

**THE URBANISATION
CHALLENGE IN ASIA:
THE PASTS, PRESENTS
AND FUTURES OF
DENSIFICATION,
CONTRACTION AND
SPRAWL**

6-7 AUGUST 2024

YPHSL, Seminar Room 3-10

[The Urbanisation Challenge in Asia workshop...]

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SMU URBAN INSITUTE

The Urban Institute envisions itself as a research powerhouse dedicated to delivering impact through the study of Asian cities. By leveraging Singapore Management University’s strategic positioning as a vibrant management university located in Singapore’s city centre, the Urban Institute aims to develop empirical insights, theoretical understandings, and practical solutions to a variety of urban challenges. As an interface through which scholars, policymakers, communities and industry can come into meaningful contact and engagement with one another, the Urban Institute will be the first research institute that can speak to the plethora of challenges facing Asia’s cities, from the heart of urban Asia.

The Institute shall address critical issues shaping the future of Asian cities by forging an interdisciplinary research agenda that bridges theoretical and applied research, data science and the critical social sciences, industry and the academy, and Singapore and Southeast Asia. It seeks to synthesise and cultivate thought leadership and innovative solutions, inform policy decisions, and drive sustainable urban development practices that contribute to the development of more inclusive, resilient and vibrant cities. In short, the Institute will advance a new organisational and intellectual paradigm for the study, understanding and advancement of uniquely Asian urbanisms.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Prof. Orlando Woods, SMU Urban Institute, Director
- Ms. Yeung Lee, SMU Urban Institute, Research Manager
- Mr. Barnabas Mah, SMU Urban Institute, Research Assistant
- Ms. Emma Goh, SMU Urban Institute, Research Intern

TUESDAY, 6 AUGUST 2024

08:30 – 09:00	MORNING TEA
09:00 – 09:10	OPENING ADDRESS
	NAME Institution
09:10 – 10:55	SESSION 1
09:10	Designing density: Sprawl, in-situ urbanisation, and other hybrid settlement processes in Monsoon Asia STEPHEN CAIRNS Monash University, Indonesia
09:25	Sustainability experiments in urban China JUNXI QIAN The University of Hong Kong
09:40	Rhythmanalysis of urban (de)growth in a small coastal Chinese city: Exploring the possibilities of multiple urban futures SHENJING HE The University of Hong Kong
09:55	Aspiring to the “dense” in urbanising Indonesia? ORLANDO WOODS Singapore Management University
10:10	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
10:55 – 11:05	BREAK
11:05 – 12:35	SESSION 2
11:05	Ecotopian Densities and the Dispersal of Affect DANIEL GOH & TIM BUNNELL National University of Singapore
11:20	Urban Political Ecologies and Pathways to Multi-Species Flourishing in the Asia-Pacific Region CREIGHTON CONNOLLY The University of Hong Kong
11:35	Controlling Swarms, Managing Sprawl: Splintering Human-Pest Relations in Thailand’s Smart Cities

