

Dean's Roundup: 2 June 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'ra-to'ri-al (kyŏr'ə-tŏr'ē-əl, -tŏr'-) n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear All,

It's been a very busy few weeks (OK – the end of a frenetic academic year) for DoA and DLA, with architecture and landscape architecture reviews and accreditation preparation. I am aware that a lot of people are under a great deal of pressure at the moment. DoA curricula changes continue apace. DUPAD has several potentially large CUSUP research initiatives gestating. iLab is submitting a cross faculty bid to bring together our almost-completed HK Urban Big Data GIS platform with BIM data, HK-wide property, environmental, health, vegetation and other data. Against these and many other activities, colleagues are reflecting and reviewing their individual research agenda following Mock RAE feedback. The new design&research paper is almost ready for consultation. The summer is upon us and people are opening writing and research portfolios closed after New Year's or last summer's break.

It seems to me that colleagues are generally clearer than they have been in the past about how they should use the research time included in professorial/track contracts. From many conversations, I have plenty of evidence that people are prioritizing research projects, design projects, journal papers, books, exhibitions, competitions and grant-writing with greater discrimination and understanding than before. Feedback from the mock RAE suggests that if design work is to be considered as academic research, the underlying ideas have to be written up in order to contribute to the public accumulation of tested knowledge, not just written up for RAE and tenure reviewers, and certainly not, not written up at all. Some submitted what seemed to be 'clever' theoretically-focused papers and found that they were not evaluated as highly as somewhat more pedestrian, but rigorous, empirical papers. Most single-author monograph authors had the results of their years of work highly praised. Some found that their work was not appreciated as an academic contribution because its scholarly significance was not clear enough.

If you've not had time to make a research plan for the summer, please use the mock RAE to help make some strategic decisions. Submit a book proposal; write up an unfinished paper; start a new paper; join forces with someone in another department, faculty or university to pursue and innovative idea; talk to HKU's Tech Transfer Office or a potential funder about commercializing an intellectual idea; scale-up a design idea and commit to a built architectural project.

I would like to make a special plea for starting to write GRF applications now, rather than at the other end of the summer. It is in FoA's interest to submit as many (good

quality) GRF applications as possible. Even if you have existing funded projects underway or pending, please consider submitting a new application. Again, for some, mock RAE results might help in selecting a research topic and approach. Senior colleagues, please try and prioritise your time to work with less experienced colleagues in GRF grant writing. If you are tenure track, you almost certainly need to submit a GRF proposal. Please talk to me, or another experienced researcher if you have doubts or questions about research agenda, next steps, a project idea etc.

Having said all this, please find a way of approaching the summer with positive thoughts and time set aside for relaxation. I have talked to more than a few colleagues over the last year (early stage and seasoned professors) who seem to be discovering (again, or for the first time) the joy and excitement that comes from pursuing research in a well-defined niche, where they have confidence in their ability to make a distinctive contribution. The thrill of exploration, discovery and leading others somewhere exciting (students, other researchers and research users) has kept me going during my career. If you haven't found a niche yet (and the Mock RAE suggests that not everyone in FoA has yet) then please use the summer to do some exploring.

Thanks and congratulations to all those listed below.

Teaching and other Achievements

FoA Departments and Divisions

Department of Real Estate and Construction (DREC)

1. Dr. Cynthia H.Y. Hou, Ph.D. graduate of 2013

- Dr. Hou has won the Outstanding Paper in the 2017 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence for her paper published in *Facilities* in 2016:

(<http://emeraldgroupublishing.com/authors/literati/awards.htm?year=2017>)

Hou, H.Y.; Ho, Daniel C.W.; Chung, J.K.H. & Wong, K.K.W. (2016) Tight Budget Constraints and the Absence of Strategic Planning -- An Exploratory Analysis of FM Service Outsourcing, *Facilities*, Emerald Publishing, Vol. 34, Issue 7/8, pp. 380-393.

Purpose – This paper aims to identify the factors that affect facilities management (FM) service outsourcing.

Design/methodology/approach – Five focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted for this study. A total of 25 professional FM managers were invited to participate in the FGDs. The qualitative data collected from the FGDs were analysed with the coding method.

Findings – FM managers commonly regard that tight budget constraints and

the absence of strategic planning are two important factors that affect FM service outsourcing. Tight budget constraints reflect that clients control their service providers by constraining budgets, which creates a series of inefficiencies in the outsourcing process and thus lead to adverse outsourcing relationships. A series of strategies are recommended to deal with the challenges posed by budget constraints and the lack strategic planning.

