

GLOBAL INSURGENCIES – REMAKING THE PUBLIC CITY IN ASIA (3 – 4 Dec 2012)

Co-organised by Asia Research Institute and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Held at the ARI Seminar Room, Tower Block, Level 10, Bukit Timah Road

3 DECEMBER 2012 (MONDAY)

09:00 – 09:15	REGISTRATION
09:15 – 09:30	WELCOME REMARKS
	<p>Prof Prasenjit DUARA Director of the Asia Research Institute and the Director of Research, Humanities and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore</p> <p>Prof Mike DOUGLASS Cluster Leader of Asian Urbanisms Cluster, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</p> <p>Dr Peter MAROLT Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore</p> <p>Dr Rita PADAWANGI Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore</p>
09:30 – 11:30	SESSION 1
Chairperson:	Dr Rita PADAWANGI , National University of Singapore
Discussants:	Assoc Prof HO Kong Chong , National University of Singapore Dr Peter MAROLT , National University of Singapore
	<p>Contesting Urban Space(s) In Southeast Asian Cities: Theoretical An Empirical Explorations</p> <p>Prof Terry MCGEE University of British Columbia, Canada</p>
	<p>Dancing in the Park: Urban Insurgency to Reclaim the Public City in Hanoi</p> <p>Prof Mike DOUGLASS National University of Singapore</p> <p>Prof HUANG Liling National Taiwan University</p>
11:30 – 12:30	SESSION 2
Chairperson:	Dr Peter MAROLT , National University of Singapore
Discussant:	Dr Rita PADAWANGI , National University of Singapore
	<p>The Power (and Limits) of Everyday Insurgency</p> <p>Assoc Prof Jeffrey HOU University of Washington, USA</p>
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH

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13:30 – 14:30	SESSION 3
Chairperson:	Assoc Prof Pornpan CHINNAPONG , King Mongkut Institute of Technology, Thailand
Discussant:	Dr Michelle MILLER , National University of Singapore
	Counter-Hegemonic Spaces of Hope: Constructing the Public City in Jakarta, Singapore Dr Rita PADAWANGI National University of Singapore
14:30 – 15:30	SESSION 4
Chairperson:	Assoc Prof YIP Ngai Ming , City University of Hong Kong
Discussant:	Prof Mike DOUGLASS , National University of Singapore
	From a Shabby Downtown to an Iconic Cultural District: Cultural Cluster Strategy of Totatoga in Busan, South Korea Dr PARK Se Hoon Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, Korea
15:30 – 16:00	TEA BREAK
16:00 – 17:00	SESSION 5
Chairperson:	Assoc Prof Merlyna LIM , Arizona State University, USA
Discussant:	Prof Terry MCGEE , University of British Columbia, Canada
	Realizing the Public City: Small Victories in Taipei and Bangkok Assoc Prof HO Kong Chong National University of Singapore Assoc Prof Pornpan CHINNAPONG King Mongkut Institute of Technology, Thailand
17:00 – 18:00	OPEN DISCUSSION FOR DAY 1
Discussants:	Prof Mike DOUGLASS , National University of Singapore and Prof Terry MCGEE , University of British Columbia, Canada
18:00	END OF DAY 1
18:30	WORKSHOP DINNER (For Speakers, Chairpersons & Invited Guests)
20:30	BUS TRANSFER BACK TO HOTEL

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4 DECEMBER 2012 (TUESDAY)