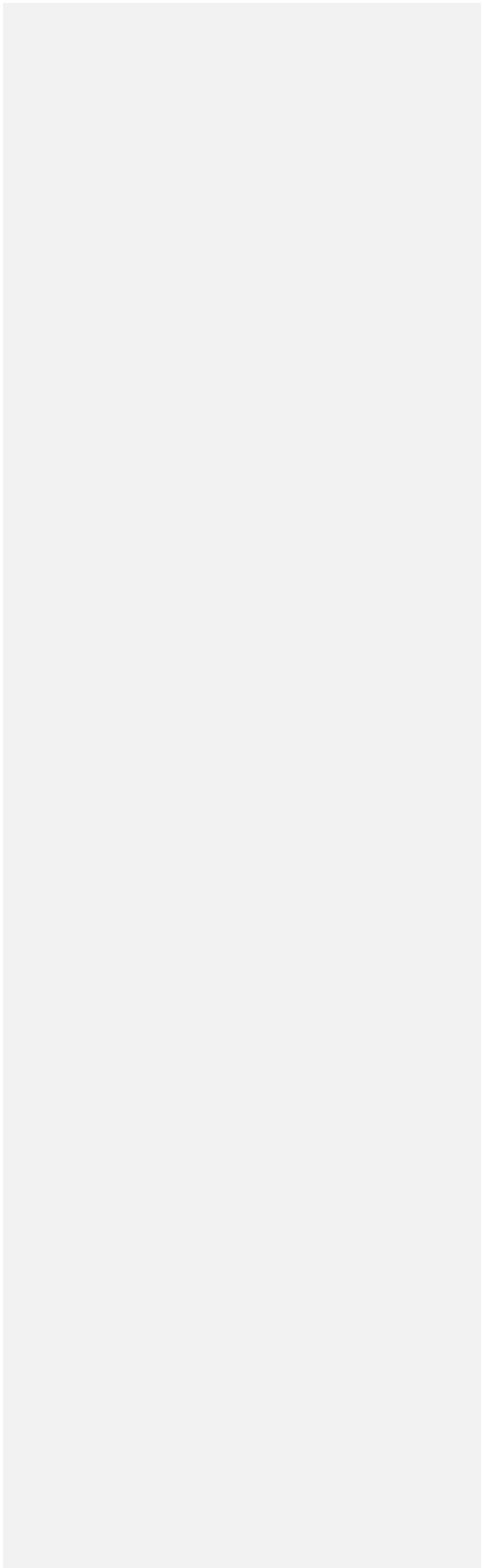
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	AL LIM <i>Yale University</i>
11:50	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
12:35 – 1335	Lunch
13:35 – 15:05	SESSION 3
13:35	Understanding the intellectual side of urban shrinkage or sprawl: urban “brain” structure and innovation in China QUAN GAO & HENGYU GU <i>Sun Yat-Sen University and Nanjing University</i>
13:50	From the gateway of Northeast India to Southeast Asia: Reimagining Guwahati through smart urbanism PRERONA DAS & DIGANTA DAS <i>Singapore Management University and Nanyang Technological University</i>
14:05	Green Infrastructure, Ecosystem Services, and Porcine Interlopers in the ‘City in Nature’* SAYD RANDLE <i>Singapore Management University</i> <i>*This session is pre-recorded</i>
14:20	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
15:05 – 15:15	BREAK
15:15 – 16:45	DISCUSSANT COMMENTS & OPEN DISCUSSION
Discussant 1	TIM BUNNELL <i>National University of Singapore</i>
Discussant 2	CHUA BENG HUAT <i>Singapore Management University</i>
15:45	OPEN DISCUSSIONS
16:45	END OF DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, 7 AUGUST 2024

08:30 – 09:00	MORNING TEA
09:00 – 10:30	SESSION 4
09:00	Resisting gentrification: Strangled Kampung in the middle of Private Cities EKA PERMANANSARI Monash University, Indonesia
09:15	Driving Towards Development: roads, risks and rights in Hyderabad, India* SNEHA ANNAVARAPU Yale-NUS College
09:30	*This session is pre-recorded Gentrification and its variegated emplacements: The politics of microregeneration in Shenzhen, China SHAUN TEO National University of Singapore
09:45	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
10:30 – 10:40	BREAK
11:05 – 12:35	SESSION 5
11:05	Small Towns and Big Issues: Resignification in Urbanizing India Bhoomika Joshi Singapore Management University
11:20	Urban Densification and Risk: A Study of Land-Use, Climate, and Hazards in Colonial Malaya FIONA WILLIAMSON Singapore Management University
11:35	Density and the good city: What density does (and does not) do for cities COLIN MCFARLANE Durham University
11:50	QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
12:35 – 1335	Lunch
13:10 – 14:40	DISCUSSANT COMMENTS & OPEN DISCUSSION
Discussant 1	JANE JACOBS Monash University, Indonesia

Discussant 2	DANIEL GOH <i>National University of Singapore</i>
13:40	OPEN DISCUSSIONS
14:40	END OF DAY 2



SESSION 1***Designing density: Sprawl, in-situ urbanisation, and other hybrid settlement processes in Monsoon Asia***

Stephen Cairns
 Monash University, Indonesia
 stephen.cairns@monash.edu

Since rapid urbanisation became a global concern in the early part of this century, a remarkable consensus has emerged around the design, planning and policy principles needed to manage that process in sustainable ways. That consensus has an aspiration for 'high density urbanism' at its core. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report accompanying the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for instance, marshal scientific evidence to argue that higher density city typologies not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also enhance overall economic and social vitality. Scientists are increasingly confident that cities with high population densities have lower domestic material consumption (DMC) per capita (UNEP International Resource Panel 2023) which may translate to lower ecological footprints. Such frameworks regard themselves as 'universal' agendas for development which articulate, in varying ways, the economic, social, and environmental benefits that high population densities can deliver.