Department of Urban Planning and Design (DUPAD)

1. MSc in Urban Planning Year 1 students

- Gave a public seminar about urban planning strategy for Hong Kong's logistics industry at the Business Environment Council Headquarters Building on 13 May 2017. This seminar comprised presentations of a Regional and Territorial Planning Studio project of the students to explore the key issues in Hong Kong's logistics industry, examine international experiences, and recommend strategic planning policy to enhance its sustainable growth and development. Prof. Rebecca Chiu, Head of DUPAD, and the Honorable Mr. Frankie Yick, member of the Legislative Council, gave the opening addresses. The seminar was attended by seasoned practitioners from the logistics sector, professional planners and the public.



2. BA in Urban Studies final year students

- The 2nd batch of BA (Urban Studies) will be graduating this year. Below is the group photo taken before the final presentation of their capstone dissertation on 29 May 2017.



3. Dr. Shenjing He

- Was invited to attend the editorial board meeting, Urban Studies, University of Glasgow, 12 May 2017.

4. Dr. Xinjiang Liu

- has been awarded the Glasgow/HKU Early Mobility Funds 2017-18 to visit the School of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Glasgow in the academic year 2017-18, with duration of not less than one month.

Research Achievements

HKUrbanLab research groups

Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP)

1. 2017 International Conference on China Urban Development
 - Eight academic staff, including the Dean, Prof. Chris Webster, and 3 PhD students attended and presented papers in the Plenary Sessions and Parallel Sessions in the *2017 International Conference on China Urban Development* that was held in the Conference Hall of Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, London, UK, from 5-6 May 2017. The Conference was organized by the China Planning Research Group (CPRG), Bartlett School of Planning, University College London (UCL), and co-organized by the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences and Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy of Peking University, China. It was sponsored by Bartlett School of Planning, UCL, British Academy, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (IJURR), Peking University, UCL Strategic Partner Funds and Urban Studies in collaboration with Regional Studies Association. This is the 4th conference of the *International Conference on China Urban Development* series that was first organized in Hong Kong in 2010 by the Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP) of the University of Hong Kong and the Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) of Hong Kong Baptist University. The Conference is organized by Prof. Fulong Wu who had also organized two *International Conferences on China's Urban Transition and City Planning* in 2007 and 2011 respectively when he was still at Cardiff University. The Conference was well attended by over 200 participants with over 120 paper presentations with the presence of major scholars and researchers doing research on urban China. The papers presented by staff and PhD students of the Department of Urban Planning and Design are as follows:

Urban Studies Plenary Session (Chaired by Shenjing He):
Megacity regions in China (Anthony G.O. Yeh)

IJURR Plenary Session:
A big data agenda for urban China research: HKUrbanLab's multi-disciplinary urban science approach (Chris Webster)

Parallel Sessions:
China virtual special issue in Urban Studies (Shenjing He)

Patterns and causes of floating population's intercity migration in China based on the 2010 census data (Xiaoyan Mu* and Anthony G.O. Yeh)

Air pollution and environmental-health inequality in urban China: Evidence from Beijing (Weifeng Li)

Temporal patterns in fine particulate matter time series in Beijing: A calendar view (Jianzheng Liu, Jie Li, and Weifeng Li)

Mind the gap: An exploratory analysis of broken intercity truck roads in China (Xingjian Liu)

Inter-suburban socio-economic differences and mobility-related exclusion in suburban China (Zifeng Chen* and Anthony G.O. Yeh)

State-market interaction and self-organization in the transfer of land development rights in China: The case of Chengdu (Chen Shi* and Bo-sin Tang)

Land consolidation, land tickets and state-village power restructuring: The case of Chongqing (Xi Wang* and Bo-sin Tang)

China's engagement with neoliberal urbanism: The experience of Chongqing (Roger Chan and Lingyue Li)

Bridging formal and informal dynamics of affordable housing development in urban China (Shenjing He)

A comparison of perceived and geographic access to predict urban park use (Dong Wang)

Urbanization, rescaling and transformation of village governance in China: A comparative study of Beijing and Guangzhou (Siu Wai Wong, Bo-sin Tang, Jinlong Liu)

Impact of urban green spaces on residential housing prices: Case study in Shenzhen
(Jiansheng Wu, Meijuan Wang, Weifeng Li, Jian Peng, Li Huang)

