CITIZENSHIP IN WORLD-CLASS CITIES OF INDIA Priyam Tripathy <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>
14:15	OPEN DISCUSSION
15:00 – 15:30	AFTERNOON TEA

15:30 – 17:00	SESSION 8: Student Paper Presentations VI
	<i>Chairperson: Jamie Gillen</i> <i>National University of Singapore</i>
15:30	IS THE PERI-URBAN INVARIABLY INFORMAL? NOTES ON THE UNACKNOWLEDGED CITIES-IN-THE-MAKING George Jose <i>National University of Singapore—King’s College London</i>
15:45	‘URBAN HALLYU’(KOREAN WAVE)?: EXPORTING SOUTH KOREAN URBANISM TO HANOI, VIETNAM Joo-Hyung Park <i>Seoul National University</i>
16:00	URBAN GREENING; THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK, PRECEDENT AND POSSIBLE APPROACH Sylvia Agustina <i>National University of Singapore</i>
16:15	OPEN DISCUSSION
17:00	END OF WORKSHOP

SESSION 1

**EXPLORING ASPIRATIONS OF URBAN WATER GOVERNANCE: A CASE STUDY OF
JAKARTA**

INDRAWAN PRAHAHYAKA

Monash South Africa

This paper aims to explore the aspirations of community (groups) and institutions in Jakarta water governance at three domains. First, under the aegis of New Jakarta (Jakarta Baru), the Government of Jakarta aspires for bureaucratic reformation in multiple public sectors, including Jakarta water supply management. On one hand, to achieve this end, they push for control of the already privatized Jakarta water supply networks. On the other hand, they abhor 'legal thievery' by actors who exploit the subsidized tariff for low-income customers. Second, the water companies aspire to follow the model of small water networks of Manila to extend piped water networks to the periphery of illegal/informal areas and accordingly provide in-house piped water connections via 'master meter'. Whereas the small water networks in Manila are at a more mature stage, such methods of water provision in Jakarta are still at an early stage since the scale is smaller and the ownership is mostly individual, not communal. Finally, there are two strains of community aspirations: programmatic and pragmatic. The programmatic is exemplified by efforts of civil society groups to dismantle confidentiality of public information and furthermore annul privatization agreement signed at the dawn of Suharto era. The pragmatic is the basic need of access to clean water that can be readily consumed with minimum health impacts, be it through illegal connections and informal practices, or informal water vendors which provide higher water quality with exorbitantly higher water price.

I dedicate this paper to Jakarta, the city where I was born. This paper is based on a Master thesis on institutional pathologies and urban water access. As part of the thesis, I conducted three months of fieldwork from December 2012 to March 2013. Prior to that, I was working as a social worker for two years in Jakarta and involved in a pilot project of community-based water supply management and participatory spatial planning in a slum settlement. Beyond that, I have bits of urban experiences of Bandung-Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Mumbai, and Johannesburg.

**ASPIRATION OF CITIZENSHIP IN MEGACITIES: A CASE OF TRANSFORMATION OF
SPACE AND PEOPLE IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF INDIA**

ACHALA GUPTA

National University of Singapore

Transformation is a constantly applicable term for delineating the continual processes in any urban city. This process of transformation is much more rapid and intense in the megacities and New Delhi, the

capital city of India, by no means is an exception to it. Delhi has changed drastically over the years, and more so in recent few years. The significantly perceptible change in the outlook of the city may be attributed to the reorganization of the spaces through, to a large extent, relocating people—especially the ones who lived in slum and slum like conditions—and hence regenerating the spaces for “effective” and aspired utilization. Along with the change in the spaces in terms of its use and consumption, the often-indiscernible difference appears in the reorganization of the profile of the people in different spaces across Delhi. In other words, through creating an image of the “modern” and “global” space, a planned effort is made in the propagation of an ideal citizenry of Delhi. Although the economic and spatial cost of dictating this ideational citizenship of the capital city is enormous, more important I suggest is the tacit denial to the rightful agency of the people of Delhi. Based on the data, i.e. Master Plan of the city, experience of living amidst the relocated citizens of Delhi, I present in this paper a case study of Delhi city and discuss the aspects of reorganization of the urban spaces in the life of people through negotiation of the idea of citizenship to the megacities.

