



Second China Made Workshop: China's Domestic Infrastructure

January 9-10, 2020 – University of Hong Kong

Hosted by the **University of Colorado Center for Asian Studies** and the **Hong Kong Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences**

Workshop Objectives

This workshop will bring together scholars from different fields of the social sciences and humanities to discuss infrastructure development in China. Drawing on the recent infrastructural turn in the social sciences and bearing on an ethnographic approach to infrastructure, the workshop puts the spotlight on China's domestic infrastructure. It is based on the premise that in order to understand the "China Model" of infrastructure development abroad, now increasingly under scrutiny due to the prominence of the Belt and Road Initiative, it is fundamental to first address its domestic dimensions. The goal of the workshop is thus to trace how infrastructure development occurs within China and to interrogate how that process shapes the outward project of export infrastructure that is now a key feature of China's political economy.

Papers for the workshop will focus on fine-grained investigations of China's domestic infrastructure, including its political, social, cultural and environmental dimensions. By way of such approach, the workshop aims at both analyzing and ethnographically de-constructing the notion of a China model of development that projects such as the BRI have put forward. Through discussion of the papers, the workshop seeks to facilitate exchanges on common research subjects, compare perspectives and methodologies, and promote interdisciplinary dialogue. By offering a space for debate and reflection, the workshop aims to advance a diversity of theoretical approaches to Chinese infrastructure development in a regional and global context.

Part of the workshop will also be dedicated to a discussion of Hong Kong as a particular entry point into the analysis of China's infrastructure. As demonstrated by the recent inauguration of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge and the West Kowloon high-speed railway station, Hong Kong can be seen as both an exemplary showcase of China's infrastructural hubris, and as an instantiation of the interconnection between infrastructure development and state territorialization. In so doing, we aim to further the debate on the role of Hong Kong in China's vision for its own future development, and the role that infrastructure plays in its construction.

Format

The workshop is divided into five sessions, each comprising 2 or 3 papers. In each session we will dedicate 45 minutes to discuss a single paper. There will be **no formal presentation**; rather, each session will begin with comments from the discussant (10 minutes), followed by a Q&A with the workshop participants (30 minutes) and final response by the author (5 minutes). This format will allow us to both discuss a single paper in detail, while also drawing connections between different papers within a particular session.

Workshop program

Day 1 (Wednesday January 8th)

- Arrivals

Day 2 (Thursday January 9th)

Time	Session	Discussant
8.30 – 9.00	Introduction: Tim Oakes and Max Hirsh	
9.00 – 10.30	Session 1: Exceptional Spaces and Socialist Legacies Elisabeth Köll – “The Making and Unmaking of Pukou: Urban Development, Infrastructure Changes, and Mobility Shifts from the early 20th Century to the Present” Tim Oakes – “Infrastructure Space in a Chinese Register”	Andrew Kipnis
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00 – 1.15	Session 2: Focus on Hong Kong Carolyn Cartier – “Cultural Infrastructure and the Post/Socialist City: “Cultural Facilities” 文化设施 and the National Palace Museum at the West Kowloon Cultural District” Andrew Toland – “Making the Foreign Domestic and the Domestic Foreign through the Infrastructure of Hong Kong’s Artificial Island Landscapes” Dorothy Tang – “The Territory of Water Supply: Landscape Transformations and Engineering Water Security in Hong Kong”	Cecilia Chu
1.15 – 2.15	Lunch	
2.30 – 6.00	Excursion (destination TBD)	
6.00 – 8.00	Dinner	

Day 3 (Friday January 10th)

Time	Session	Discussant
9.00 – 11.45	Session 3: Grids, Networks and Parks Darren Byler – “Infrastructures of Uyghur 'Reeducation': Carceral Industrial Parks in Northwest China” Darcy Pan – “From farmland to server farms: making state and infrastructure in Southwest China” Tyler Harlan – “Little “e” or big “E”? The evolution of energy generation in rural China”	Mia Bennett
11.45 – 1.15	Lunch	

1.15 – 3.30	Session 4: (Im)mobility, Environment, Stories Emily Yeh – “Environmental-Infrastructural Politics in the era of Ecological Civilization” Max Hirsh – “Producing Infrastructure in Contemporary China: Notes from the Airport Industry” Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi – “New roads, old stories: Travelling through bureaucracy and time in northwest China” (via Skype)	Alessandro Rippa
3.30 – 4.00	Coffee break	
4.00 – 5.00	Wrap up session (discussion of publication and future collaboration)	
7.00 – 9.00	Dinner	

Day 4 (Saturday January 11th)

- Optional group hike (destination TBD)

Day 5 (Sunday January 12th)

- Departures

Venue

Room 201, 2/F, May Hall, The University of Hong Kong (location map can be found here: <https://www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/location-map/>)

Lodging

The **Hong Kong Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences** will cover lodging at **Robert Black College** (<https://www.rblack.hku.hk/>) for four nights (January 8-12). Location map can be found here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Robert+Black+College/@22.2817373,114.1369499,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x3403ff85d6faf6b5:0xa7d677ea6120d02a!8m2!3d22.2817324!4d114.1391386>.

Travel

Workshop participants can book directly with CU’s official travel provider, **Christopherson Business Travel (CBT)**; please contact our direct agent there, Donna Marshall, at 855 462 8885 or Donna.Marshall@cbtravel.com. You will need to provide your exact name as it appears on your passport, passport number and expiration date, as well as country of issue and your date of birth along with your travel preference. Tell her that Liza Williams is the authorizing CU Boulder employee. Donna will have a list of workshop participants and will charge CAS directly. She can only charge CAS for the basic economy round trip; any additional travel will have to be arranged separately and paid for on a personal card (for instance: you can book London to HK then HK to Delhi, as long as it costs less than the return ticket from initial airport. Yet Christopherson cannot book multiple stops and then get reimbursed for the difference).

Alternatively, you can send your preferred itinerary and personal details to **Liza Williams** at CAS and she will book through CBT on your behalf. Liza can be reached at **303 735 5122** or **Liza.Williams@colorado.edu**.

Participant List

Conveners

Tim Oakes – Professor of Geography, University of Colorado Boulder (toakes@colorado.edu)

Max Hirsh – Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Hong Kong (hirsh@hku.hk)

Dorothy Tang – Adjunct Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Hong Kong and Doctoral Student, Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (dstang@mit.edu)

Emily Yeh – Professor of Geography, University of Colorado Boulder (emily.yeh@colorado.edu)

Alessandro Rippa – Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Colorado Boulder (alessandro.rippa@colorado.edu)

Invited Participants

Mia Bennett – Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Hong Kong (mbennett@hku.hk)

Darren Byler – Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington (dtbyler@gmail.com)

Carolyn Cartier – Professor of Human Geography and China Studies, University of Technology Sydney (Carolyn.Cartier@uts.edu.au)

Cecilia Chu – Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Hong Kong (clchu@hku.hk)

Tyler Harlan – Atkinson Postdoctoral Fellow in Sustainability, Cornell University (trh75@cornell.edu)

Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi – Assistant Professor, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Zurich (agnieszka.joniak@anthro.unibe.ch)

Andrew Kipnis – Professor of Anthropology, Chinese University of Hong Kong (abkipnis@cuhk.edu.hk)

Elisabeth Köll – Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Notre Dame (ekoll@nd.edu)

Darcy Pan – Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University (darcy.pan@ace.lu.se)

Andrew Toland – Lecturer, School of Architecture, University of Technology Sydney (Andrew.Toland@uts.edu.au)