Yet the rise of this policy consensus coincides with a persistent drop in global urban population densities and a growing wariness about the usefulness of the city as a conceptual unit. Both aspects of this debate – demographic and conceptual – hinge on urbanisation processes as they are unfolding in Monsoon Asia. The rise of hybrid urban-rural, decentralised, distributed, in-situ, agropolitan and pluricentric forms of settlement has focussed attention on the inadequate conceptualisation and quantification of density in urbanisation more generally.

The paper will reassess the claims, positive and negative, made for high-density urban models in this light. It will examine the immense variety of density types and propose more nuanced conceptual and quantitative principles for designing and planning sustainable urbanisation in Monsoon Asia.

Stephen Cairns [xx]

Sustainability Experiments in Urban China

Junxi Qian
 The University of Hong Kong
 jxqian@hku.hk

A noticeable shift towards sustainability is currently unfolding amidst urban development in China. From the Ecological Civilisation Initiative to the National Action Plan on Climate Change, to the green development goals set in the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan and Long-Range Objectives for 2035, and to the recent pledge made by the Chinese state to reaching carbon-neutrality by 2060, a series of global agendas and national policies have overdetermined this systematic transition. In this context, governmental agencies, private sectors, non-governmental organisations, even grassroots citizens have orchestrated a diversity of initiatives, projects, and interventions to reduce the ecological footprints of cities and enhance the overall liveability of urban areas. For example, city administrators at all levels, for example, are committed to constructing eco-cities, low-carbon cities, resilient cities, and circular economies. Corporate entities actively engage in developing green energy and green transport, reducing ecological footprints along the value chains, sponsoring ecological conversation and restoration projects across city-regions, and inventing smart technologies that enable consumers to effectively monitor and mitigate the environmental externalities produced in the everyday lives. NGOs focus on advocating environmental campaigns and social innovations to promote low-impact behaviours, habits, and lifestyles. General publics are also increasingly embroiled in social practices and debates about ethical consumption, responsibility for the Earth, alternative food practices, and low-carbon travel patterns. It can be argued that urban areas have become vibrant laboratories for sustainable experimentations. This presentation will take stock of these diverse initiatives and provide some premature opinions on their social, economic, and ecological implications.

Junxi Qian [xx]

Rhythmanalysis of urban (de)growth in a small coastal Chinese city: Exploring the possibilities of multiple urban futures

Shenjing He
 The University of Hong Kong
 sjhe@hku.hk

Rushan, a small county-level city along the northeast coast of China, typifies a shrinking city suffering from depopulation and brain drain, yet well known for biodiversity and longevity. Often preoccupied with economic goals while overlooking

ecological and wellbeing aspects, existing literature on shrinking cities tends to portray a negative image of urban contraction. Drawing on a rhythm analysis of urban (de)growth in Rushan, this study examines the changing association between multiple rhythms across space and time, i.e., the ebbs and flows of populations, economic activities, and ecological/environmental impacts in different seasons and locations, as well as people's perception towards these changes and their wellbeing effects. Detailing the arrhythmia, polyrhythmia, and eurhythmia of various rhythms, this study enriches our understanding of urban contraction and expansion by unpacking the multifaceted nature of (de)growth and its implications on sustainability and multiple urban futures.

Shenjing He [xx]

Aspiring to be "dense" in urbanising Indonesia?

Orlando Woods
Singapore Management
University
orlandowoods@smu.edu.sg

Density can be understood as a regime of value that permeates the urban form. Amongst other things, it is a symptom of urban vitality, a market-maker, and an aspirational ideal that guides urban policies and plans. Yet density also operates, and is operationalised, at different scales. Understanding density as a global, regional, national, urban, or sub-urban phenomena can cause it to become a developmental logic that is abstracted, to varying degrees, from everyday life. These abstractions can cause development pathways to become more uniform, and material progress to be obstructed. I illustrate these ideas by considering the emergence of "smart *kampungs*" in Indonesia, and the role of density in shaping national- and regional-scale policy ambitions and agendas. At the national-scale Indonesia's 100 Smart Cities movement, and at the regional-scale the ASEAN Smart Cities Network are designed to achieve a critical mass of smart cities to signal progress and success. Implicated within these ambitions are Indonesia's *kampungs*, which are positioned at the tail-end of urban development in Southeast Asia, and are typically defined by socio-spatial sprawl across primarily agricultural land. The developmental logics underpinning smart *kampungs* can, in turn, reveal the role of density in creating illusory demands, infrastructural mismatches, and thus potentially limiting visions of urban futurity.