Ms Gupta attained her MA in Social Work (TISS), Master of Population Studies (IIPS), and MPhil in Educational Research (Cantab). Her research interest lies within the larger domain of Sociology of Education, and for her doctoral work she will be looking at mothers' involvement in their children's schooling in the context of urban poverty in India.

**SEEKING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH THE REFORM OF THE HUKOU SYSTEM IN
CHONGQING, CHINA**
SAMANTHA SHU FANG LIM
National University of Singapore

This paper applies the theories of the “right to the city” and “social justice” to examine the reform to the *hukou* system in China, which was brought up at the end of 2009. The *hukou* (or household registration) system was implemented to control internal migration, and it divides households into rural and urban. Briefly, there are three types of migration in China: migration with *hukou* registration, migration without *hukou* registration (unplanned or considered outside the State's plan, and also known as “floaters”) and temporary movements (such as commuters and visitors). The “floating population” has, up to recently, been denied equal access to social benefits such as housing subsidies available to “urban residents” or residents with the relevant *hukou*. The reform of the *hukou* system aims to address this disparity, by integrating more rural citizens into urban centres and easing the restrictions on the *hukou* system to enable more rural-to-urban migrants to enjoy the “*same rights and public services as original urban residents*”.

The author aims to address two important questions; they are: what kind of “rights” has the government sought to give to rural migrants and what type of “justice” has the government intended to seek through

the reforms. The analysis of the reform consists of three elements, namely: the facilitation of participation, eligibility for urban housing and social services as well as facilitating communications. The author argues that while the reform policies have explicated the right to housing and other social services, limitations to the right to participate remain.

Samantha received her B.Sc in Real Estate from the National University of Singapore in 2008 and her Masters in Urban Development Planning from University College London in 2012. She would be pursuing her studies at the doctoral level at the National University of Singapore. Her research interests include development studies and urban planning in the context of Asia.

SESSION 3

**COMMUNITIES AT THE MARGINS: SECURING THE SAFETY AND INCREASING
ADAPTIVE CAPACITIES OF INFORMAL SETTLERS IN URBAN CITIES**

BENIGNO C. BALGOS

Universite Catholique Louvain—University of the Philippines Diliman

With approximately 21, 241,000 population, Metro Manila is one of 10 ten hypercities (population of more than 20 million) in the world. While it is considered as one of the economic tigers in the region owing to increased investments and steady growth over the years, it was ranked second among the world's 10 riskiest cities in relation to earthquakes, hurricanes, cyclones, and tsunamis (Michael 2014). Owing to its ballooning number of informal settlers, particularly in high-risk areas such as the waterways, creeks, and rivers, it is becoming more perilous to live in its cities. As a case study, the paper draws from the results of participatory community risk assessment tools with informal settler families (ISFs) in three selected communities along San Juan River in Metro Manila prone to disasters – Tatalon, Dona Imelda, and Batis. More pointedly, the paper examines disaster risks of the said communities by looking at their hazard exposure and vulnerabilities. Additionally, it identifies the institutional responses to help advance risk reduction and increase the adaptive capacities of the aforesaid communities. The paper argues that institutional initiatives to address social vulnerabilities of ISFs should be sustainable, comprehensive, and politics-free.

Benigno C. Balgos is a graduate student of Development Policy at the De La Salle University – Manila. Mr. Balgos currently works at the Center for Disaster Preparedness, a non-government organization capitalizing on community-based disaster risk reduction and management (CBDRRM). More pointedly, he is assigned to a project on capacitating the informal settler families in various communities in Metro Manila to enhance their preparedness in relation to the disaster risks they (informal settlers) facing.

