# Dean's Roundup
## Friday, 14 February, 2014

Roundup: *Ceiling function, the mathematical operation of rounding a number up to the next higher integer.*
Roundup: *a term in American English referring to the process of gathering animals into an area, known as a "Muster" in Australia.*
Rounding up: *when a helmsman cannot control a boat and it heads into the wind*
Roundup: *the plan for an invasion of northern France by Allied forces during World War II   (WikipediA)*

*Dean's Roundup: part blog, part bulletin; part honour roll, part curatorial [***cu**'**ra·to**'**ri·al** (kyŏŏr'ə-tôr'ē-əl, -tōr'-) *n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]*

Dear all,

I am currently helping to design a research proposal to be submitted to the Egyptian Education Ministry that might interest FoA colleagues. It would be led by a Landscape Architect in Cairo University and concerns the relationship between the physical and institutional configuration of outdoor public space in post-revolution Cairo. The methodology is innovative and potentially powerful and I think a HK/Chinese/SE-Asian parallel study would be very fundable in next year's GRF round.

Research question: when open space gets congested, what formal and informal rules emerge to prevent the total dissipation of the space?

Some will note that this is the urban equivalent to Eleanor Ostrom's research on common-hold resources (Eleanor, anthropologist and Nobel Economics Laureate challenged ecologist Garrett Hardin's thesis of the tragedy of the commons by saying that rural communities tend over time to evolve rules that prevent the exhaustion of commons resources).

Method: 1. Taking a leaf out of our own Landscape Division's methods book, fly a drone over crowded open space in Cairo (+Jakarta/Yangon/Kowloon/Guangzhou?) and identify distinct patterns: crowding morphology typologies. This would be interesting in its own right and is worthy of publication in an international journal. Particularly if those patterns could be characterized mathematically, statistically, spatially and social. 2. Select a range of patterns to explain in terms of physical and institutional architecture. 3. Anthropological fieldwork in each of the sites to uncover the rules that explain the emergent spatial order. 4. Deeper analysis of reasons for the emergence of those rules.

The Cairo situation is a special case. Sometimes special or extreme cases can provide a rich source of data for testing theory and developing new theory. Cairo's open spaces since the Arab Spring have filled-up with vendors, protestors (both sides), military and para-military, shoppers patronizing the street vendors and so on. Some spaces work better than others. Some streets have ordered themselves, keeping a thoroughfare open. On some streets, the thoroughfare is wider than on others. On some streets, there is grid-lock, with flow haphazard and chaotic (but nevertheless flowing). The analysis might be conducted for (a) linear streets and (b) polygonal spaces.

*A priori* hypotheses would include: spontaneous order in crowded spaces depends on the degree of congestion (measured by counting people using the space and dividing by the area); it depends on the

ethnic group mix; the centrality/connectivity of the space; on what the vendors are selling; distance from a police station; thermal comfort (especially trees); and so on.

Now's probably the time to think about preparing GRF proposals for the next round. How about a bidding team comprising a landscape architect with drone experience, urban designer with pedestrian analysis experience, someone with anthropological interviewing experience, an architect with digital pattern measurement expertise, and someone from REC versed in institutional theory? Or anyone else excited by the prospect. Let me know and I'll organize something.

Thanks to those listed below for their contributions to the Faculty's research and engagement agenda.

Chris

# Department of Architecture

1. Mr. David Erdman

   - The prototypes for Lunar House (entitled *Immuring*) designed by Erdman's with his firm *davidclovers* are currently on display as part of the M+ Architecture Collection.  The exhibition entitled M+ "Building M+: The Museum and The Architecture Collection" will run until February 09, 2014 at ArtisTree – 1F Cornwall House, Taikoo Place, Island East, Hong Kong.

   - Perspective Magazine's January 2014 issue featured the recently completed de Ricou tower, designed by Erdman with his firm *davidclovers* in an article entitled "Repulse Bay State of Mind."

   - Urbanism and Architecture issue 123 featured the recently completed projects at The Repulse Bay Complex designed by Erdman with his firm *davidclovers* in an article entitled "The 109 Repulse Bay Complex."

# Department of Real Estate and Construction

The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) granted accreditation to Programmes offered by the Department of Real Estate and Construction, including BSc(Surveying), MSc(CPM), MSc(RE) and MSc(IDM), for a period of five years from 2013 to 2018.

1. Dr. Wilson Lu

   - gave a 90 minutes presentation "A tour of Hong Kong's construction industry" to MSc Construction Management students at the University of Reading, UK through video-conferencing, on 12 Feb 2014.

## Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Roger Chan

   - has been invited by Routledge, Taylor and Francis, New York to serve as an independent referee for book proposal in their Planning & Urban Design series.

2. Professor Rebecca Chiu

   - Professor Chiu's paper was published in the following book:

     Chiu, R.L.H. (2013) ''The transferability of public housing policy within Asia: reflections from the Hong Kong-Mainland China case study'', in J. Chen, M. Stephens & Y. Man (eds.), *The Future of Public Housing: Ongoing Trends in the East and the West,* Heidelberg, Germany: Springer, pp. 3-12.

3. Dean Webster

   - is currently in Haifa, Israel, giving a keynote to the 7th international Planning Law and Property Rights (PLPR) conference.


## Shanghai Study Centre

1. Nathan Melenbrink

   - delivered a lecture on "Transitioning to International Practice" to the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies, on 31 January 2014.