Orlando Woods [xx]

SESSION 2

Ecotopian Densities and the Dispersal of Affect

Daniel Goh and Tim Bunnell
National University of Singapore
dansong.p@gmail.com
aridir@nus.edu.sg

Overcrowding and congestion are often the reasons cited for the building of new administrative and business centres to locations away from existing central government and business districts. The planning of right urban densities becomes the dominant paradigm for designing the new capital cities. Framing and dressing this paradigm is the ecotopian imagination of a future of humanity living in harmony with nature and each other, the right densities secured by technological progress. From the incorporation of Quezon City (The Philippines) in 1939 to the establishment of Putrajaya (Malaysia) in 1995, the ongoing construction of Nusantara (Indonesia), and the future building of Jurong Lake District (Singapore), we argue that these are exercises in producing ecotopian densities to right-size society and politics. Analyses of these cities tend to focus on the postcolonial aspect of civilizational representation through spatial design and architecture to create nationalistic affects. Rather than the attempted reconstruction as sites of civilizational memory, we argue that these planned techno-ecotopias are sites of civilizational futures. They are sites constructed to decentre and disperse nationalistic affects and other affects stemming from the politics of urban memories and histories. They proffer aspirational techno-ecotopian visions of the nation yet to come.

Daniel Goh [xx]

Tim Bunnell [xx]

Urban Political Ecologies and Pathways to Multi-Species Flourishing in the Asia-Pacific Region

Creighton Connolly
The University of Hong Kong
connolly@hku.hk

The unprecedented pace and scale of urbanisation across Asia and the Pacific has brought about considerable socio-ecological impacts and vulnerabilities associated with the expanding ecological footprint of cities and the metabolic processes associated with them. This paper directs attention toward some of the challenges and innovative examples in environmental governance for urban multi-species flourishing in the Asia-Pacific region, taken from case studies in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia. It is also concerned with identifying political spaces for navigating, negotiating and contesting pathways to urban sustainability in the rapidly urbanising region which has been described as post-political in some contexts (Lam-Knott et al., 2019). For instance, urban sustainability and resilience are core components of long-term urban planning strategies in the region, but often conceal tensions and contradictions that are embedded within capitalist urban development. The paper argues that urban planning and governance in the region would benefit from an approach based on multi-species flourishing, which recognises the myriad interdependencies of humans, animals and other organisms and promotes regeneration of the biosphere. The arguments and observations are based on a review of the literature on this topic, and ethnographic research in the case study sites.

Creighton Connolly [xx]

Controlling Swarms, Managing Sprawl: Splintering Human-Pest Relations in Thailand's Smart Cities

Al Lim
Yale University
al.lim@yale.edu

Smart city interventions have permeated the sociospatial dynamics of urban densification and sprawl, characterized by their suite of software applications, devices, and marketing allure. These technological advancements herald a vision of urban environments that are more sustainable and conducive to high-quality living, primarily through enhancing residential living and urban agriculture. Yet within these expansive plans, pests have been a critical and often overlooked element, posing a threat to the sanitized and hygienic ideals championed by smart urbanism. This paper argues that pest management strategies within smart city practices reproduces new forms of splintering urbanism through differentiated modes of controlling or adapting to nature. Utilising interviews with a diverse array of stakeholders in Bangkok and Chiang Mai – including government officials, corporate executives, residents and urban farmers – this research delineates a range of responses to pest management in residential and agricultural projects, from the technoscientific control measures employed in upscale, corporate-led residential projects to the adaptive, seasonal strategies devised by urban farmers. These human-pest relations' critical examination through Urban Political Ecology (UPE) and other-than-human perspectives thus illuminates the intricate power dynamics that maintain, mediate, and motivate the continued urbanisation of nature.