**WHO WINS AND WHO LOSSES IN HOW 'FORMAL AND INFORMAL' URBAN
GOVERNANCE PLAYS OUT IN JAYAPURA, PAPUA, INDONESIA**

NINIK SUHARTINI

University of Sydney

Rapid urban growth experienced by Indonesia during the last decades has resulted in an imbalanced growth among islands in this country. Urbanisation has contributed to a widening disparity between megacities in Java and outer islands. Papua Province, located on the eastern boundary of Indonesia, adjoining PNG, is the least developed province in Indonesia with the highest level of poverty in the country. In contrast, the capital of Papua, Jayapura has experienced significant urban growth since 1990s

with annual growth higher than provincial and national levels. Jayapura carries out national and regional growth and development functions and had experienced a significant improvement in HDI. However, issues of limited resources, limited implementation of formal spatial plans and policies as well as has led this city to problems in controlling urbanisation, including the rise of urban informality. In response to this, some groups who are excluded from formal planning system have developed their own governance and organisation processes to meet their basic urban needs. Several mechanisms in urban service provision are recognised and accommodated by the formal system, while settlements remain neglected as they are considered illegal and informal. This paper will elaborate on urban governance, both formal and informal, including self-organised mechanisms in urban service provision, by identifying areas and projects as well as actors involved in these arrangements. This paper concludes that (i) different actors operate under different rules and regulations (formal, informal and hybrid) and (ii) the boundaries between formal and informal urban arrangements are blurred and messy.

Ninik Subartini is a full-time PhD Candidate in Urban and Regional Planning and Policy at Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney. She completed her Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning at Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB) in 1999 and her master degree in Urban and Regional Planning at University of Sydney in 2003. She has been working in Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia for the last fifteen years and actively involved in diverse urban planning and development projects at local at regional levels. Her research topic is Urban Governance in Developing Countries: a Case Study of Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia.

ACTIVISM AND ASPIRATION IN “NAYA NEPAL”: THE IMPACT OF ARTISTIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM IN NEPAL’S CYBER-URBAN COMMUNITIES ON COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE IN URBAN NEPAL

RACHEL AMTZIS

National University of Singapore

This paper examines the narratives surrounding and the connections between environmentalism and activism in contemporary Nepal. It looks at how environmentalists, activists, and environmental and art collectives in Nepal engage with social media in the construction of their publicity, advocacy, and awareness raising materials. It also investigates the nature of the connection between environmentalism and artistic activism in the context of post-civil war Nepal and its implications for understanding online and on the ground activism’s influence on how social change and its communication are participated in.

Data for this research is taken from online observation of and semi-structured interviews with members of grassroots environmentalist groups and artistic collectives, as well as individual activists, looking at how these individuals and groups employ social media in the construction of their publicity, advocacy, and awareness raising materials.

Advancing understanding of the nature of the connections between online environmentalist and artistic mobilizations and offline activities will benefit activists and other individuals who aspire for positive social and environmental change within and beyond the capital-situated on-the-ground research site.

Rachel Amtzis is based at the Research Division of FASS, NUS, where she is a Research Communications Officer. Rachel has worked in Japan, the US, and Nepal. After working in communications for an NGO in Kathmandu, she researched ICT use by Nepal-based NGOs for fund and awareness raising for her Masters at the Department of Communications and New Media, FASS. Her recent papers focus on sustainable urban development in challenging environments, social media use in awareness raising campaigns, street art and street protests, and crowd-funding vis-à-vis crowd-voting for neighborhood revitalization initiatives.

