

## Dean's Roundup: 10 February 2017

*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<sup>1</sup>ra-to<sup>1</sup>ri-al (ky<sup>1</sup>ō-r<sup>1</sup>ə-tōr<sup>1</sup>ē-əl, -tōr<sup>1</sup>-) n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]*

Dear All,

Between now and the end of April I am working on the annual Faculty Development Plan, which I present to the university's Budget and Resources Committee (BRC) in May 2017. I have asked Heads of Department and Divisions to let me have fundable projects that I can include both in the plan and the budget request that goes with it. HKU annual budgeting procedures for new projects and investment have changed every year that I have been in office and they are likely to change again this and next year. I do not yet have full details. I am anticipating having something in the order of 10 to 20M HKD to allocate to strategic projects in FoA, above and beyond the recurrent budget that has already been agreed with Heads. This is in addition to a 20M HKD budget request currently with the Provost that will give an additional round of investments to HKUrbanLab and will give the Head of the Architecture Department an investment package for DoA to support her ambitious plans.

Fundable projects should be strategic. They should deliver on the university's 3+1i goals. Most likely to get funded are investments in research likely to deliver high quality research output. The research should be rigorous, original and impactful (significant for society and in terms of academic discourse). This is seed money, so it should build capacity for ongoing work, not fund a single research project. Matched funding helps demonstrate significance and impact. Linking to publications in high impact journals and books with prestigious publishers helps demonstrate rigor and originality. Teaching projects may be considered if they are developmental and capacity building and deliver a strategic goal that demonstrably cannot be delivered through recurrent teaching budgets. Design-related research projects should clearly indicate how the knowledge created through the design is intellectualized, formalized and disseminated internationally (see my recent Dean's Roundup on design & research)

I have asked Heads to think about one or possibly two new Assistant Professor hires that would build capacity in a strategic teaching and research area that could be packaged as a cross-faculty initiative. We have done this with an Urban Silk Road AP post currently being advertised, with the Faculties of Arts and Education also making their own hires in this field to collectively strengthen and extend HKU's Urban China scholarship. The university seems to be keen at the moment on these kind of hires and it could be a way bidding more ambitiously within the 10-20m HKD range.

Areas with potential include: an ACP-Architecture-Economics nexus focusing on valuation of art, artefacts, buildings, land, landscapes and linking to Faculties of Arts and Science. Another is the low-carbon/building-physics/sustainable cities/environmental science nexus, with Faculties of Engineering, Science and Social Science. There may be an arts & humanities idea waiting to be developed, linking Faculties of Architecture, Arts and Social Science. If these posts are tenure-track, the hosting department will need to commit to continuation funding thereafter (as with the currently advertised urban silk road post).

If you have ideas, please talk to your head of department/division and to me. Any research group bidding for a second round of faculty funding for RAs/PDFs and so on, should show that the earlier funding has produced outputs of a quality likely to score highly in the Research Assessment Exercise and in tenure and promotion applications.

Congratulations to colleagues for the achievements listed below.

Chris

## Teaching and other Achievements

### FoA Departments and Divisions

#### Department of Urban Planning and Design (DUPAD)

1. Dr. Xingjian Liu

- Has been unanimously awarded this year's American Association of Geographers (AAG) Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Emerging Scholar Award for his contribution to spatial sciences and urban GIS. The award will be presented at the AAG Annual Meeting this coming April.

2. Mr. Alain Chiaradia

- Became a member of the HKIUD with effective from 15 December 2016.

### 3. Professor Anthony Yeh

- Prof. Anthony Yeh was invited to give a CPD lecture on “Impacts of Smart Technologies and Smart Cities on Urban Development and Planning” to the Planning and Development Division of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) on Monday, 6 February.



Prof. Yeh received a souvenir from Sr. James Pong, Chairman of the Planning and Development Division Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and Sr. Francis Lam.

### 4. Dr. Roger Chan

- Invited by the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers to address the HKIE Fiesta 2017 on 4th February 2017. He gave a presentation on the topic of Smart Cities. The event was chaired by the President of the HKIE, Ir Joseph Choi, and attended by over 80 members and students.



# Research Achievements

## HKUrbanLab research groups

### ACPLab

#### 1. Dr. Hoyin Lee, Lynne DiStefano and Katie Cummer

- published a book chapter “Hong Kong’s Urban Earth God Shrines: An Evolving Intangible Tradition in a Modern Urban Setting,” in the academic book *Intangible Cultural Heritage in Contemporary China: The Participation of Local Communities* (Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2017), pp. 49-73. [152 pages; ISBN 9781138644182 (hardback)]

<https://www.routledge.com/Intangible-Cultural-Heritage-in-Contemporary-China-The-participation-of/Kuah-Pearce-Liu/p/book/9781138644182>

### Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP)

#### 1. Dr. Xingjian Liu

- Published the following articles:
  - (i) Liu, X., Derudder, B., & Wang, M. (2017). Polycentric urban development in China: A multiscale analysis. *Environment and Planning B*, doi.org/10.1177/2399808317690155.