08:45 – 09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00 – 10:00	SESSION 6
Chairperson:	Prof Terry MCGEE , University of British Columbia, Canada
Discussant:	Asst Prof Staffan LÖFVING , Stockholm University, Sweden
	Inverted Insurgencies and Invisible Inequalities in a Ho Chi Minh City New Urban Zone Asst Prof Erik HARMS Yale University, USA
10:00 – 11:00	SESSION 7
Chairperson:	Assoc Prof HO Kong Chong , National University of Singapore
Discussant:	Asst Prof HUANG Liling , National Taiwan University
	Right to the Neighbourhood? Right to the City? Contesting Urban Space in a Weak Civil Society Assoc Prof YIP Ngai Ming City University of Hong Kong
11:00 – 11:30	TEA BREAK
11:30 – 12:30	SESSION 8
Chairperson:	Assoc Prof Jeffrey HOU , University of Washington, USA Assoc Prof Timothy BUNNELL , National University of Singapore
Discussant:	Sweeping the Unclean: Contesting Power in Cyberspaces and Cityscapes of Malaysia Assoc Prof Merlyna LIM Arizona State University, USA
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 14:30	SESSION 9
Chairperson:	Dr PARK Se Hoon , Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, Korea
Discussant:	Assoc Prof Merlyna LIM , Arizona State University, USA
	Spaces of Outrage and Hope in China's CybUrban Zomia Dr Peter MAROLT National University of Singapore
14:30 – 15:30	OPEN DISCUSSION & CLOSING REMARKS
	Prof Mike DOUGLASS Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore Dr Peter MAROLT Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore Dr Rita PADAWANGI Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
15:45	BUS TRANSFER TO ARMENIAN ST.
16:00	Coffee and Snacks at Select Books @ Armenian Street (www.selectbooks.com.sg)
18:00	FILM FESTIVAL @ the SUBSTATION
22:00	BUS TRANSFER BACK TO HOTEL

CONTESTING URBAN SPACE(s) IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN CITIES: THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL EXPLORATIONS

Terry MCGEE

University of British Columbia, Canada

This concept paper is divided into 4 parts.

A) Introduction

This deal with issues that I argue should enter into the dialogue of the meeting. While not inclusive they should include (1) the deconstruction of terminology that is being used to structure our thinking about the idea of the "public city" (2) the understanding of the concept of civil society, the market and state (3) ideas of space including "public space" "urban spaces" "symbolic space" and "territorial space" (4) the meaning of "contestation" in the specific case of the "über-corporatization that is systematically removing city spaces from public oversight" which in a wider context is often presented as the "right to the city." (5) the meaning of "urban space" in the present phase of urban growth in Southeast Asia.

A second set of issues relates to shaping of discussions. In my paper I try to organize my intervention around three questions?

- 1) What theory/ theories is/ are needed to inform the investigation and understanding of the concept of contested cities?
- 2) How can empirical studies of "contested cities" inform theory?
- 3) How can the "knowledge" that emerged in the discussion of the preceding questions increase our understanding of the "remaking of the public city"?

These three questions structure the discussion of the three remaining parts of the paper.

B) Theoretical Debates

In this section I briefly review the main theoretical debates that are seen as informing the Issue of contested cities. Briefly they are (1) Debates concerning structure and agency and in particular the role of "structural power in contestation. (2) Debates about the "production of space" and (3) Le Febvre ideas of "centrality" and "peripherality" which I suggest are a useful framework for analyzing "contested cities"

C) Empirical "Realities" Informing Theory

This section looks at a case study of "Red Shirt" protest movement that had its roots in the political machinations that led to a military coup of 2006 that had overthrown the Thak Rai Thai (TRT) party led by Thaksin Shinawata that had been elected in 2005. In particular it focuses on the events during March and May 2010 when the "Red Shirt Movement" protested the legitimacy of the People's Alliance for Democracy Party primarily within the "urban space" of Bangkok the capital city. Here I find that the concepts of "centrality" and "peripherality" are very central to the case study. While on the face of it this case study seems very little connected to the concept of the "public city" it is central to the concept of "national public space" and suggests that the creation of the "public city" is embedded in the scalar dimensions of contested national and many would argue international space".


D) Remaking the Public City B. Theoretical Debates

The final section on which I am still working draws out the major implications of the preceding section to the project of "remaking the public city".

THE POWER (AND LIMITS) OF EVERYDAY INSURGENCY

Jeffrey HOU

University of Washington, USA



Since the publication of *Insurgent Public Space*, one of the most common feedbacks on the book has centered on whether everyday acts of individuals constitute forms of actual urban insurgency. (Once, a Berkeley professor argued with me at a conference that everyday acts were not radical enough!) Another type of comments concerns with how to distinguish between insurgent and non-insurgent spaces, i.e., what qualifies a space as insurgent and what makes it not? While it is convenient to reject the absolutism implied in these comments, the questions do suggest a need for better articulation of “everyday insurgency” and investigations into linkages between the everyday, tactical acts of citizens and strategic, collective and political actions. These questions are particularly relevant to cities in Asia where informal, everyday acts constitute a significant aspect of the urban experience, where the boundaries between institutions and informality are often less defined. A better understanding of these issues is critical to uncovering the potential as well as limitations of everyday insurgency. In this paper, I intend to explore these questions by examining a few selected cases in Hong Kong, Seoul, and Taipei. Through these cases, I argue that everyday acts of citizens, other than constituting tactical resistance to structural barriers, can provide an important foundation for organized collective actions against institutional and other forms of structural barriers. These everyday acts also help to reveal the conflicts and issues that warrant focused actions. However, the transformation from tactical to strategic actions do often require agency of organized actors and sometimes “radical actions,” without which the potentials of everyday insurgency can remain unrealized.