SESSION 4

**QUEER MEN, THE INTERNET AND URBAN SPACE: IMPLICATIONS OF THE
INTERNET ON PRODUCTION OF QUEER URBAN SPACE IN DELHI**

KIRAN BHAIANNAR

National University of Singapore

Every evening, until the early 2000s, queer men in Delhi gathered in the Central park regularly to meet their friends, find sexual partners and socialise. Being one among the larger crowd, they took rounds, gossiped, met friends even as they attracted attention of others visiting the park. It is said that men from all the classes, backgrounds and corners of Delhi frequented here even as they used false names to avoid unwanted dangers that could come by. Men built friendships and meaningfully invested in these spaces that became central to queer men's lives. However, the popularisation of the Internet during the late 1990s increasingly withdrew middle-class men from these areas into private realms profoundly changing the way they engaged with the city. While men still had sex, met friends and socialised in the city, the Internet provided alternative ways that altered the queer geographies of the city to a large extent. My paper focuses on these changes.

Internet geographers have argued that the Internet mediates material spaces to produce new spaces, places and spatialities. Geographers studying sexualities argue for the political possibilities of the production of queer spaces. I situate my paper in these two strands of literature to focus on as to what happens to material urban space when the Internet mediates to co-produce queer urban space and what are its implications for the everyday politics in the city? I draw on the ethnographic data generated on queer men and urban space in Delhi between 2009 and 2013 to understand the same.

I am pursuing my doctoral research in the department of geography, National University of Singapore. My project is an ethnographic study of urban space and queer men's sexualities in Delhi, India, where I seek to understand the co-production of queer sexualities and urban spaces in everyday life contexts. Having completed my field work in January, I am currently in the process of writing my thesis.

**ARCHIVING AND NOT FORGETTING: A CASE OF C20 COMMUNITY IN SURABAYA
FOR YOUTH ASPIRATIONS**

RAHMAD HIDAYAT

PGRI Adibwana University

The paper attempts to highlight the efforts of C20 community in Surabaya to actively 'remind' Surabaya youngsters especially to their own identity as the heirs of Surabaya, which is rich in its coastal urban

traditions such as culinaries, buildings, and the plurality of the people. Its base camp, located on Cokroaminoto street number 20 (which explains how it gets its name from), is a place to record and publish through activities in public spaces, such as Post-A-Place (drawing a local place on a postcard, digitally archiving it and sending it to people inside and outside the community) and Ayorek.org, a site to gather any facts and values about Surabaya which seem to be forgotten by Surabaya young people. The paper specifically focuses on the way youngsters involved in the community are aspired to (re)capture their identities and find their place in this global world. By doing qualitative research, I interviewed the members of community and was also involved in their activities in Surabaya. It is argued that the community of C20 in Surabaya is filling the empty space left by the Surabaya government in empowering the youth to preserve their own city. C20 is also successful in creating a place for youth aspirations not only to 'memorize' Surabaya but also to make Surabaya a better place to live and to be creative.

Rahmad Hidayat is a lecturer and researcher in University of Adibuwana (UNIPA) Surabaya, with special interest in literature and urban studies. He teaches English Literature and Cross Cultural Understanding in English Department, Faculty of English Teaching, UNIPA Surabaya, East Java Indonesia. He presented his paper on urban studies at IACS Conference in National University Singapore (NUS), on July, 2013. His latest publication was Reading Society and Culture through Literary Text: The Significance of Cultural Studies Approach in Literary Criticism.

AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS IN THE CHINESE MEGA-CITY: RECENT TRANSFORMATIONS IN GUANGZHOU'S URBAN ETHNOSCAPES