Al Lim [xx]

SESSION 3

Understanding the intellectual side of urban shrinkage or sprawl: urban "brain" structure and innovation in China

Quan Gao and Hengyu Gu
Sun Yat-Sen University and Nanjing
University
gaoq59@mail.sysu.edu.cn and
hygu@nju.edu.cn

The urban patterns of "shrinkage-sprawl" are predominantly understood in term of the quantitative change of population, while the intellectual and human capital-based measurement of urban shrinkage or sprawl receives scarce attentions in urban studies. In particular, conventional understanding of urban shrinkage may hardly capture the reality that some cities undergoing population loss and the decline of demographic dividend nevertheless maintain noticeable economic and innovative vitality. To fill in the lacuna, this study proposes a novel theoretical analytical framework that incorporates the flows of human capital into the traditional framework of urban shrinkage, re-theorising the processes of urban shrinkage or sprawl as the change of what we call urban "brain" structure. Utilizing panel data from Chinese cities spanning from 2000 to 2020, this study employs a spatial econometric approach to examine the relationship between urban "brain" structure and urban innovation. It shows that, against the backdrop of relative urban shrinkage, urban brain gain can drive regional innovation by enhancing the talent dividend. This critique challenges the traditional approach of solely assessing urban development potential based on the dimension of population shrinkage or expansion. Our empirical study supports an important policy implication: Despite the negative population growth and inevitable urban shrinkage, the talent dividend

triggered by attracting or cultivating high-skilled human capital can still provide impetus for urban innovation. This provides a reference for research on urban shrinkage or sprawl in other countries that are also experiencing negative population growth.

Quan Gao [xx]

Hengyu Gu [xx]

***From the gateway of Northeast India to Southeast Asia:
Reimagining Guwahati through smart urbanism***

Prerona Das and Diganta Das
Singapore Management University and
Nanyang Technological University
preronadas@smu.edu.sg and
digantas.das@nie.edu.sg

Northeast India has a long history of being treated as a strategic geopolitical frontier, and its cities have become a frontier zone for new investments in infrastructure and expanding the Indian state's urban aspirations (McDuaie-Ra and Lai, 2019). Guwahati, the largest city in the state of Assam and the northeastern part of India, is referred to as the gateway city to the region because of its strategic position. It was one of the first 20 cities that were selected under India's Smart Cities Mission (SCM). The initial smart city proposal for Guwahati included a mix of infrastructure development and ecological initiatives. However, more recently, the rhetoric of smart city has been geared towards transforming this city into an international urban hub connecting South and Southeast Asia by investing in large-scale transport and connectivity projects. While Guwahati continues to underperform in terms of achieving the initial goals of SCM, the state government of Assam continues to utilize the smart city narrative combined with India's Act East Policy to advance its own agendas of transforming the image of the city and attract further investments into the frontier. Smart urbanism has been used as a disciplinary, state-building, and nation-building strategy by different countries to advance various politico-economic agendas. Here, we argue that in the case of Guwahati, even the sub-national state has leveraged the smart city rhetoric to advance a geopolitical agenda of re-positioning Guwahati as the gateway to ASEAN and further expand the urban imaginaries of Assam and Northeast India.

Prerona Das [xx]

Diganta Das [xx]

***Green Infrastructure, Ecosystem Services, and Porcine Interlopers in the
'City in Nature'***

Sayd Randle
Singapore Management University
sprandle@smu.edu.sg

In urban centres across Asia, the preservation and expansion of nature-based infrastructure is an ascendant approach to urban environmental challenges. Strategically sited and designed green spaces are being established as a rapid clip to provide cities with sought-after ecosystem services. Such landscapes are a key element of Singapore's efforts to densify settlement while hitting a range of ambitious sustainability targets. The *Singapore Green Plan 2030* calls for developing an additional 200 hectares of land as urban nature parks, an undertaking intended to dramatically enhance the island's stormwater management and carbon sequestration capacity. But nature infrastructures can have effects on the urban fabric that extend beyond the realization of such desirable ecological functions. In particular, these sites frequently support the thriving of non-domesticated animals, creatures that rarely take centre stage in official plans for city life and infrastructure, but which have the capacity to transform people's experiences of metropolitan space. But whether loved, loathed or feared by the human neighbours, growing populations of such animals are thriving in urban settings thanks to urban greening initiatives, seeding new forms of multispecies entanglement. This paper considers these emergent imbrications through the figure of the wild boar, an increasingly common presence in and around natural infrastructures of Singapore's northeastern neighbourhoods. Marked by occasional mauplings, pig-vehicle collisions, growing fears of swine flu, and occasional online outpourings of affection for the boards, the arrangement is marked by ambivalence – and revealing of the fraught forms of relationality emerging through these urban greening efforts.

