

RIGHT TO THE CITY SEMINAR SERIES

Planning Law and the Right to City Planning: 'Walled Buildings' in Hong Kong



LOCATION MAP



WHEN and WHERE?

19 May 2012 (Saturday),
2:30pm to 4:30pm

Room 712, 7/F, William Mong Engineering Building,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin

Location Map: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/english/campus/cuhk-campus-map.html>

What is it about? What is it about?

Planning law as part and partial of a planning system could be a double-edged sword: it could guarantee people's planning rights but it could also behind its 'equality before the law' façade privilege certain actors' rights at the expense of others. Hence, the coverage and ingredients of a planning law could be potential subjects of contention. This seminar attempts to tell the story of 'walled buildings' in Hong Kong through the lens of the evolving planning-related laws and regulations, and people's awakening to their right to city planning.

Walled buildings are not new in compact Hong Kong. However, "high-density slab-block style buildings" in new reclamation areas maximizing stunning harbour view, depriving old lower-rise urban areas of natural ventilation and sunlight, is a relatively new phenomenon. Through a critical examination of the delayed amendment of an outdated Town Planning Ordinance (originated in 1939 and amended partially to broaden participation in 2005), this paper first investigates how the "walled building" phenomenon has occurred. If "walled buildings" are common place in Hong Kong, then what are the specific circumstances that have led to the emergence of a right to city planning movement to counteract this faulty urban form? The paper adopts a three-pronged approach to answer this research question: the role of the 2005 amended Town Planning Ordinance in sensitizing people of their right to city planning; the roles of networked stakeholders in mobilizing information, resources, opinions in re-problematizing the "walled-building" phenomenon; and the wider evolving socio-economic context with embedded transforming hard and soft institutions that increasingly recognise people's right to the city.

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Who should participate? Who should participate?

The topics in the 'Right to the City Seminar Series' should be of interest to urban planners and related professionals, urban activists, students and anyone who is interested in issues related to the urban realm.

Format

- Informative and interactive
- Presented and facilitated by **Professor Mee Kam NG**
- Language: formal presentation in English; group discussions and presentations can be in either Cantonese or English (decided by group members)



Rundown (2:30pm-4:30pm)

2:15pm to 2:30pm	Registration
2:30pm to 3:00pm	Planning-related laws and regulations in Hong Kong
3:00pm to 3:20pm	Group Discussion: What should be our right to city planning?
3:20pm to 3:35pm	Laws and the right to city planning: sharing of some theoretical insights
3:35pm to 4:00pm	Walled buildings case studies
4:00pm to 4:30pm	Discussions

REGISTRATION FORM (**DEADLINE: 11 MAY 2012, FRIDAY**)

Please complete the form below and send it back to:

- By Fax: **2603-5006**
(Attention: Professor Mee Kam Ng, Department of Geography and Resource Management, CUHK)
- By E-mail: Denise Ho—nedveddenise@gmail.com or Carman Cheung—carmancheung@cuhk.edu.hk

Name (English):

Name (Chinese):

Professional Institute:

CPD Certificate Required: Yes/ No (please delete as appropriate)

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

Seminar is sponsored by the General Research Fund, Hong Kong Research Grants Council. First come first serve as places are limited!



The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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



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