ROBERTO CASTILLO

Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Over the last fifteen years, as a consequence of the sustained economic engagements between African countries and the PRC, along with China's post-WTO gradual relaxation of policies on foreign mobility (entry and housing), countless Africans have arrived in Guangzhou in the search for material and immaterial wellbeing. While these individuals have been generally conceptualised as traders moving things between the two regions, scant attention has been given to the dreams and aspirations they bring along and, more importantly, to the transnational strategies and tools they utilise in order to fulfil them. By following the story of Sky, a well-known Nigerian Igbo singer, event organiser, entrepreneur, businessman and father, in this paper I focus on how Africans that have been for longer periods of time in the city articulate their aspirations (i.e. success and family making) with those of the multiple, diverse, and highly mobile foreign and 'local' populations with which they interact. Additionally, I highlight how these individuals negotiate their everyday lives against complex regimes that govern their (aspirational) mobilities. In this paper, I claim that – at a time in which Asian societies attempt to articulate the multiple transnational flows structuring the alleged rise of the region – looking at how Africans pursue their aspirations in China (and how they intersect with 'local' populations and systems in doing so) achieves

two goals: firstly, it challenges contemporary discourses on Asian identity (i.e. race, ethnicity and nationalism) and, secondly, it provides a more comprehensive perspective on how are Asian urban 'ethnoscapes' being remade/transformed and what are the possibilities that emerge from these processes.

Roberto Castillo is a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at Lingnan University, Hong Kong. Roberto is originally from Mexico but has been living, working and researching in the Asian region since 2006. Besides Cultural Studies, his training is in Journalism, International Relations, Political Science and History. Since 2009, when he was working as an editor for Xinhua News Agency in Beijing, he became highly interested in the increasing presence of foreigners in China and their transnational connections. In 2010, while coursing a Masters degree in The University of Sydney, Roberto started doing cultural research about Africans in Guangzhou. He also administers a website dedicated to the wider field of Africans in China at www.africansinchina.net.

SESSION 5

**WALKING IN CRYPTO-COLONIAL BANGKOK: CITYSCAPES, HAUNTOLOGIE, AND
MICROPOLITICS OF TRANSGRESSIVE SUBJECTS IN “THAI” GHOST STORIES**

SUPAKIT JANENOPPAKANJANA

Chulalongkorn University

“Thai” ghost stories that portray marginalized persons as criminals and ghosts are considerably few. I argue that “ghost” is a figure whose identity is indeterminate. As a result of her ability to violate social boundaries and hierarchies, “ghostly” figures are constructed as threats in need of elimination. Generated through developmental discourses formulated by Thai government and aristo-technocrats, marginalized persons and their accommodation in old town areas have been perceived as pathological risk to the whole well-ordered social system. They challenged the veneer of attractive images in Thai urban society to reveal the inhumanity of modern Thai consumerism.

This paper is an experimental ethnographic study of the connection between modern “Thai” racial discrimination, urban landscape, and “Thai” ghost stories. My paper seek to explore: How “Thai” ghost stories construct histories and amnesia in the modern metropolitan Bangkok? By approaching Thai Chinese and Thai Muslim communities in transition from critical race theory and performance studies, this research is based on ethnography in/of visual archives and selected works of Thai authors Hem Vetchakornand Kanokpong Songsompane. I discuss two related topics. First, I analyze the reasons that make “Thai” ghost stories become ideological state apparatus to inculcate invisibly racial violence in Thailand. Second, I examine specific details of racial segregation in metropolitan Bangkok and the politics of urban space. As urban landscape seemed to erase reminiscence from the city, I try to comprehend urban culture via textual representing city life. This means transforming “Thai” ghost stories as cultural texts from objects in need of analysis into analytical objects. The key aim of this research is to draw analytical attention to the interplay between state violence and recent forms of modern Thai racism, and to identify the kind of post/colonial disorder that is taking shape today at the heart of the cosmopolitan states in Southeast Asia.

Supakit Janenoppakanjana is a graduate student in Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. His M.A. thesis entitled, “Ghosts” and Justice: The Study of Violence and Trauma in Contemporary Thai Novels, will focus on political marginality, normalized violence, trauma, hauntology, and discourse of justice in a transformed society that has wider implications for theoretical debates about citizenship, narrative ethics, and globalizing forms of justice in Thai society. In the future, he plans to translate Jacques Derrida’s oeuvre, Le monolinguisme de l’autre ou la prothèse d’origine, into Thai language.

