The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Geography and Resource Management

will present a seminar

by

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Heritage Conservation and Advocacy Coalitions: The State-Society Conflict in the case of the Enning Road Redevelopment Project in Guangzhou

Abstract:

The Enning Road redevelopment project has been controversial in Guangzhou as the site possesses many vernacular buildings that are not officially recognised by the authorities as significant but are nevertheless highly regarded by non-state stakeholders as important entities that embody the unique essence and culture of local neighbourhoods. This paper examines the positive role played by the press media, the New Express, in bringing about changes in the government-sanctioned Enning Road redevelopment project plan through the lens of the Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF). The significance of this paper lies in detailing how the news group has helped shift the project priority from being property-led to conservation-led. Its reports have gained a wide audience in appreciating and recognising the conservation value of non-designated vernacular architecture in inner city areas. Nonetheless, this paper raises question about the sustainability of civil mobilisation in subsequent conservation efforts, due to a general lack of enthusiasm. Neither urban redevelopment strategies nor conservation agendas have been subject to a major overhaul due to the impact of this individual redevelopment project. Therefore, the promise of change is at best a tactical compromise adopted by the municipal authorities to mollify opposing public voices in Guangzhou.

About the Speaker:

Anna Lee obtained her PhD in Geography in 2014 from the University of Hong Kong. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the Centennial College, an independent college established by the University of Hong Kong. Her early publications focus on major aspects of contemporary environmental problems and policies in China. Her research revolves around the core themes of urban governance, urban development, sustainable development, and cultural heritage conservation.

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Time: 4:30–6:00pm
Venue: Room 221
Chen Kou Bun Building
Chung Chi College

~All are Welcome~

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