DANCING IN THE PARK: URBAN INSURGENCY TO RECLAIM THE PUBLIC CITY IN HANOI

Mike DOUGLASS

National University of Singapore
[REDACTED]

HUANG Liling

National Taiwan University
[REDACTED]

The purpose of this paper is to conceptualize and explore the ways in which widespread insurgencies directed toward reclaiming and remaking the public city are rising in an urban age in Asia now dominated by corporate capital and neo-developmental policy regimes. The idea of “insurgency” is expanded beyond resistance to include social projects aimed at reclaiming the right of urban residents to participate in making the city. The discussion begins by piecing together a theoretical framework for research, drawing together six key concepts: insurgency, corporatization, the public city, neo-developmentalism, the right to the city, and the convivial vernacular city. It then considers the case of resistance to prevent the construction of an international hotel in Thong Nhat (Unification) Park, an iconic public space in Hanoi. This experience magnifies the ways in which global corporatization is being contested by peaceful insurgencies to secure public space and, by extension, the “cry and demand” (Lefebvre 1991) for a participation in making a public city.

REALIZING THE PUBLIC CITY: SMALL VICTORIES IN TAIPEI AND BANGKOK

HO Kong Chong

National University of Singapore
[REDACTED]

Pornpan CHINNAPONG

King Mongkut Institute of Technology, Thailand
[REDACTED]

The hope and aspirations of urban residents for their neighbourhoods require mobilization and support to be realized. This is true when residents of the city seek to maintain their livelihoods, preserve their community heritage and create communal facilities such as parks. The liveability of the city is enhanced when these community projects are successful linking social development to the hope of the community. In turn, the success of a community project has implications for the city. The number of projects and their diversity result in a city that is open to participation and alternative ideas about the city and its neighbourhoods. Participation creates a stake within the community, and more importantly also a forum which allows other aspirants to learn recipes of community development and also support for the arduous process of community project development. In understanding the success of community projects, it is also important to see how community projects are supported by NGOs as well as state organizations.


Our proposal for the workshop examines two communities, Mahakan in Bangkok and Tangpu in Taipei to see how their community projects are anchored in other important social relations and how these relations enable or constraint the community in its effort to develop their neighbourhoods. The Mahakan case shows a community proposal to showcase their way of life (both tangible and intangible elements) alongside other preservation projects developed by the government in the Rattanakosin heritage site. The Tangpu case illustrates a project to preserve a group of sugar warehouses as a community heritage park and a museum which allows city residents a glimpse into an important facet of the city's economic history. Both projects bring the communities in touch with different actors which support as well as constrain.

Our paper will show how the public city is built from community efforts to shape their neighbourhoods, and how such efforts are embedded in a network of actors which ultimately shapes the path of project development. Thus the public city is supported by an institutional matrix where community desires take root with mobilization, and supported by material resources and skill sets provided by agencies and individuals.

FROM A SHABBY DOWNTOWN TO AN ICONIC CULTURAL DISTRICT: CULTURAL CLUSTER STRATEGY OF TOTATOGA IN BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA

PARK Se Hoon

Korea Research Institute for Human Settlement



With the rise of cultural economies in post-industrial cities, culture-led development has been widely accepted as an alternative tool for urban revitalization. In Korea, many local governments who are suffering from a shrinking population and an economic meltdown in their city centers are trying to revitalize the city by taking advantage of cultural activities. In contrast to high expectations, the top-down approach of these cultural strategies does not positively impact the local community, if one excludes the effect of infrastructure development. It is against this backdrop that this study attempts to examine one of the cultural strategies, Totatoga, in central Busan, South Korea. Initiated by local artist groups and supported by the Busan metropolitan government, the strategy employs a mixed nature of top-down and bottom-up strategies. Unlike conventional approaches, which focus on cultural infrastructure and events, Totatoga focuses on the artists themselves and their link to neighborhood. Totatoga begin with an artist residency program that offered vacant offices in the declining city center of Busan as free working space for artists. In return, the operating agency required that artists engage in local outreach activities, such as education, community building, and holding festivals. It has been two years since its inception and the strategy is now considered to have result in meaningful change to the district. Artists have painted the gray building block, and people have started to coming in. However, there was no direct impact on the real estate market that could trigger gentrification. Based on in-depth interviews with key decision makers and the artists that were involved, the study explores the transformation of the district by focusing on how the Totatoga strategy was designed and delivered, as well as how local artists have been clustered in the neighborhood, engaged in local activities, and contributed to urban revitalization.