**GOVERNING WITH THE VISUAL:
MAKING THE IMAGINED HAN-TANG METROPOLIS FOR A FUTURE GLOBAL CITY
IN XI'AN, CHINA**

YANG YANG

University of Colorado –Boulder

Urbanization has become a symbolic equivalent to progress and modernity aspired by the Chinese state. Sharing the common experiences of the South, Chinese cities are aiming at being integrated into the grid of global cities. While many take the path of displaying transnational architectures in urban space, some take a different approach by visualizing imagined historical cosmopolis in today's cities. In this paper, I look at how the visual is utilized as a technique of urban governance. Specifically, in the context of displaying historical culture of the Han and the Tang dynasties in urban spaces in Xi'an, I ask how the imagined ancient Han-Tang cosmopolis is rendered visible in the built environment. To approach this question, I primarily focus on the Xingjiao Temple, one of the many cultural development projects in Xi'an, to show different episodes of rendering Han-Tang culture visible and invisible in the urban plan.

Yang Yang is a second year PhD student in human geography at the University of Colorado –Boulder. Her research concerns ethno-religious politics, urban geography, cultural heritage, and Islam in China. Since 2009, she has conducted a longitudinal study in the Hui Muslim communities in Xi'an, China. Her PhD level dissertation research looks at the ways in which local Hui Muslims participate in cultural-themed urban renewal projects to make Xi'an a globalized metropolis. Meanwhile, she has participated in some local research projects on urban and cultural development as a part of her long-term collaboration with Xi'an Jiaotong University.

SESSION 7

NEGOTIATING GENTRIFICATION: THE CASE OF TEXTILE MILL WORKERS IN

MUMBAI

DWIPARNA CHATTERJEE

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

This paper attempts to describe the everyday life struggles, negotiations and aspirations of the former textile mill workers and their families as they face up to the challenges of the process of gentrification of the mill lands in Mumbai. In Mumbai the process of deindustrialisation and the slow but eventual closure of the textile mills from 1980s onwards coincided with the emergence of a new landscape where the service sector, IT industries and creative industries dominate. This has had an immediate impact on the textile mill lands around the CBD where the high end service sector industries and their employees are moving in leading to exorbitant land values and a landscape of contrast, contestation and aspirations for all. The remaining working class chawls are increasingly getting ghettoised and entrapped by the high walls of the emerging gated communities on the mill lands. The arrival of the upwardly mobile middle class has also seen the emergence of a bourgeois culture of malls, bowling alleys, art galleries and high end restaurants and these exist along with *vada-paav* stalls, small eateries and printing presses and lathe machinery run by the former mill workers. This creates not only a sense of discontent but ignites a process of negotiation, bargaining and rising aspirations within the residents of the working class chawls. This paper based on participant and non participant observations and narratives acquired through semi structured interviews, looks into this whole complex process of effects of gentrification of the mill land areas of Mumbai.

I am Dwiparna Chatterjee, doctoral candidate in the discipline of Sociology, Humanities and Social Science Department, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. I am working on the process and consequences of gentrification that is happening around the textile mill lands of Mumbai. My other research interest are everyday life, ethnography of cities, qualitative studies, space and time, place making etc. I did my post graduation in Geography from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

**SPATIAL INJUSTICES AND “RIGHT TO THE CITY” IN VIETNAM UNDER MARKET
SOCIALISM: CASE STUDY OF RESETTLEMENT AREAS FOR DISLOCATED PEOPLE
IN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF HANOI**

TRAN THI MAI THOA

Action Center for The City's Development, Hanoi, Vietnam

Following the pioneering work of Henri Lefebvre, over the last decades, urban sociologists have explored link between urbanization and the global expansion of neoliberal capitalism, in which “the production of urban space” has become a prerequisite for the renewed survival of capitalism. Researchers like Sassen, Harvey and Soja have also demonstrated how the globalization of neoliberal ideology has invaded cities all over the world, resulting in more and more pervasive ‘spatial injustices’ and depriving the marginalized urban residents of their “right to the city”.