Sayd Randle [xx]

SESSION 4

**Resisting Gentrification: Strangled Kampung in the middle
of Private Cities**

Eka Permanasari
Monash University, Indonesia
eka.permanasari@monash.edu

Urban expansion in Southeast Asia has become increasingly common, leading to the displacement of low-income communities, changes in land zoning, gentrification, blurring the rural-urban divide, and the loss of cultural heritage. In the heart of bustling, ever-expanding urban landscapes, there is the paradox of "Strangled Kampung" - resilient pockets of irregular settlements amidst the growing presence of highly designed and regulated forms of private cities. These Strangled Kampung have withstood the test of time, serving as beacons of social and cultural heritage while battling gentrification and capitalist forces. They frequently have walls enclosing them, limited access, and a high level of disparity. Despite the challenges they face, these kampung continue to thrive, offering a glimpse into a disappearing way of life in the midst of rapid urban development. Within this dynamic, the juxtaposition of strangled Kampung" against the backdrop of private cities paints a stark picture of social inequality and spatial segregation. While private cities symbolise affluence, exclusivity, safety, and modernity, Strangled Kampung embody a more every day and communal way of living that is increasingly rare in the private city settings. This paper discusses the Strangled Kampung in South Tangerang and their ongoing tension with the Private Cities. The challenges faced by Strangled Kampung shed light on the social inequalities exacerbated by urban development, prompting a closer examination of the implications of spatial segregation in contemporary urban landscapes.

Eka Permanasari [xx]

**Driving Towards Development:
roads, risks, and rights in
Hyderabad, India**

Sneha Annavarapu
Yale-NUS College
snehanna@nus.edu.sg

The Indonesian National Narcotics Body (*Badan Narkotika Nasional* or BNN) carries out two main projects in its fight against illicit drug use: on the one hand it is a research organization that produces statistics on rates of drug use in the country, and on the other hand, it is a specialized police force that aims to stamp out the presence of illicit drugs through force. In this paper, I argue that written texts published by the BNN create the very target of surveillance that the policing arm seeks to eradicate. Using discourse analysis and semantic field mapping, I analyze BNN-sponsored publications from the 1970's until today to show that the BNN is invested in the discursive construction of the category of 'drugs' (Ind: *narkotika*) as a material and object in the world. I analyze BNN publications as a distinct register of discourse, and attempt to map the contours of this register by identifying five themes that appear across BNN written publications: textual authority, audience, loan words, the figure of the teenager, and qualisigns. Throughout, I take note of the discursive deployment of these themes to understand how BNN characterizes 'drugs' and 'drug users,' and to understand the role that discourse plays in the BNN's overall drug-eradication campaign. Extrapolating from this case study, I also argue for a more fluid view of the relationship between language and reality. I argue that discourse has material consequences on the world it seeks to describe, and that the traditional view of language as a symbolic system representing the world 'out

Sneha Annavarapu [xx]

**Gentrification and its variegated emplacements: The politics
of microregeneration in Shenzhen, China**

Shaun Teo
National University of Singapore
shauntwo@nus.edu.sg

This article illuminates the variegated possibilities arising from gentrification by analyzing it through the lens of emplacement. It asks how gentrification can be operationalized and managed in ways that intersect with but also supersede conventional modalities of gentrification-induced displacement, including opportunities for discordant spaces and peoples to articulate meaningful relationships with the city. Analyzing the microregeneration of Nantou Village, an urban village in Shenzhen, China, I show how state-sanctioned attempts to achieve socio-spatial integration between village and city ultimately co-opt village and urban residents to co-produce gentrification-induced displacement but also provides an institutional platform for the articulation of alternative collective and individual forms of emplacement. Read from an emplacement perspective, microregeneration appears to be a half-victory. It provides some residents an opportunity to grow symbiotically with the gentrifying city and represents a conjunctural moment in Shenzhen and China's evolving approach to urban redevelopment. An emplacement perspective complicates the picture of perpetrators and victims in the process of urban redevelopment, contributing to a more pragmatic approach to researching and theorizing gentrification in urban geography.