COUNTER-HEGEMONIC SPACES OF HOPE: CONSTRUCTING THE PUBLIC CITY IN JAKARTA, SINGAPORE, AND KUALA LUMPUR

Rita PADAWANGI

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

The debate about the people's ability to exert agency over the use of urban spaces points to the continuous struggle between them as agents of change versus structural patterns of social relationships and institutions. At the same time, scholars acknowledge the built environment as the manifestation of power relations. Monuments, palaces, grand boulevards are planned, designed, and built to celebrate the achievements of those in power. Residential areas are clustered and housing programs are developed in accordance to the positions of the inhabitants in the urban political economy.

It is possible to destroy buildings and physical spaces and replace them with others, when they are deemed irrelevant to the current societal needs and norms. However, the built environment is formed with the intention to last, and many of them span over generations. With the design and planning of the urban built environment in the hands of typically the elite professionals - among them planners, politicians, and developers, which represent the state apparatuses and the private sector - the physical spaces always hold latent role of ideological sustenance as a mediator between the ideas of the elite and the everyday life of the people. The constant use of physical spaces for daily practices opens it for bottom-up interpretations, but at the same time remains within the physical boundaries laid by the planners. In extreme cases when these physical establishments are symbolic of obsolete images, they are torn down, but most of them are not within this spectacular category and appear as benign as the usual neighborhood precinct. Even when they are monumental, the notion of historical conservation as works to enhance the identity of the urban society is repeatedly an unchallenged argument, and often it is down to the economic and financial calculations whether or not to retain a physical space. In other words, there is the hegemonic notion of retaining the built environment as a historic, economic, and financial exercise, and the space itself potentially retains the ideological hegemony of those involved in its building and design.

Given the dynamics of domination and ideological hegemony over the creation and retention of the built environment, this paper will address the question of how, when, and why the civil society can challenge it and exert their own meanings to the space. Although the built environment is a tool for those in power to exercise their ideology down into the people's daily activities, the urban residents are still the ones who have lived experiences of the space and therefore can potentially construct their own spaces and reframe the built environment in their own counter-hegemonic ways. Understanding how this is possible, when it can happen, and why, requires theoretical as well as empirical insights. Therefore, this paper will feature (hopefully) experiences from three Southeast Asian cities: Jakarta, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur to uncover dynamics from the ground - activism, corporatization of space, malling, as well as everyday lives in particular neighborhoods. This paper also suggests that the concept of the public city will benefit from further discussions on the notions of ideology, hegemony, and empowerment. The discussion on this topic will contribute to the understanding of the public city in Southeast Asia and what it takes to empower its people.

INVERTED INSURGENCIES AND INVISIBLE INEQUALITIES IN A HO CHI MINH CITY NEW URBAN ZONE

Erik HARMS

Yale University, USA




By definition, an insurgency “rises” from the bottom up, and is often “put down” by those at “the top.” If this is true, then Phú Mỹ Hưng, an elite master-planned community in Ho Chi Minh City’s district 7, is a place of inverted insurgencies. While master-planned communities are often described as apolitical at best and reactionary at worst, nine months of recent ethnographic research in Ho Chi Minh City reveals that Phú Mỹ Hưng residents understand themselves as part of a social revolution seeking to remake the city. While residents express insurgent political ambitions and see themselves as the center of progressive political change, however, their political agency rests on a series of largely unarticulated inequalities and social exclusions. The basis for residents’ insurgent citizenship is in fact founded on their status as elites living in an exclusive section of the city. While Phú Mỹ Hưng is a quintessential example of the exclusionary corporate city, where social imperatives are subordinated to economic profit-seeking, ethnographic research among Phú Mỹ Hưng residents reveals people resolutely devoted to remaking a sense of civic engagement, democratization, and political transformation. This paper, presented by a faculty member from a private, self-consciously exclusive North American “fortified enclave,” will explore the possibilities afforded by, the contradictions involved with, and the limitations presented by instances of insurgency that come not from the bottom up but rather from the top-down.