The paper aims to use the theoretical framework about the “production of urban space” and the “right to the city” to analyze the case of Hanoi city in Vietnam. The research question is to which extent Vietnam’s unique version of “market economy” since three decades has contributed to the creation of new “spatial injustices” in Hanoi. I will illustrate how the emergence of an “entrepreneurial urbanism”, coupled by undemocratic urban planning practices, has contributed to the deprivation of the “right to the city” among a disadvantaged group of the city’s urban population. What sets this process in Vietnam apart from other countries is, however, the special role played by the State and the public-owned enterprises which benefits from a clientelistic relationship with the State. The case study of resettlement areas for dislocated people in urban renewal projects will be briefly discussed as an illustrating example. The main contribution of the paper is a qualified theoretical reinterpretation for urban study in the background of transitional economies like Vietnam.

I have background of economics for my bachelor study and then continued to obtain my master degree of Development Studies, specialization “Human and Social Development” in Geneva, Switzerland. I have a particular interest on urbanization-related issues, mainly in Vietnam but also in other Southeast-Asian cities. I am working now for an NGO with the mission of serving urban development in Hanoi, Vietnam. My target is to pursue a PhD in Urban Studies with a political-sociological approach towards the development of Vietnamese cities.

**NEGOTIATING CITIZENSHIP IN A WORLD CLASS CITY:
A CASE OF PERI-URBAN DELHI, INDIA**

PRIYAM TRIPATHY

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The current debacle faced by Indian cities calls for an intervention to raise epistemological concerns over the discourse of world-class cities in the making. My paper makes an attempt to critically analyze the ways in which this hegemonic neo-liberal narrative is capitalizing on the transformations occurring at the peripheral and subaltern edges of city thereby demanding renewed connections between models of city planning and people’s everyday life. The contemporary urban restructuring trends in many cities of the Global South proves the fact that the ‘aesthetic mode of governing’ now grips the city, as Harvey (1989)

would confirm, it focuses on spectacle and image rather than the substance of economic and social problems.

My paper strives to highlight the specifics of the worlding neoliberal project in Delhi, focusing on the distinctive spatial form being pushed (emerging urbanisms from the periphery), transformation of peri-urban land and sets of 'fuzzy' governance practices prevalent, and importantly the new ideal civic subject(s) that it seeks to create. My paper proposes that there is an urgent need to focus on the dilution of informal/formal, planned/unplanned categories taking place in the peri-urban fringes of Delhi, in the context of land, governance and citizenship. A critical engagement that emerges from this framework will question the 'models' of urban planning being adopted by Indian cities and thereby analyze world-class cities in the making not only as fixed nodes in global capital but as thriving discursive realities shaping the aspirations of many.

As a project central to this, is a kind of 'colonizing' of imagination and manipulating the aspirations of the common man to feed into a larger political ambition. At issue is the stark reality that the worlding neoliberal discourse, in offers of ideal city redevelopment and planning, always present arrays of actors and institutions in their common deployment and actively create new forms of citizenship. This contemporary political project of making world class cities as benevolent, futuristic and indispensable as it might seem, manifests to build a distinctive, idealized civic subject that its policies seek to attract to the city.

Priyam is a first year PhD student at the department of Geography and GIS-at University of Illinois -Urbana-Champaign, U.S.A. She holds an M.Phil degree in Urban Planning and Development from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B), India and a Masters in Sociology from JNU-Delhi.