* *PhD students*

2. Professor Anthony G.O. Yeh

- has been invited to give a Key Note Speech on “How Did Hong Kong Become a World City” in the *Conference on Global Resources Allocation Center - International Experience and Guangzhou Practice* that was held at the Guangzhou Baiyuan International Convention Centre, Guangzhou, China, on 13 May 2017. It was organized by the Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences. It was well attended by over 200 government officials from different government departments of Guangzhou. Other Key Note Speakers include Mr. Guoqiang Long (Deputy Director General of the State Council Development Research Centre), Mr. Marco Kamiya (Head of the Urban Economy and Finance Branch, UN-Habitat), Prof. Saskia Sassen (Columbia University), Prof. Kathy Pain (University of Reading), and Prof. Pengfei Ni (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences).



Prof. Anthony G.O. Yeh delivering his keynote speech in the Conference

- has published the following co-authored paper at The International Encyclopedia of Geography:

Yeh, A.G.O. and F.F. Yang (2017), "Producer Services and Economic Development", in Douglas Richardson, Noel Castree, Michael F. Goodchild, Audrey Kobayashi, Weidong Liu, and Richard A. Marston (eds.), *The International Encyclopedia of Geography*, Vol. X, New York: John Wiley, pp. 5350-5353.

Abstract: *This paper discusses the the experience of the Western world on economic restructuring, from manufacturing to services and then to producer services, which is depicted as a "quiet revolution." In contrast with consumer services, which are primarily consumed by individuals and households, producer services are intermediate-demand inputs supplied to enterprises or public institutions for the production of goods or other services, including economic activities as diverse as finance, insurance, real estate, business services, and transportation and communication services. Intensively involved in the production process and providing state-of-the-art knowledge and expertise, producer services not only generate direct economic benefits as a substantial source of output and job creation, but also significantly contribute to regional economic performance as a catalyst of technological and organizational change. It also discusses the experience of China which is rising very rapidly in producer services in the last decade.*

- was invited to attend the 65th Anniversary Celebration of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tongji University which is also the 110th Anniversary Celebration of the University from 19 to 20 May 2017. He was also invited to participate in the *Forum on Future of Urban Planning Discipline: World and China* together with speakers from other parts of the world and China. The other speakers include Prof. Yoshitsugu Hayashi (President of World Conference on Transport Research Society), Prof. Mao Qizhi (Tsinghua University), Prof. Gert de Roo (Past President of Association of European Schools of Planning), Prof. Qing Shen (Past Chairman of the International Association for China Planning), and Prof. Weiping Wu (Columbia University). He gave a presentation on "New Wave of Urban Development in China" in the *Forum on Future of Urban Planning Discipline: World and China*.



3. Dr. Shenjing He

- Attended the 2017 International Conference on China Urban Development, at University College of London, London, UK, May 4-6, 2017. She served as the academic advisory board member, plenary session chair, and presented two papers entitled “From an emerging market to a multifaceted urban society: Urban China studies” and “Bridging formal and informal dynamics of affordable housing development in urban China”.
- Was invited to give a research seminar entitled “State-led Financialisation in China's Low-end Housing Provision: A Case Study of Nanjing” at The Urban Institute, Heriot Watt University, May 10, 2017.
- Was invited to give a research seminar entitled “Low-end Housing Provision under China’s State-led Financialisation and its socio-spatial implications” at the Scottish Centre for China Studies, University of Glasgow, May 11, 2017.

4. Dr. Chinmoy Sarkar

- Dr. Sarkar published a paper from one of his UKBUMP studies in Environment International (impact factor: 5.93, 5-year impact factor: 6.60). The paper is available at <https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1V6HzaUJLJnkG>

Sarkar C (2017) Residential greenness and adiposity: Findings from the UKBiobank, Environment International Vol 106, pp1-10

Abstract:

Background:

With the rapid urbanization and prevailing obesity pandemic, the role of residential green exposures in obesity prevention has gained renewed focus. The study investigated the effects of residential green exposures on adiposity using a large and diverse population sample drawn from the UK Biobank.

