

Dean's Roundup

Friday, 7 March, 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 (ky^{oo}'**r**-tôr'^{ee}-al, -tôr'-)] n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear all,

One of my ongoing UK research projects uses the London Travel Demand Survey to investigate the relationships between green spaces and walking behaviour. Over the past week some intriguing findings have emerged. For background, the survey collected travel data on one day in 2009 for 15,000 Londoners in about 7,000 households, stratified by London's 32 boroughs. It breaks down the journeys into trip purpose and mode, by stages, and each stage plus the origin and destination is geocoded. Socio-economics of the subjects are stored in the database. To this, my UK team has added what we call 'morphometrics' – measurements of the urban morphology and configuration in the vicinity of each respondent's home. Among these, we have classified four types of green space: parks, sports-grounds, natural areas (mainly, suburban countryside within the city boundary and London's royal forests) and individual street trees. Among our findings are the following:

1. the higher the density of street trees, the higher the odds of walking more than 100m
2. the higher the density of parkland, the lower the odds of walking >100m
3. the higher the density of sports grounds, the higher the odds of walking >100m
4. the higher the density of natural green areas, the lower the odds of walking >100m
5. people living on streets likely to contain more through traffic for the city as a whole have a lower odds of walking >100m
6. people living on streets likely to contain more pedestrian movement have a higher odds of walking >100m
7. the higher the access to local services, the lower the probability of walking >100m

These relationships have been computed statistically, holding other co-variants constant, such as age, gender, income etc.

1,3 and 5-6 are intuitive. 2,4 and 7 are counter intuitive and challenge current urban design and landscape planning doctrines. It is nice to find scientific evidence that street trees apparently induce people to walk. We can therefore predict a positive relationship between street tree density and obesity and cardio-vascular disease. So designers: design green walking corridors with greater confidence.

Finding (4) is a nugget. It is an argument against London-style green belts. Green belts may be fine for preserving agriculture and urban landscape (evidence suggests these benefits are questionable for various reasons), but as urban design features, they are typically impermeable, creating barriers to

walkable destinations. This creates a healthy tension between landscape and urban design doctrines. This makes for a fertile research niche.

The *lower* odds (probability) of walking more than 100m for people living in areas with *higher* densities of parks is another controversial finding with great potential for a seminal paper. It fits with another finding from my research: that (in a cohort of 1000 elderly Welsh men), the *farther* away the men live from a green space, the *lower* the odds of obesity (the lower the Body Mass Index of the men). This finding controls for income, gender, history of heart disease and other confounding factors. What do we make of this? With the elderly men, my guess is that elderly people don't walk to parks in order to go running. They go there to sit down. The health benefits are in the walking, so the further away the nearest park, the more healthy the men. Challenge to urban designers and landscape planners: don't plan so many parks! Other published evidence shows that the attractiveness of large parks is far greater than small parks, which too easily get degraded and repel, rather than attract people. With the London data, I think the same dynamic could be at work: the higher the density of parks (controlling for socio-economic status of neighbourhood, crime rates, traffic speed, traffic accident rates etc), the less the probability of respondents walking over 100m. We would expect a negative relationship therefore between walking-related health on the one hand and park density on the other: the higher the density of parks, the more the obesity. We'll have data to test this by May 2014.

I hope I have whetted your appetite for evidence-based landscape architecture, urban design, planning and urbanism with these findings. In the interest of migrating this research to HKU, Matthew Pryor will be working with the Cardiff-Cambridge team to develop these findings into a paper for the highly cited Journal of Landscape and Urban Planning. I would love it if there were others in DLA, DUPAD and Architecture who are interested in developing this kind of work in HK and perhaps elsewhere in Asia. The techniques are completely transferable. Expressions of interest welcomed.

Congratulations and thanks to all those mentioned below for their contributions to the Faculty's research and engagement agenda. Special congratulations to those who will receive this year's Long Service Award for Terms of Service I Staff with 15 to 24 years of service.

Particular congratulations to John Lin whose application for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor has been successfully approved by the University Selection and Promotion Committee.