SESSION 8

**IS THE *PERI-URBAN* INVARIABLY *INFORMAL*? NOTES ON THE
UNACKNOWLEDGED CITIES-IN-THE-MAKING**

GEORGE JOSE

National University of Singapore—King's College London

Does the notion of the ‘informal’ enable us to grasp key elements of the urban condition in our times, in our part of the world? How have we understood urban informality? Is *jugaad* urbanism an adequate explanatory frame in attempting to make sense of cities in contemporary India? And is the contrast with ‘civic urbanism’ useful and productive?

The notion of informality will be considered in the context of contests over ‘housing’ and ‘transport’ issues as it unfolds in some of the many thousands of ‘census towns’ in contemporary India. This paper will critically engage with the notions of ‘political society’ and ‘deep democracy’ in its attempt to interrogate the formal-informality binary, and investigate the debate around civic urbanism and its ‘transparency’ imperative.

George Jose is a Joint PhD candidate in the Anthropology Programme in the National University of Singapore (NUS), and the Contemporary India programme in King's College London (KCL). I am studying popular resistance to the city in the in the periphery of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, and am interested in conceptual resources and theoretical frameworks that query ‘the urban turn’.

‘URBAN *HALLYU*’ (KOREAN WAVE)?: EXPORTING SOUTH KOREAN URBANISM TO

HANOI, VIETNAM

JOO-HYUNG PARK

Seoul National University

Recently, what is called ‘New-Town Exportation’, an overseas urban development project, has become an important issue in South Korea. With the expanding demand for large-scale urban developments in the Global South, South Korean began to see this as a lucrative business opportunity. For instance, South Korean major developers and construction companies, with the strong support from national government, are now implementing or envisioning mega urban development projects in Vietnam, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Algeria etc. South Korean government and media evaluate this as “exporting South Korea’s unique 40-years new-town development experiences to developing countries” and proudly name it as ‘Urban *Hallyu*’ (Korean Wave). ‘Urban *Hallyu*’, as a peculiar worlding practice of South Korea, can be also viewed as an aspiration project to sell its urban forms and norms. In this

context, this paper will explore how and under what conditions the ‘Urban *Hallyu*’ phenomenon could be formulated. To be specific, what kinds of actors and institutions have been involved in the exportation of the South Korean urbanism? What types of cities does South Korea aspire to export? To answer these questions, this paper will explicate the case of Hanoi, where South Korean companies actively participated in the city’s urban development projects. In conclusion, this paper will argue that it is important to trace the complex circulations of urban imaginaries in understanding the emergence of new urbanisms in Asian region.

Joo-Hyung Park is a MA student at Department of Sociology, Seoul National University. He has a bachelor’s degree from Department of Civil, Urban, and Geosystem Engineering, Seoul National University. His broad fields of interest are urban sociology and human geography. He also worked as a research assistant at Social Science Korea Research Team on “State and Localities” under the supervision of professor Bae-Gyoon Park at Seoul National University.

URBAN GREENING; THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK, PRECEDENT AND POSSIBLE APPROACH

SYLVIA AGUSTINA

National University of Singapore

The paper will present preliminary result of on-going work on urban greening translated as urban vegetation and open space availability in relation to larger urban sustainability policies. The goal of this review is to provide theoretical framework, precedent and option on methodological approach to develop assessment on perception and aspiration toward urban greening with possible application toward small and medium scale cities in developing countries. Three efforts will be attempted to achieve the goals. The first one is to understand urban greening from the theoretical framework of human nature relationship. The second attempt is to review case studies of how cities of different scale and different country’s development state are addressing urban greening issues and how the policy relates to overall sustainability policies of each city and country. Two case studies will be reviewed from developed countries and two from developing countries. The third effort is to explore methods that have been used to assess perception and aspiration on urban greening.

Sylvia Agustina is a graduate student in the Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore, under the supervision of Prof Tan Puay Yok. She is also a lecturer at Syiah Kuala University Banda Aceh, Indonesia, and coordinator in the Aceh Green Map Community, a volunteer group working on promoting urban sustainability issues.