Shaun Teo [xx]

SESSION 5***Small Towns and Big Issues: Resignification in Urbanizing India*****Bhoomika Joshi**National University of Singapore
bjoshi@nus.edu.sg

The discourse on urbanization and urbanism in India and more broadly, Asia is particularly tied with metropolitan centers and the megapolis. However, and as rapid urbanization unfolds, the dispersal of non-metropolitan urbanism or 'small towns' in varied forms is not only resignifying the 'urban', but also emerging as the ground for the resignification of 'big issues' like democracy and development. This paper provides an overview of the globalizing urban condition of 'small town' with a focus on India that i) describes the historicity of the small-town form and the changes therein, ii) examines the contemporary political flashpoints across small town India and iii) analyzes the debates about the urbanizing futures of small towns emerging from such conflicts. The 'urban' is located in a broader milieu and especially in the current global conditions of disruptive political shifts and turmoil, the urban is very much a space for the unfolding of those changes and their contestations. The paper argues that the sites of small towns or non-metropolitan urbanism are crucial to understanding these concerns and to that extent are not only a matter of new geography but also a new urban condition. To do so, the paper will look into incidents of violence across contemporaneous small-town India that hinge on 'urban' issues and their implication for what it means for development and democracy in urbanizing India.

Bhoomika Joshi [xx]

Urban Densification and Risk: A Study of Land-Use, Climate, and Hazards in Colonial Malaysia**Fiona Williamson**Singapore Management University
fwilliamson@smu.edu.sg

In assessing the creation and impact of climate-induced hazards in urban environments, it is important to consider the vulnerability and resilience of urban inhabitants. The increased vulnerability of certain social groups or communities is not necessarily the result of urban population rise but more often the result of unplanned or unexpected changes and too rapid densification, often result of uncontrolled waves of immigration and/or rural-urban migration without appropriate infrastructure, housing, or social support. Urbanisation is a critical factor in the growth of human vulnerability to hazards, particularly for low-income inhabitants, at risk from environmental hazards and their subsequent cascading impacts, including, but not limited to, further impoverishment and poor health.

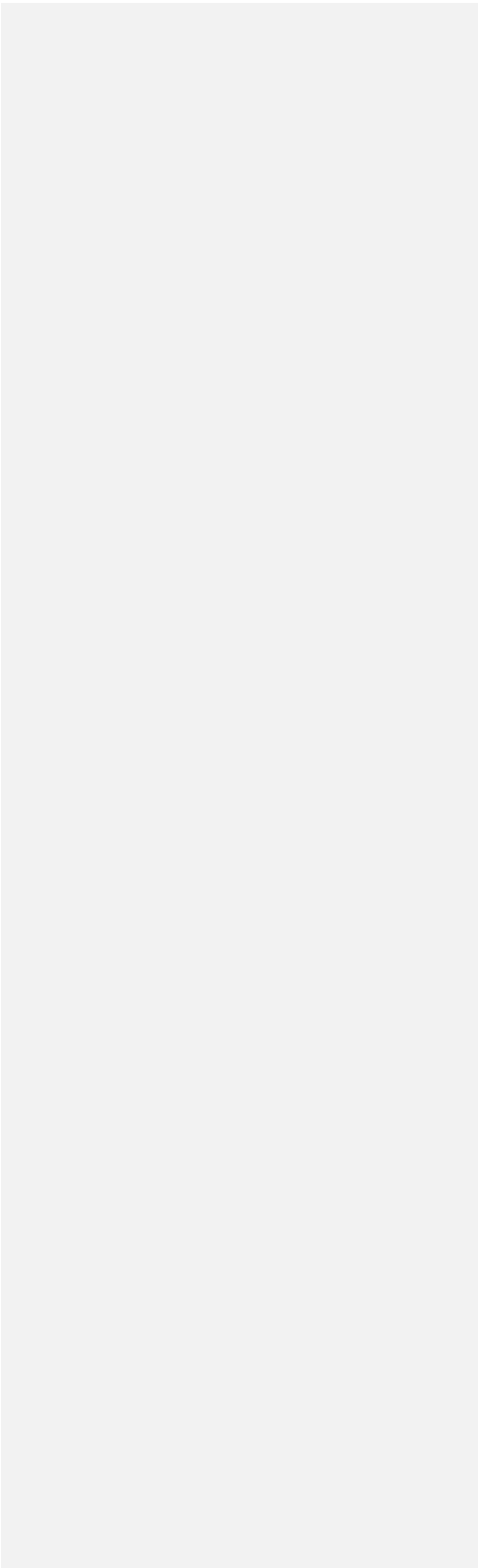
Given that nature-induced disasters are on the rise due to climatic and environmental changes and the growing numbers of the global population that inhabit towns and cities, understanding the dynamics of urban risk must be placed at the forefront of Anthropogenic urban studies. Following key work in historical disaster studies by scholars including Ben Wisner, Piers Blaikie, Bas van Bavel and others, this article uses historical case-studies as a laboratory to explore the dynamics of risk and vulnerability as result of linked environmental and climatic triggers. It focusses on the towns of Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Singapore in the late nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries and their experience of environmental transformations, extreme weather, and population changeability.