Chris

Faculty of Architecture

The following members of the Faculty will receive the University's Long Service Award for Terms of Service I Staff with 15 to 24 years of service at the presentation ceremony to be held on Monday, March 17, 2014, at 3:00pm in Loke Yew Hall (names are sorted in alphabetical order of the last names):

- Dr. Roger Chan, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Architecture
- Ms. Cordelia Chan, Secretary, Faculty of Architecture
- Mr. K P Cheung, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture
- Ms. Debra Cheung, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture
- Mr. Renato Garcia, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture
- Professor Berry Hsu, Professor, Department of Real Estate and Construction
- Dr. B S Jia, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture
- Professor Lawrence Lai, Professor, Department of Real Estate and Construction
- Mr. H F Leung, Associate Professor, Department of Real Estate and Construction
- Dr. L H Li, Associate Professor, Department of Real Estate and Construction
- Professor Anita Liu, Professor, Department of Real Estate and Construction
- Dr. S W Poon, Principal Lecturer, Department of Real Estate and Construction
- Professor Weijen Wang, Professor, Department of Architecture
- Dr. Wong Kwok Chun, Department of Real Estate and Construction
- Dr. Wong Wah Sang, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture
- Mr. Tim Yeung, Computer Officer, Faculty of Architecture

Architectural Conservation Programme

I. Dr. Hoyin Lee, Director, ACP Programme

- Invited to give a lecture, entitled "Integration of the Old and the New: Creating Architectural Heritage of the Future through Innovative Architectural Design," by the Hong Kong office of Benoy, a British-based international architectural practice with over 300 staff in the Hong Kong office; the lecture was attended by about 80 architects, including senior directors, held on 28 February 2014.
- Co-Organized the *Distinguished Public Lecture Series: Four PhDs on Community and Arts/History/Heritage*, organized by Arts in Heritage Research (AHR) and co-organized by ACP, The Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists (HKICON) and The Fringe Club. This public lecture series consists of lectures by four distinguished experts in arts, history and heritage: Dr Victor Lai (Associate *Director*, Academy of Visual Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University); Dr Lau Chi-pang (Director, Hong Kong Local Records Office, Lingnan University); Dr Joseph Ting (former Director, Hong Kong Museum of History); and Dr Hoyin Lee (ACP Director); held at Fringe Dairy, The Fringe Club, on 22 March, 29 March, 26 April and 3 May 2014.

<http://ahr.org.hk/en/my-product/distinguished-public-lecture-series-four-phds-on-community-and-arts-history-heritage/>

AHR
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四博士

論社會與藝術 / 歷史 / 保育
Distinguished Public Lecture Series:
Four PhDs on Community and Arts / History / Heritage

All Saturdays, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

講座一 Lecture 1 22 March 2014 香港浸會大學 黎煥南博士 Dr Victor Lai, Hong Kong Baptist University 社會與藝術：香港的視覺藝術發展 Community & Arts: Development of Visual Arts in Hong Kong	講座二 Lecture 2 29 March 2014 嶺南大學 歐智聰博士 Dr Chi-pang Lau, Lingnan University 社會與歷史：香港的山東警察 Community & History: Shandong Policemen in Hong Kong
講座三 Lecture 3 26 April 2014 香港大學 李鴻銘博士 Dr Hoyin Lee, The University of Hong Kong 社會與保育：博物館建築的社會意義 Community & Heritage: Museum Architecture and Society	講座四 Lecture 4 03 May 2014 香港中文大學 丁祐勤博士 Dr Joseph Ting, The Chinese University of Hong Kong 社會與歷史：越前香港的外籍族群 Community & History: Expatriate Communities in Pre-war Hong Kong

地點 Venue: 中環下亞厘畢道二號最樓層 Fringe Dairy, Fringe Dairy, The Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Road, Central

講者語言 In Cantonese

免費參加 Free admission

先到先得 First-come, first-served

報名方法：有關人士請將姓名、聯絡電話、電郵及擬出席的講座電郵至 anne@ahr.org.hk。
Registration: interested parties can email to anne@ahr.org.hk and provide your name, contact no. and email address for registration.

主辦機構 Organizers:
The Fringe Club
Architectural Conservation Programme
Faculty of Architecture
ACP
HKICON

查詢 Enquiries: 2588 6608 info@ahr.org.hk

Department of Architecture

1. Ms. Tris Kee

- has been awarded the “Academic Committee Award” in the 2013-14 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture for her “Hong Kong Value Farm exhibition” collaborated with CU.

this award was selected by a consortium of over 20 scholars and academics led by Terence Riley and was selected from over 135 exhibition projects from 21 countries.

2. Mr. John Lin

- his application for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor has been successfully approved by the University Selection and Promotion Committee

Department of Real Estate and Construction

The panel of assessors of “HKIS – Outstanding Final Year Dissertation Award 2013” has awarded the following prizes to our UG and RPg students.

Dr Daniel Lo (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Class of 2013 PhD graduate) and Mr He Zhaoqiang (Class of 2013 MPhil graduate) have won in the Postgraduate Students Category.

Award	Name of Student	Thesis Title	Supervisor
Outstanding Final Year Thesis Award	Dr. Lo Daniel Yet Fhang	Factors Affecting Spatial Autocorrelation in Housing Prices: An Empirical Study of Hong Kong	Prof. K.W. Chau (Primary) Dr. S.K. Wong (Co)
Outstanding Final Year Thesis Award	Mr. HE Zhaoqiang	Study on Barriers of Implementation of Building Information Modeling in Facilities Management	Dr. Daniel Ho

Four UG students have won the Top Award and another two have won the Second Award.