RIGHT TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD? RIGHT TO THE CITY? CONTESTING URBAN SPACE IN A WEAK CIVIL SOCIETY

YIP Ngai Ming

City University of Hong Kong



China has undergone the world's largest urban transformation in the past three decades in which the appropriation of prime urban lands as well as valuable heritage sites and local communities into business and residential developments has been undertaken in a massive scale. Yet contrast to most other countries where the siege of urban space often triggers ample resistance, contesting views against the corporatization of urban space is almost non-existent in China, perhaps with the exception of the confrontation from displaced residents in urban renewal projects whose primary concerns are on the adequacy of the compensation. Of course, it is far from being an indication of consent from the grassroots on the social and moral legitimacy of such siege. Such absence of opposition may partly attribute to the extremely limited social space of expression in a semi-authoritative regime like China that suppresses alternative views and actions. Yet murkiness in the conception of public-private divide, as a result of decades of communist indoctrination, may also create a barrier to people's understanding of public space. Thus, there appears to be a big gap in people's appreciation of the right to the city and the possible repertoire in asserting such right. In this regard, homeowners' activism seems to be instrumental, at least at the current juncture, in offering a unique bridge in cultivating such conception as well as acting as a practice ground on collective action, despite Lefebvre's skepticism on the exclusiveness of private properties and hence being incompatible with the "public". On the one hand, many homeowners' actions seek to protect their "collective" property right of the neighbourhood against the infringement by the property developers, it does deliver a learning platform on which the construction of an inclusive "public" is able to evolve from that of the exclusive "private". The homeowners' association, being an anchor organisation of many of such collective actions and the only legitimate civic society setup that exist in thousands in Chinese cities, also offers a venue in developing action repertoire in challenging the hegemony of real estate powers. They are the potential "spaces of hope" as there are initial evidences of homeowners' actions that move beyond the geographic boundaries of their neighbourhood in concerning issues that are more "public" as well as small scale alternate actions are beginning to emerge from the grassroots in countering the massive corporatization projects. This paper attempts to examine various aspects of such development with empirical data from Shanghai and Guangzhou in China.

SWEEPING THE UNCLEAN: CONTESTING POWER IN CYBERSPACES AND CITYSCAPES OF MALAYSIA

Merlyna LIM

Arizona State University, USA



Focusing on the Bersih (meaning "clean") movement, the largest populist movement in the history of contemporary Malaysia, this paper examines how social media shapes the participation in offline social movement protests. Participation is examined as manifest in mobilization, identity building, and organizational transformation. This paper provides a detailed account of how social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, were used not only to communicate and organize protests but also to contest the power (of the authority) figuratively in online space and to strategize against physical control and repression in public spaces. Empirical data from the latest massive protest in April 2012 (Bersih 3.0) shows that social media and physical urban spaces (especially in Kuala Lumpur) have become networked spaces and interdependent dimension of political insurgencies. By analyzing the complexity and dynamics of the relationship between participation in social media and in streets, this paper offers a critical approach to the promise of activism. Rather than viewing social media activism as a harbinger of democracy or dismissing it as a mere click-activism, this paper explores the ways in which social media changes (or not) the notion of participation in public sphere and the relationship between citizens and the state, and subsequently challenges the conventional form of citizenship.

SPACES OF OUTRAGE AND HOPE IN CHINA'S CYBURBAN ZOMIA

Peter MAROLT

National University of Singapore



The paper that will eventually emerge out of this concept paper, assesses what we can learn from adopting the metaphor of a Southeast Asian Zomia to its Chinese cyber/urban variation.