Fiona Williamson [xx]

Density and the good city: What density does (and does not) do for cities**Colin McFarlane**Durham University
colin.mcfarlane@durham.ac.uk

Density has been positioned as a solution to all kinds of urban problems, from climate change and economic innovation to social cohesion. However, the claims made on behalf of density are under increasingly critical scrutiny. What, then, does density – and densification strategies – offer the city? And for whom? Drawing on research conducted in several cities, including in Asia, I argue for a focus on situated densities that work with density resources and thresholds, and which approach density as a networked concept and process in the city rather than an isolated 'urban good'. Doing so shifts the focus from whether densities are good for the city or not, towards research, policy and practice shaped by, first, the experience of residents themselves and, second, by how those experiences might connect to wider processes of de/re-densification.

Colin McFarlane [xx]



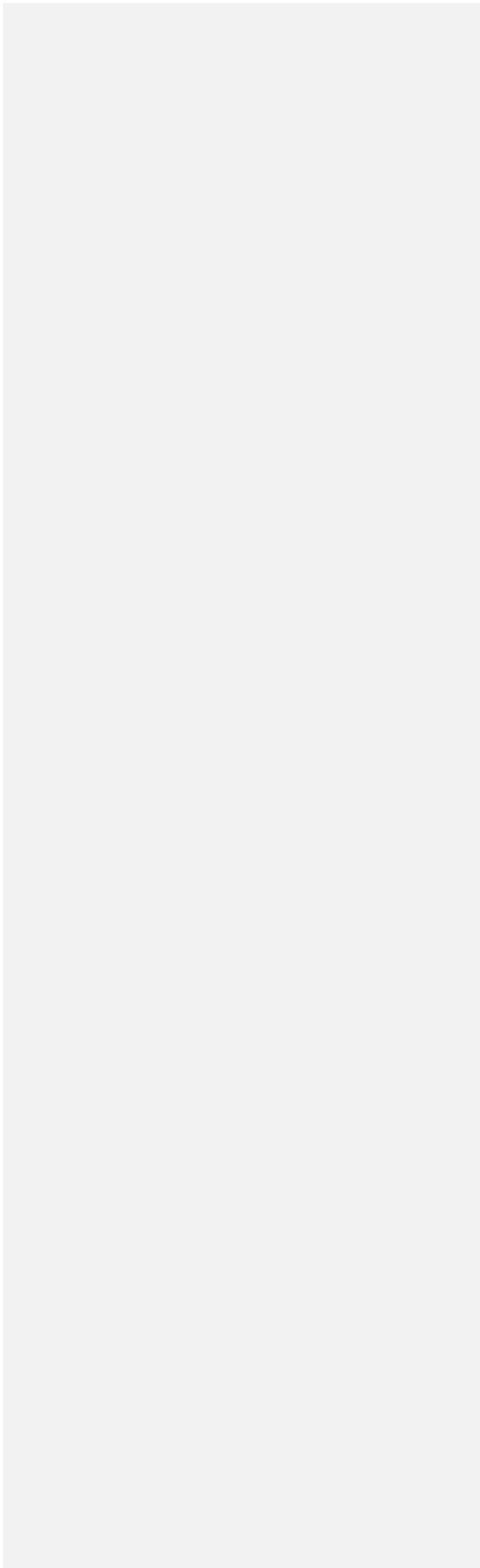
ABOUT THE DISCUSSANTS

Tim BUNNELL | aridir.nus.edu.sg
[xx]

CHUA Beng Huat | bhchua@smu.edu.sg
[xx]

Jane JACOBS | jane.jacobs@monash.edu
[xx]

Daniel GOH | socgohd@nus.edu.sg
[x]



CONTACT DETAILS

Ms. Yeung Lee

Singapore Management University, Urban Institute
81 Victoria Street, Singapore 188065
Administration Building
Email: leeyeung@smu.edu.sg