

Dean's Roundup (Friday, 29 January 2016)

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 (kyŏr'ē-tŏr'ē-əl, -tŏr'-) n. nounised by the Dean

Dear All,

For three days starting this Sunday (sorry), FoA has its ten-yearly *Faculty Review*. Colleagues in the Faculty Office supported by departmental administrators, Heads, Associate Deans and others have compiled four PhD theses worth of documentation. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment to FoA. The submission tells a great story that we should all be very proud of.

Further to announcing 18 new research-related posts in last DRup, I am happy to tell you that we are making progress with three new HKUrbanLab research groups:

1. **FabLab.** Space is being acquired on Knowles ground floor to replace the environmentally problematic concrete lab on the 2nd floor and to create a robotics lab. A robot is about to be purchased and installation should happen within 2-3 months. Eric Schuldenfrei is the senior academic in the research-enriched FabLab, which includes Olivier, Christian, Yan Gao, Donn and others. Christian will be teaching two robotics studios in the Autumn semester. Please talk to him if you are interested in robotics research. There may be potential for a link up between FabLab robotics and iLab smart construction objects research (Wilson Lu).
2. **Virtual Laboratory of Urban Environments & Human Health.** This is an exciting new lab from the Division of Landscape Architecture and set up by Bin Jiang and Matthew Prior. It will form a network of international labs (USA, Taiwan and now HK) conducting experimental investigations into the measurable health effects of landscape. It will initially occupy a room kindly donated by REC on the 5th floor and after the kit is installed (by March 2016) it will look a rather scary place (wired-up skull caps and immersive VR etc).
3. Talks are under way to create an **Architectural History and Theory research group**, possibly located physically (and intellectually) around a refurbished space on the 4th floor containing the Frampton Collection, which will arrive in the spring.

Congratulations to all those listed below for all the great achievements. I would especially like to congratulate Cole for winning a 'best paper' award, which along with high citation papers, best-selling books, distinguished fellowships, international design awards and similar, is in the top level of accolades that we are aiming for in FoA's profile.

Chris

Movements of Faculty members

1. Mr. Christian Lange of the Department of Architecture completes his current term of service on 31 January 2016 and will start his new term of service as a Senior Lecturer for the Department of Architecture and the Faculty with effect from 1 February 2016, which involves pioneering the teaching of robotics in the DoA, using our new robot to be installed in newly acquired space on Knowles Gf.
2. Mr. Sony Devabhaktuni has joined the Department of Architecture as an Assistant Professor with effect from 13 January 2016.

FoA Departments and Divisions

Department of Architecture (DARCH)

1. Dr. Cole Roskam
 - was recognized by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) & the *Journal of Architecture Education (JAE)* with the 2016 *JAE* Best Scholarship of Design Article Award, for "Practicing Reform: Experiments in Post-Revolutionary Chinese Architectural Production, 1973–1989," published in *JAE* 69, no. 1 (March 2015): 28-39.
 - published a book review of Anna Greenspan, *Shanghai Future: Modernity Remade* (Routledge, 2014), in *China Journal* no. 75 (2016), 202-204.

Department of Real Estates and Construction (DREC)

1. Dr. Isabelle Chan

- has been appointed by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) as the Construction Workers Qualifications Board member for a period of 2 years commencing January 2016.

Department of Urban Planning and Design (DUPAD)

1. Professor Anthony Yeh

- was invited to be one of the international reviewers of the Disciplines of Geomatics and Geological Engineering in the International Review of the Faculty of Geosciences and Environmental Engineering at the Southwest Jiaotong University in Chengdu, China, from 14 to 16 January 2016.



Division of Architectural Conservation Programmes (DACP)

1. Prof. Lynne DiStefano and Dr. Lee Ho Yin

- Published the essay “Hong Kong’s Back Alleys: The Ugly, the Bad and the Good”, in Michael Wolf’s photo book *Informal Solutions: Observations in Hong Kong Back Alleys* (Hong Kong: WE Press, January 2016), 79-93. [257 pages; ISBN 978-988-14230-3-0]

2. Lai Chi Pong and Dr. Lee Ho Yin

- Published the Chinese essay 〈非常道 巷裡巷外〉, in Michael Wolf’s photo book 《非常道 巷裡巷外》 (*Informal Solutions: Observations in Hong Kong Back Alleys*) (Hong Kong: WE Press, January 2016), 89-93. [257 pages; ISBN 978-988-14230-3-0]

