

Dean's Roundup: 16 May 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**¹**ra-to'ri-al** (ky⁰⁰r¹ə-tôr[']ē-əl, -tôr[']-) n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear All,

At our forthcoming FoA-HKUrbanLab retreat, we'll be considering how to prioritise the rather long 'to do' list arising from the Faculty Review (FR). FRs are meant to be every 5 years in HKU; the last FoA FR was 14 years ago. So it's not surprising the list is long. One class of action is curricula review. I do not propose to undertake a systematic curriculum review across faculties, departments or even programmes (unless there is need in any quarter), since this is taken care of through regular quality control processes. However, over the past three years, we have discussed various strategic curricula issues that I would like to address in the remainder of the 2016 calendar year, with a view to Sept 2017 implementation. These include, but may not be limited to, the teaching of the following subjects across the faculty. Where these subjects are already taught, we need to review how it may be possible to rationalize the existing teaching at the same time as extending it to other programmes. I see all of these as answering the FR's requirement for more interdisciplinary in FoA. As those who were here when I was appointed to the deanship will recall, this was an important platform in taking the job. Having concentrated for three years on strengthening the research base of FoA, now is an appropriate time to pick up strategic teaching issues. I would like to set up 'task and finish groups' to make proposals for cross-faculty strategies for the following curriculum topics:

- BIM
- GIS
- Architectural history
- Sustainable cities
- Urban design
- Research methods
- Landscape 101
- Architecture 101
- Cities 101
- Land economy 101

- Others

We have had at least one working group meeting over the last year or two on the first six of these, so many of the issues have already been brought to the table and the review is already underway. The 101s relate to our ongoing FFC and CCC discussions and we may want to deal with them all in the next and final phase of the FFC review started by Kelvin Wong and now taken over by LH Li. At issue here is not only how we make sure that conservation and real estate students have a sound knowledge of architectural history, architects have a sound knowledge of urban history and dynamics and so on; but how such knowledge progresses within each discipline. Additional subjects may be proposed if they are of strategic significance across the faculty (otherwise, I leave curricula review to departments and divisions). I propose that each task and finish group meets on three or four occasions, with work done between meetings. I also propose that I chair each group, at least in the first meeting, to establish a clear cross-FoA agenda.

Discussion around these subjects has been highly creative so far and I look forward to working with everyone to take these aspects of our teaching to the next level.

Congratulations to colleagues for the achievements listed below.

Chris

FoA Departments and Divisions

Department of Real Estate and Construction (DREC)

1. Professor Steve Rowlinson

- was certified of his service and contribution to the Institution of Civil Engineers as a Chartered professional reviewer. He is a member of the ICE Standards Panel and will be attending the Panel meeting at HQ, 1 Great George Street, St James, London in the middle of May. The panel is charged with ensuring that decisions on professional reviews of candidates for membership of ICE are made in accordance with the stringent standards of the Institution. Prof Rowlinson is one of only a handful of overseas panel members.

Department of Urban Planning and Design (DUPAD)

1. Master of Urban Design New Zealand Studio Final Review

The Master of Urban Design students finished the final review of the New Zealand Studio on May 7, 2016. Working closely with the local authority on a real urban redevelopment project in Auckland, New Zealand, MUD students developed strategic plans and masterplan frameworks in response to specific challenges of the site. The class proposed six design schemes that are innovative and firmly grounded in local context. The studio outcomes triggered high-level discussions among local authorities and attracted interests from stakeholders. Some of the design ideas will be incorporated in the local authorities' development strategies.

The New Zealand studio, taught by Dr. Jianxiang Huang (MUD Assistant Programme Director, DUPAD), Ms. Sylvie Nguyen (Assistant Lecturer, DUPAD), and Mr. Guy Perry (President, Cities & Strategies ESSEL Group/Visiting Associate Professor, DUPAD), is the second semester studio of the MUD core curriculum. Students visited sites and gained valuable experiences from working on real urban projects overseas. In addition to studio teachers, the review is also attended by Dr. Peter Cookson Smith (President, HKIUD), Professor Anthony Yeh (MUD Programme Director, DUPAD). It is also attended by Mr. Rod Marler (Director Place Shaping, Panuku Development Auckland) and Mr. Alan Gray (Senior Urban designer, the Auckland Council) through video conferencing.