In this concept paper, apart from introducing the reader both to Zomia and its Chinese Cyber/Urban variation, I provide a succinct status update on the cat-and-mouse game that is afoot on the Chinese Internet, clarify the terms in the title, and establish their relevance for urban China and its cyberspace. Heeding the conceptual complications that stem from including the cyber into Chinese urbanites' realities, I share (preliminary) thoughts and offer a conceptual framework for autonomous "Cyber/Urban Spaces of Outrage and Hope" that renders action (and social action) as spatial practices which follow a processual dynamic. Such a framework shifts the analytical vantage point away from structural emphases on a state vs. civil society dichotomy and toward individual/shared agency and processes of learning that better match the concrete everyday expressions and processes that operate through, and in turn configure the Chinese Internet and everyday life. I argue that the lack of clear borders between the virtual/physical and the private/public allows for accelerated learning and 'social learning' (Friedmann), as people become conscious of attempts of informational manipulation; better understand and problematize issues; create space for authentic dialogue about the future, new social practices of communication and organization, and potentially, for manufacturing dissent as well as alternative projects in emplaced, networked, and networking spaces. At least in China, remaking the Public City cannot happen without comparatively autonomous online spaces, and these spaces have already become an intrinsic part of 'the City'.

Section three was (in the original abstract/outline) earmarked for concrete expressions and processes visible in China's internet, and how practitioners have begun building authentic and autonomous spaces and proto-institutions that transcend virtual/physical boundaries on various spatial scales. However, I have run out of space (and steam). The narrative evolving out of this concept paper can take many shapes and forms, and I appreciate and thank you in advance for critical comments esp. Also regarding compelling narratives that you could see emerge.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Erik HARMS is assistant professor of anthropology at Yale University, specializing in Southeast Asia and Vietnam. His ethnographic research in Vietnam has focused on the social and cultural effects of rapid urbanization on the fringes of Saigon—Ho Chi Minh City. His book, *Saigon's Edge: On the Margins of Ho Chi Minh City* (University of Minnesota Press, 2011), explores how the production of symbolic and material space intersects with Vietnamese concepts of social space, rural-urban relations, and notions of “inside” and “outside.” He is currently leading a 3 year study of the demolition and reconstruction of the urban landscape in two of Ho Chi Minh City's New Urban Zones, sponsored by the National Science Foundation (US). Harms is also the author of several articles in journals such as *City & Society*, *Pacific Affairs*, *The Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, *American Ethnologist*, and the co-editor, with Joshua Barker and Johan Lindquist of the book, *Figures of Modernity in Southeast Asia*, forthcoming from University of Hawaii Press.

HO Kong Chong is Associate Professor of Sociology and Vice Dean (Research) at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore. Trained as an urban sociologist at the University of Chicago, Dr Ho's research interests are in the political economy of cities, urban communities, higher education, and youth. He is a board member of Research Committee 21 (Sociology of Urban and Regional, International Sociological Association) and an editorial board member of *Pacific Affairs* and the *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*. Kong Chong is co-author of *City-States in the Global Economy: Industrial Restructuring in Hong Kong and Singapore* (1997); *Youth.sg: State of Youth in Singapore* (2011) and co-editor of *Service Industries, Cities and Development Trajectories in the Asia-Pacific* (2005); *the City and Civil Society in Pacific Asia Cities* (2008), and *New Economic Spaces in Asian Cities* (2012).

HUANG Liling is an Associate Professor and also the director of the Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, National Taiwan University (NTU), Taiwan. Her research interests focus on community building, urban policies and globalization theories. The classes she has been teaching include *Globalizing Cities in Asia*, *Community Building in Asia*, *Livable Cities in Asia*, *Practicum of Planning and Design*, and *Special Issue on Social Housing*. Liling Huang has served as board members in various planning committees of local governments in Taiwan. In social services, she has also been an activist of planning participation based on the activities initiated by the Organization of Urban Residents (OURs), the major NGO in monitoring urban policy and conducting community building in Taiwan. Her major publications include: *'Community Building in Taiwan: A Perspective of Social Changes and Institutional Innovations'* (2011), *'The Housing Policies and Problems in Taipei: Case Studies of Taipei city'* (2011), *'Foreign workers and Spaces for Community Life: Taipei's Little Philippines'* (2009), *'Against the Monster of Privatisation: Qing-Tien Community's Actions for Urban Livability in Taipei'* (2008), *'Globalizing the City in Southeast Asia: Utopia on the Urban Edge: the Case of Phu My Hung, Saigon'* (2007, collaborated with Mike Douglass).