Materials and methods:

This was a population based cross-sectional study of 333 183 participants aged 38-73 years with individual-level data on residential greenness and built environment exposures. Residential greenness was assessed through 0.50-metre resolution normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) derived from spectral reflectance measurements in remotely sensed colour infrared data and measured around geocoded participants' dwelling. A series of continuous and binary outcome models examined the associations between residential greenness and markers of adiposity, expressed as body-mass index (BMI) in Kg/m², waist circumference (WC) in cm, whole body fat (WBF) in Kg and obesity (BMI≥30 Kg/m²) after adjusting for other activity-influencing built environment and confounders. Sensitivity analyses involved studying effect modification by gender, age, urbanicity and SES as well as examining relationships between residential greenness and active travel behaviour.

Results:

Residential greenness was independently and consistently associated with lower adiposity, the association being robust to adjustments. An interquartile increment in NDVI greenness was associated with lower BMI ($\beta_{BMI}=-0.123$ Kg/m², 95% CI: -0.14,-0.10 Kg/m²), WC ($\beta_{WC}=-0.551$ cm, 95% CI: -0.61,-0.50 cm), and WBF ($\beta_{WBF}=-0.138$ Kg, 95% CI: -0.18,-0.10 Kg) as well as a reduced relative risk of obesity (RR=0.968, 95% CI: 0.96, 0.98). Residential greenness was beneficially related with active travel, being associated with higher odds of using active mode for non-work travel (OR=1.093, 95% CI: 1.08, 1.11) as well as doing more than 30 minutes walking (OR=1.039, 95% CI: 1.03, 1.05).

Conclusion:

Residing in greener areas was associated with healthy weight outcomes possibly through a physical activity-related mechanism. Green allocation and design may act as upstream-level public health interventions ameliorating the negative health externalities of obesogenic urban environments. Further prospective studies are needed to identify potential causal pathways and thereby effectively guide such interventions.

Keywords: *adiposity, body mass index, UK Biobank, NDVI, residential greenness, UKBUMP, active travel.*

Sustainable^{HD}Cities

1. Mathew Pryor

- Mathew's work on urban rooftop farming has been featured in an article published by the BBC at <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170517-an-inside-view-of-hong-kongs-hidden-rooftop-farms> and is the subject of his paper 'Productive Green Roofs' to be presented on 7 June 2017 at the World Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2017 Hong Kong in Session 6.9: Transforming Green Market – Green Economics (2) <http://www.wsbe17hongkong.hk/main-conference-day-3>

In his on-going research study, he has surveyed all existing urban rooftop farms (URF) within Hong Kong, to determine the building, environmental, operational and community conditions under which they occur. Analysis of building and land use data indicates that some 594ha of existing roof space within urban districts may be suitable for farming. Assessment of participation rates in open-to-public farms indicate that URFs could provide opportunities for active participation to more than 18,000 people. Given that existing farms are entirely community driven and receive no policy, technical or financial support from Government, potential participation (especially amongst the elderly) could be much higher. This suggests considerable positive environmental, health and social benefits could be achieved at a city-scale if URFs were actively promoted and formally incorporated into urban land use planning and building processes.



Rooftop Farm on 38/f of Hysan Place, Causeway Bay

2. Ashley Scott Kelly

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB), together with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Vietnam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, hosted the **Forum on Sustainable Infrastructure: Integrating Climate Resilience and Natural Capital into Transport Infrastructure Planning and Design** on May 17 and 18 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

During the forum, Ashley Scott Kelly presented innovative ways that design-level considerations can drive sustainable infrastructure planning. His talk, "*Infrastructure, Impact and Uncertainty: Scenario-based approaches to*

upstream design, wildlife connectivity and sustainable construction in transport planning for southern Myanmar", included work on the Dawei Road Link with Dorothy Tang at HKU, WWF, and Smithsonian.

The event convened planners, engineers and climate specialists alongside government ministries, multilateral banks, bilateral aid agencies, infrastructure finance investment firms, NGOs and academia. The forum was divided into five sessions, covering: 1) Designing ecologically sensitive transport infrastructure; 2) Building resilient infrastructure working with nature and bioengineering; 3) Facilitating finance for sustainable infrastructure; 4) Improving options with better planning; and 5) Strengthening the enabling environment.

The forum was attended by high-level officials, including a large delegation from Myanmar: Directors General of the Ministries of Construction and Rail Transportation, and Directors and Deputies from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Highways, Investment, and Transport and Communications. Government ministries also joined from China, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao, and Vietnam. Experts attended from institutions and organizations from across Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Americas.

<http://www.gms-eoc.org/events/forum-on-sustainable-infrastructure->