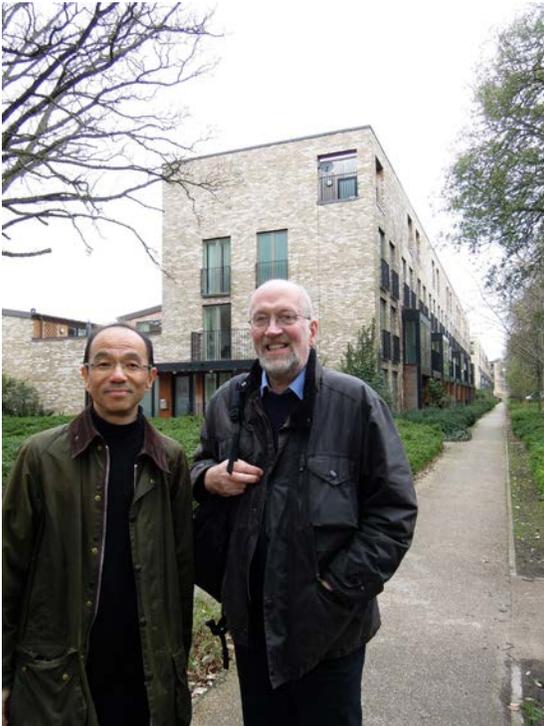
Award	Name of Student	Dissertation Title	Supervisor
Quantity Surveying (Top Award)	Chung Man Sheung	The Empirical Study of the Challenges and Barriers of Adoption of Building Information Model (BIM) in Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) Industry in Hong Kong.	Dr. Ju Gao
Planning and Development (Top Award)	Chan Mei Ting	Owners' decisions on compensation offers in urban renewal projects.	Dr. Daniel Ho
Planning and Development (Top Award)	Fung Wai Ling	An Empirical Study of the Impact of Application List System and Anti-Speculation Measures on Housing Price and Housing Supply in Hong Kong.	Prof. K.W. Chau
Property and Facility Management (Top Award)	Huang Tan Yeung	Adaptive Reuse - An Approach towards Sustainability.	Dr. Daniel Ho
Building Surveying (Second Award)	Leung Chun Ho	A Study of the Performance of Heritage Conservation of Revitalizing of Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme.	Prof. Anita Liu
General Practice (Second Award)	Cheung Kai Kin Kenneth	Does size matter? An empirical study on the pricing strategy of residential developments in Hong Kong.	Dr. L.H. Li

The Presentation Ceremony of the Awards will be held on 17 March.

Department of Urban Planning and Design

I. Dr. Roger Chan

- gave a lecture at the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow entitled "Transplanting (Urban) Boundaries in the Pearl River Delta Bay Area" on 28 February 2014. The talk was chaired by Professor David Adams, Ian Mactaggart Chair of Property & Urban Studies and Deputy Chair of sub-panel 16 (Architecture, Built Environment and Planning) for Research Evaluation framework 2014.
- met with Dr Ruth Kattumuri, Co-Director, Asia Research Centre, The London School of Economics and Political Science on 3 March 2014. The meeting aimed to explore collaboration and exchange opportunities with the Centre especially their Asia Urbanisation programme.
- was invited to attend the "Design SE: Cambridge (Housing and Planning) workshop and panel discussion hosted by the Cambridge City Council on 4 March 2014. Participants of the workshop included Directors of Property & Real Estate sector, senior planning officers from the local borough councils in Kent and Cambridgeshire.



Peter Studdert, recipient of the most prestigious architectural accolade - the RIBA Stirling Prize, explained the planning and design concepts of Accordia, Cambridge to Roger Chan

2. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- re-appointed as Member of the Expert Advisory Committee of the Guangdong Real Estate Association for a period of four years, back dated from November 2013.

3. Dean Webster

- gave a keynote speech at a plenary session of the 11th International Conference on Urban Health, held at the Manchester Central Convention Complex, United Kingdom, on 6 March 2014. He shared the stage with the Director of the World Health Organisation, Kobe centre and the Director of Public Health England. This was an effective way to put HKUrban lab on the map and he had a queue of eminent scholars interested in collaborating with our HKU Architecture-Medicine collaboration.

4. Professor Anthony Yeh

- presented a paper on “Producer Services Development of Chinese Cities in the Fourth Wave of Urbanization” in the Built Environment Research Seminar of the Faculty of Built Environment, University of New South Wales (UNSW) on 28 February 2014.