This is the fourth book in the series in collaboration with German photographer Michael Wolf to feature Hong Kong’s cultural heritage for an international readership. The book has been internationally reported in art magazines, including *Aesthetica Magazine* (9 December 2015) and *FT Magazine* (6 November 2015), as well as reported as the cover story in the *Post Magazine* of the *South China Morning Post* (17 January 2016); see: <http://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/books/article/1901107/hong-kong-photographer-michael-wolf-explores-back>.



HKUrbanLab groups

Centre for Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP)

1. Dr. Shenjing He

- is awarded the 2016 Lincoln Institute China Program International Fellowship. The total amount of the fellowship will be US\$31,000, for a period from February 1, 2016 until January 31, 2017.

Details about the fellowship can be found at
<http://www.lincolninst.edu/education/fellowships.asp>

Dr. He's project was chosen among 25 qualified proposals from around the world.

2. Professor Anthony Yeh, Dr. Fiona Yang and Mr. Jiejing Wang (PhD Student)

- Published the following paper:

Yeh, A., Yang, F. and Wang, J. (2015a), "Producer service linkages and city connectivity in the mega-city region of China: a case study of the Pearl River Delta", *Urban Studies*, 52(13): 2458-2482.

Abstract: *This paper examines the intra- and inter-firm producer service linkages and city connectivity of the Pearl River Delta (PRD), one of the fastest growing and globalising mega-city regions in China. The study reveals that the rapid growth of producer services in the recent two decades has emerged as a crucial contributor to the formation of the regional network that was previously shaped mainly by manufacturing activities. To provide a better understanding of the mechanisms of mega-city regions, a nexus between the literature on globalisation and mega-city regions and the studies on the service economy must be developed to consider not only intra-firm office connections, but also the linkages of producer services between different firms and economic sectors. Through a questionnaire survey covering 1020 producer service firms in three major PRD cities, we provide evidence that in a manner different from manufacturing activities, producer services linkages, both intra-firm and inter-firm, bind the cities into a hierarchical and localized regional system.*

3. Professor Anthony Yeh, Dr. Feng Zhang and Dr. Muhammad Adeel (DUPAD PhD graduate)

- Published the following paper:

Adeel, M., Yeh, A. and Zhang, F. (2015), "Towards an Inclusive Public Transport System in Pakistan", *Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)* (ESCAP), No. 85, pp. 33-44.

Abstract: Urban transport in Pakistan is characterized by the coexistence of formal and informal transit services. While urban transport is deregulated and - somehow – multimodal in the country, the transport service providers often compete with each other within their particular constraints and their equilibrium defines the overall landscape of urban accessibility. With examples from the cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the paper discusses three broad constraints on the urban modes of transportation, namely regulatory, spatial and demand related constraints, using a number of important system characteristics. Results show that the overall level of constraints remains ‘Very High’ on the newly constructed BRT, followed by ‘High’ constraints on the informal paratransit mode, ‘Qinqui’. Whereas the Suzuki and Wagon modes coverage remains maximum and they carry relatively lower level of constraints. In this context, an inclusive urban mobility largely depends on a proactive approach by management authorities to minimize these constraints through a number of initiatives including integration of modes, improvements of the quality of service and condition of vehicle, and by facilitating the mobility of women and non-motorized travellers.

4. Dr. Roger Chan, Dr. Huiwei Chen and Dr. Yi Sun (DUPAD PhD Graduates)

- Published the following paper:

Chan, R., Chen, H. and Sun, Y. (2016), “Learning with Geographical Sensitivity: Place-Based Education and Its Praxis”, *The Professional Geographer*, DOI:10.1080/00330124.2015.1121835.

Abstract: This study presents pragmatic evidence to make learning a geographical process. It investigates how place-based education (PBE) can deepen the sense of place and vice versa. The study first reviews the meaning of PBE and continues with an ontological discussion of place. As place is theorized, learning practices in the course Sustainable Urban Development and Hong Kong are outlined. The submissions of students are analyzed, and selected reflections are presented to interface with the ontological construct of place. We examine how PBE can enrich student awareness of place and in what way student appreciations of place can add values to the geographical reasoning on sustainability- and urbanism-related topics. Results show that site selection is important and place in PBE is both real and imagined. Heritage conservation and place revitalization are potential reflective topics to design a PBE-based teaching praxis.