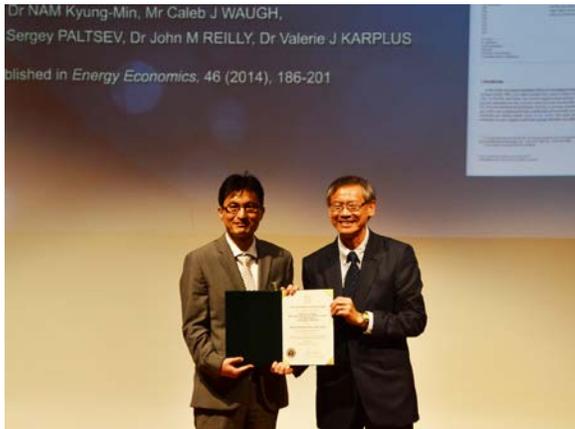
2. Professor Anthony Yeh

- received the Distinguished Research Achievement Award, the highest honour and award for excellence in research bestowed by the University, in the Award Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Knowledge Exchange 2015 which was held on Monday, 9 May 2016 in Rayson Huang Theatre with Dr the Honourable Sir David Li Kwok Po, HKU Pro-Chancellor, as Guest of Honour.



3. Dr. Kyung-Min Nam

- was awarded the 2014-15 Research Output Prize for his paper “Synergy between Pollution and Carbon Emissions Control: Comparing China and the United States” in *Energy Economics*, 2014, 46: 186–201 (with Mr Caleb J WAUGH, Dr Sergey PALTSEV, Dr John M REILLY and Dr Valerie J KARPLUS), in the Award Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Knowledge Exchange 2015 on Monday, 9 May 2016 in Rayson Huang Theatre.



HKUrbanLab research groups

Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning

1. Professional Seminar Series

- The second Professional Seminar Series, jointly organized by DUPAD and the Planning Department of the HKSAR Government was held on 7 May 2016. The title of the Seminar was “Urban Development Strategies: Current Trends and Future Needs”. Dr. Roger Chan, Dr. Shenjing He and Mr. K K Ling, Director of Planning, Planning Department gave presentations on case studies in Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong respectively. Dr. Xingjian Liu chaired the discussion session. The seminar attracted a large audience of professionals and the public. The next Seminar will be about Green Smart City scheduled to be held in June 2016.



Virtual Laboratory of Urban Environments and Human Health

1. Dr. Bin Jiang

- His recent paper has been reported by The Telegraph UK:

<http://eab.sagepub.com/content/48/4/607.abstract>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/05/06/being-around-trees-makes-you-less-stressed--study/>

Bin Jiang, Dongying Li, Linda Larsen and William C. Sullivan. A Dose-Response Curve Describing the Relationship Between Urban Tree Cover Density and Self-Reported Stress Recovery *Environment and Behavior* May 2016 48: 607-629, first published on September 25, 2014 doi:10.1177/0013916514552321

Abstract: *Although it is well established that viewing nature can help individuals recover from a stressful experience, the dose-response curve describing the relationship between tree cover density and stress recovery is totally unclear. A total of 160 participants engaged in a standard Trier Social Stress Test to induce stress. Participants were then randomly assigned to watch 1 of 10 three-dimensional videos of street scenes that varied in the density of tree cover (from 2% to 62%). Participants completed a Visual Analog Scale questionnaire at three points in the experiment. Analysis revealed a positive, linear association between the density of urban street trees and self-reported stress recovery, adjusted $R^2 = .05$, $F(1, 149) = 8.53$, $p < .01$. This relationship holds after controlling for gender, age, and baseline stress levels. A content analysis of participants' written narratives revealed a similar but even stronger association. These findings suggest that viewing tree canopy in communities can significantly aid stress recovery and that every tree matters.*