

## RESEARCH SEMINAR

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

# Conceptualising Urban Political Ecology in and Through Asian Urbanisms

1 Feb 2024 (Thu)  
4:30 – 6:00 pm (UTC+8)  
Rm 221, Chen Kou Ben  
Building, CUHK

This presentation examines the institutional frameworks within which urban political ecology (UPE) has evolved over time and how the literature has responded to challenges identified by new rounds of comparative, non-western, and post-colonial urban (and regional) theorizing. One response of UPE to the challenges of 'southern theory' has been the strand of 'situated UPE', which is attentive to everyday urbanisms and the various practices that make up contemporary cities. This term is useful for its ability to conceptualise the city as made up of diverse processes, actions and metabolisms that may not otherwise be readily considered urban. However, much of this work to date has been conducted through the lens of African urbanism. While writing on Asian cities has made strong contributions to the project of de-centering urban theory, this has not been done in relation to the urban political ecology (except emerging work on South Asia). Yet, experiences of Asian urbanisms, particularly on the urban periphery, can be useful for continuing the task of developing a more theoretically heterogeneous and situated UPE.

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Creighton Connolly is Assistant Professor in HKU's Department of Urban Planning and Design. Creighton also held faculty positions at Lingnan University and the University of Lincoln, UK. Previously, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the National University of Singapore (NUS) after obtaining his PhD in Human Geography from the University of Manchester. Trained as an urban political ecologist, his work examines processes of urban and environmental governance, urban redevelopment and heritage conservation. He is the author of *Political Ecologies of Landscape: Governing Urban Transformations in Penang* (2022) and *Pandemic Urbanism: Infectious Disease on a Planet of Cities* (2022).



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