The link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2015.1121835>

Healthy HD Lab

1. Dean Webster and Dr. Chinmoy Sarkar

- Submitted a preliminary application for the Wellcome Trust of GBP 30,000. If it is successful, a consortium of 23 academics around the world will bid for a GBP 10 million over a 5-year duration.

Name of Proposal: WASH to WASH'D: the health and environmental impacts of improving drainage and resilience to fire in informal settlements and refugee camps.

Name of the Grant application: Wellcome Trust - Our Planet, Our Health

PI: Prof. Sue Charlesworth, Coventry University Healthy Cities

Hong Kong Co-applicants: Chinmoy Sarkar, Prof. Chris Webster (Work Package 5: Generation of the evidence base, data management and security. Lead: Chinmoy Sarkar)

2. Dean Webster and Dean Leung (Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine)

- Received a successful bid of a URC PDF post under the 35th Round PDF/RAP Scheme for their research proposal titled "Urban Morphometrics for the Hong Kong FAMILY Cohort: A Platform for Deciphering Environmental Determinants of Health in a High-density city" (co-authored with Chinmoy Sarkar)

Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research (RCCPRR)

1. Dr. Kelvin Wong

- Received a successful bid of a PDF post under the 35th Round PDF/RAP Scheme for his research proposal titled "Institutional analysis of Real Estate Markets"

iLab

1. Ms. Chen Xi (A PhD student with Dr. Wilson Lu)

- Presented a conference paper “**Chen, X.**, Lu, W.S., Wang, H.D. (2015). The impact of green buildings accreditation on construction and demolition waste minimization: A study of Hong Kong Building Environment Assessment Method using big data. Global Cleaner Production & Sustainable Consumption Conference, 1-4 November 2015, Sitges, Barcelona, Spain”.

2. Mr. Chen Ke (A PhD Candidate jointly supervised by Dr. Wilson Lu and Prof Steve Rowlinson)

- presented a paper "A BIM-Centred System for Buffer Management" in the Joint International Symposium on: GOING NORTH FOR SUSTAINABILITY, 23rd-25th 2015, London South Bank University, London”.

3. Dr. Wilson Lu

- A group of RPg students from the Department of Real Estate and Construction, Ms. Nina Niu, Mr. Leo Chen, Ms. Megan Ye, Mr. Diandian Liu, and Dr Kevin Wang, won the Hong Kong Construction Industry Council (CIC) Young Innovator Award 2015. The winning idea is an “*i-Core*” developed in Dr. Wilson Lu’s team to encapsulate smart construction objects (SCOs) properties. Similar to a CPU to a computer, this ‘*i-Core*’ can be understood as the ‘heart’ of smart construction. With this ‘*i-Core*’, it is possible to develop scalable and customizable smart construction, which is perceived as a promising direction of future construction. The Award Presentation Ceremony was held in the Government House on 15th December 2015 hosted by the Chief Executive, Hon Mr. LEUNG Chun-ying. The students also received a cash prize of HK\$50,000. The project video is also shown on the University TV U-Vision. For more details, please visit the following link

<http://uvision.hku.hk/playvideo.php?mid=19794>





- Dr. Wilson Lu won the Charter Institute of Building (CIOB) Bowen Jenkins Legacy (BJL) Research Fund. Research Title: From CSR to OHS and Well-being of Construction Workers: The China Dilemma. Principal Applicant: Prof Dongping Fang (Tsinghua University), Co-Applicant: Dr Wilson Lu (University of Hong Kong). Request Fund: GB£9,795. Duration: 24 Months
- Dr. Wilson Lu was interviewed by the *New York Times* to talk on the Shenzhen Landslide caused by construction debris.

4. Professor Steve Rowlinson

- Invited by the Society of Professional Engineers Thailand to speak at the SPET Annual Dinner on Thursday 21st January 2016 at The Rembrandt Hotel in Sukhumvit on the topic of "One Country Two Systems: Two Countries One System - HK's major projects in distress: What is happening to HK Construction Industry?"