**Abstract:** *This article reports a multi-scale analysis of polycentric urban development in 22 Chinese city-regions. Using fine-grained population data, our analysis contrasts polycentric development patterns at multiple geographical scales. We present a typology of Chinese city-regions based on both (1) their inter-city polycentricity and (2) the intra-city polycentricity of the individual cities that comprise these urban regions. Overall, we find only limited levels of association between inter-city and intra-city polycentricity. The Pearl River and Yangtze River Deltas have high levels of inter-city and intra-city polycentricity. Most city-regions in Central and Western China are characterized by a primate urban system and low levels of inter-city polycentricity. We hypothesize the major economic, political, and geographical processes underlying observed patterns.*

- (ii) Tian, Y., Liu, Y., Liu, X., Kong, X., & Liu, G. (2017). Restructuring rural settlements based on subjective well-being (SWB): A case study in Hubei province, central China. *Land Use Policy*, 63, 255-265.

**Abstract:** Subjective well-being (SWB) has long been neglected in the process of rural settlements restructuring. In order to explore the possibility of integrating SWB in rural settlements restructuring, this paper verifies two hypotheses. The first hypothesis postulates that SWB is positively correlated with accessibility to facilities and services at a village scale. The second one suggests that SWB is positively related to the personal satisfaction level of demands in daily life at an individual scale. Verification of these hypotheses indicates the application of SWB into rural settlements restructuring and planning. This study uses self-reported SWB from a questionnaire-based survey to examine its correlates. Objective well-being (OWB) of every village was derived through comprehensive evaluation. The villages of the study area were classified into four categories based on OWB, namely, key, sub-key, general, and marginal villages. We calculated the spatial accessibility of key, sub-key, and general villages from land-cover types, transportation, vehicle choice and commuting time, given that well-developed villages are often equipped with good facilities and services. The correlations between SWB and OWB and between SWB and spatial accessibility were tested and compared using crosstabs analysis and chi-square test. The drivers of SWB were identified using an ordinary least squares regression model. Results show that SWB is more positively correlated to the spatial accessibility of developed villages than to the villages themselves in the context of meeting residents' daily needs. Results also show positive relations between SWB and the satisfied level of local peoples' daily activities including working, shopping, seeking medical care and visiting relatives or friends. Thus, we proposed the relocation of rural settlements with poor access to main villages to good service areas. The proposed restructuring method combines SWB and OWB, and aims at increasing the quality of life of rural residents. This study contributes to the understanding of rural SWB and proposes a new perspective on restructuring rural settlements.

## 2. Professor Bo-Sin Tang

- Published the following article:

Tang, B.S. (2017). Explaining the inequitable spatial distribution of public open space in Hong Kong. *Landscape and Urban Planning*. 161, 80-89.

**Abstract:** This study evaluates the underlying logic of urban planning behind the inequitable geographical distribution of public open space in Hong Kong. Existing open spaces and areas zoned as open spaces are found to have distinct patterns of distribution. Fewer than half of Hong Kong's 1,737 public parks and recreation grounds were zoned as 'Open Space' in town plans. Three typical land-use zoning configurations adjoining the 1,177 'Open Space' zones are identified. A large proportion of Hong Kong's 'Open Space' zones, particularly those with waterfront access, were located close to upmarket, low-density housing areas and mixed commercial-business zones, rather than to high-density mass housing zones. An historical review elucidates the influence of colonial politics, racial harmony, public hygiene and democratisation on open space planning and development in Hong Kong. Recreation is not the only social function of open space. The government's latest planning and development strategies – expanding a network of new open spaces at

*strategic waterfront locations and near commercial/business zones, and encouraging private-sector participation in place promotion and urban marketing – may exacerbate the inequitable distribution of open space, encourage its commodification and deprive underprivileged communities of the right to conveniently access public space.*

<https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1UWY-cUG56yXV>

### 3. Mr. Alain Chiaradia

- Published the following article:

Chiaradia, A. J., Sieh, L. & Plimmer, F. (2017) "Values in urban design: A design studio teaching approach", *Design Studies*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.destud.2016.10.002>.

**Abstract:** *Since 2000, research into the value of urban design has been utilised in consultancy and policy-making with regard to understanding the value of public investment. This research informs an emerging approach to teaching urban design appraisal within a MA urban design studio, in which variations of the residual method are deployed to assess developer value, private good and public good. Here, the relationship of the appraisal and design elements is articulated by an iterative model of design decision and design judgement making. By situating this approach in a broader theory of societal value, we reconceptualise from first principles, the concept of 'value in urban design'. This also suggests a corresponding definition of urban design in terms of value.*

Keywords: urban design; design process; design judgement; built environment; value of urban design