Jeffrey HOU is Associate Professor and Chair of Landscape Architecture and co-founder of the Center for Asian Urbanism at the University of Washington, Seattle. His work focuses on community design, design activism, placemaking by marginalized social groups, and contemporary urbanism in Asia. Hou is the editor of a forthcoming book *Transcultural Cities: Border-Crossing and Placemaking* (2013). His edited book *Insurgent Public Space: Guerrilla Urbanism and the Remaking of Contemporary Cities* (2010) received the 2012 Great Places Award from the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA). He also contributed to *Beyond Zuccotti Park: Freedom of Assembly and the Occupation of Public Spaces* (2012). In a career that spans the Pacific, he has worked with indigenous tribes, farmers, and fishers in Taiwan, neighborhood residents in Japan, villagers in China, and inner-city immigrants in North America, in projects ranging from conservation of wildlife habitats to design of urban open space and streetscapes.

Merlyna LIM holds a joint appointment in the Consortium of Science, Policy, and Outcomes and the Justice and Social Inquiry Program of the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. She earned a Ph.D. (with distinction) in a joint program of Science & Technology Studies and Technology & Development Studies from the University of Twente in the Netherlands. Her teaching and research interests revolve around the mutual shaping of technology and society and the political culture of technology in relation to issues of globalization, democratization, livability, and equity. Lim is particularly interested in theoretical challenges on how we understand how ideologies and power relations being inscribed the political production and uses of spaces in online and offline setting, at local, national, and transnational levels. She has published extensively (one monograph and more than 25 articles/chapters) and has given more than 140 speeches/presentations/keynotes globally. Lim holds various awards, including: 100 Indonesian most inspirational women (Kartini, 2011), the Volkswagen's Our Common Future Fellowship (2010), and ASU Faculty Stars of Global Minds (2009). She is also a visual and performing artist as well as an active blogger in multiple languages.

Michelle Ann Miller is a Research Fellow in the Asian Urbanisms Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. She previously taught in the Masters of International and Community Development program at Deakin University and on subjects related to participatory approaches to development at Charles Darwin University. Dr Miller has conducted research in Indonesia for fifteen years, focusing particularly on Indonesia's westernmost province of Aceh. Her current research investigates the role of decentralisation in responding to local challenges and opportunities in Indonesia and the interface between state, civil society and the international community in urban governance. She has authored, edited or co-edited a number of books including: *Rebellion and Reform in Indonesia: Jakarta's Security and Autonomy Policies in Aceh* (Routledge, 2009); *Autonomy and Armed Separatism in South and Southeast Asia* (ISEAS, 2012); *Ethnic and Racial Minorities in Asia: Inclusion or Exclusion?* (Routledge, 2012); and (with Tim Bunnell) *Asian Cities in an Era of Decentralisation* (Routledge, forthcoming 2013).

Mike DOUGLASS is a Professor at the Asia Research Institute with a joint appointment in Sociology at the National University of Singapore. He is Emeritus Professor and former Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where he was also the Director of the Globalization Research Center. He is Co-Editor of International Development Planning Review. He previously taught at the Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands) and at the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia (U.K.). He has been a Visiting Scholar/Professor at Thammasat University, Tokyo University, Stanford University, UCLA, and the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements.

PARK Se Hoon is a research fellow at Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS), the Republic of Korea. He earned Ph.D. in urban planning at Seoul National University and studied urban planning and policy at University of Tokyo before joining KRIHS in 2003. His research areas include urban history of Seoul, ethnic districts and expats communities in Korean cities, and cultural development of cities. As a policy researcher, he has been engaged in many national projects in South Korea. His recent publications are *Reinventing Urban Policy in response to Ethnic Diversity* (2010) and *Cultural Cluster Strategy as a Tool for Urban Revitalization* (2011).

Peter MAROLT is a Research Fellow at the National University of Singapore's Asia Research Institute. He received his PhD in Geography from the University of Southern California. He co-edited "Online Society in China" (Routledge, 2011) and is currently writing a book on "Cyber China: Making Space for Change." In his research, Peter explores the frontier of New Media-augmented urbanity.

Pornpan CHINNAPONG is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Architecture, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL), Bangkok, Thailand. Ms. Chinnapong has educational background in architecture and urban planning. She earned a Bachelor of Architecture from KMITL (1992), a Master's of Architecture from Texas A&M University (1996), and a Master's of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH) (2000). Her classes in architectural courses at KMITL include Site planning, Introduction to Urban Planning and Architectural Design Studio. Her areas of research interests include urban form, city planning and the use of civic space in Bangkok.

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