Dear All,

A brief blog for this Roundup to make space for a lot of interesting items to report. Apologies for the gap since the last publication—it’s been a very busy time for us all in FoA and HKUrbanLab. I have just come back from a week’s visit to three UK universities that FoA is actively collaborating with: Oxford, Cambridge and UCL.

At Oxford, I was sealing a deal with the Kadoorie China Biobank to create what we are going to call the CKBUMP. This will be the third healthy-cities research platform that HKUrbanLab is partnering to create, the others being UKBUMP and HKBUMP. Together, these three data platforms will permit scientific studies on over a million subjects living in a very wide range of urban settlements, from very low UK densities to very high Chinese densities. This illustrates one of HKUrbanLab’s successful strategies: to create robust, high quality, world-class urban research data platforms in collaboration with high profile partners. When we do this, research partners from the best organisations will seek us out as collaborators.

At Cambridge, I was visiting FoA’s latest resident visitor at the Department of Land Economy (DLE). We have placed a Post Doc Fellow in DLE for 12 months to work on HKUrbanLab projects and to get involved with DLE projects. This is the 4th or 5th year that we have had visitors in Cambridge. I encourage all FoA departments and divisions to think about building links with Cambridge. DLE is more than land economy. It is Cambridge’s urban planning department, it is one of Cambridge’s strongest environmental policy research units and one of the leading housing, urban economics and real estate schools in the world. DoA has historical links with Cambridge Architecture and it would be good to build this link up too, with high potential in building physics, sustainable architecture, energy, urban simulation, urban design and history-theory.

At UCL I held a workshop with 6 students on CASA’s MSc Smart Cities to introduce them to the HKUrbanLab projects that they will be working on for their MSc thesis. This is the first step in a collaboration that aims to offer MSc Smart Cities students access to our projects. We get smart student researchers; CASA gets access to our data and additional supervision; students get the chance to do publishable work; the best students get priority consideration for our PhD scholarships; we get well-trained PhD students in a position to publish research in their first year of doctoral study. CASA is a Bartlett department. There may be other Bartlett masters programs we want to consider making similar arrangements with.
I also spoke at UCL’s Urban China conference (as did several other colleagues from FoA). My talk promoted HKUrbanLab projects across the labs and departments. One good result was an email from the World Bank China office, asking if we could give a video-conference talk to the WB China team, on HKUrbanLab’s work on parametric master plans. This is not a particularly elegant or attractive term, but it describes aspects of innovative research being conducted in several of our Labs. CCAU’s Chang’an project (Tao, Weijen, Chau and Dean) is likely to explore various performance-related master-planning exercises (green space, energy, walkability etc). The same is true of iLab’s German eco-city project (Wilson, Nasrine, Dean) with RIB and Georgia Tech (energy, walkability, social value optimization). WalkableHK, a HealthyHDCities project (Alain, Guibo) is a platform for optimizing walking in cities. Wilson’s iLab team has just created an algorithm for creating a 3D model of green roofs, including green landuse categories, roof structures, surface albedo etc. The World Bank are interested in exploring some of our approaches to parametric master planning in their Chongqing project. They are also interested in hour healthy cities work.

Thank you to the growing team of active researchers that makes up HKUrbanLab. The Lab seems to be an effective device to promote our work on an impactful and eye-catching multi-disciplinary platform. Specific congratulations to those responsible for the achievements mentioned below.

Teaching and other Achievements

FoA Departments and Divisions

Department of Real Estate and Construction (DREC)

1. Mr. Tom Tsz Hin Felix, Bachelor of Surveying Class of 2016

   - has won the Platinum Award of Outstanding Presentation at the IFMA’s Inter-Institutional Competition on Facility Management Project Presentation.

   Felix made a presentation based on his dissertation entitled ‘Health of Green Building Occupants: Both Indoor and Neighbourhood Environment Matter!’ (supervised by Dr. Isabelle Chan). In addition to Certificate of Award and trophy, Felix also received a cash award of HK$5,000.
HKU BA(Urban Studies) 4th Yr. Student won Esri Young Scholars Award 2017 with Traffic Noise Pollution in the Western District

Mr. Kenneth Wong Kiu Ho, a final Yr. 4 HKU student of the BA in Urban Studies programme, has won the Esri Young Scholars Award (YSA) 2017 for his entry “The Dirty of Loudness – Investigation on Traffic Noise Pollution to Residents in Western District” (Figure 1). This award was judged from a panel of nine GIS (Geographic Information System) experts from the universities in Hong Kong and professional associations. He used mathematical model and advanced GIS techniques to analyze the impact of traffic noise pollution on the residents of the Western District in different locations in different time of the day. Using temporal GIS to display the results of his work, he shows that around 40% of the buildings in the Western District were seriously affected by traffic noise pollution at the level exceeding 70dB (maximum standard set by the Government for residential units) as least 1 hour in a day. During peak hours, nearly half of the population in the Western District experienced noisy traffic. This alarming situation poses severe health risks to the local residents.

YSA is an international Award launched since 2012 by Esri in the USA, the global market leader in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, to recognize the exemplary works in geo-spatial sciences of undergraduate and graduate students at universities in the world. The contest for this Award is launched in Hong Kong for the first time in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Esri China (Hong Kong).

He will be provided with free air ticket, 8-day hotel accommodation and registration fee from Esri to attend and receive this Award at the 2017 ESRI User Conference in San Diego, California, in July that will have over 16,000 participants worldwide. His work will represent Hong Kong to be displayed alongside with other Young Scholar winners from around the world in the conference. Results of this Award and details of Kenneth's entry can be found at:
http://www.esrichina.hk/ysa/Result%20Announcement/
and
https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=0e70c16c21fa4b06a8e21dd478fe42c9 (for his winning Story Map Presentation)

Four Yr. 3 students also won the Merit Award. They are Mr. Chan Zi Tao, Tyler (Availability of Self-study Rooms in Sham Shui Po), Mr. Choy Tsz Hin, Frankie (Street Light Threatens Your Sleep! GIS Study in Sham Shui Po, Hong Kong), Mr. Huang Chi Ho, Leo (Spatial Accessibility of Recreational Spaces for Tenement Residents of Sham Shui Po), and Mr. Leung Sheung Hin, Mars (Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Facilities in Hong Kong).
Figure 1: The Dirty of Loudness – Study on traffic noise pollution to residents in the Western District
1. Dr. Roger Chan


- Held a meeting with research officers, Dr. Adeel Muhammand and Dr. F. Sajjad, of LSE Cities on the impacts of energy resources, oil consumption and urban forms in Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Singapore and Hong Kong.

2. Mr. Alain Chiaradia

- DUPAD Master of Urban Design

As part of the Urban Design International Studio, MUD students and teachers had a Field Study Visit (FSV) to Paris during reading week (6th to 11th March) to visit the studio project areas which are part of the innovative orbital, figure of eight-shaped Grand Paris Express (GPE) project. The GPE involves opening 60 new stations, the doubling of the metropolitan network over the next 15 years and the intensification of the station areas.

MUD students also visited ZAC Paris Rive Gauche, one of the most successful contemporary large development and an exhibition on Haussmann which provided some counterintuitive insights on the urban form of very high density.

They attended various presentations:

- An introduction to the institutional governance of the new Metropolitan Paris (2016) and the Grand Paris Express, by Nicolas Buchoud, President of the Grand Paris Alliance, followed by a reception at the Hotel de la Pavia on Champs Elysées.

- Paul Lecroart, senior urban planner at the Urban Planning and Development Agency of the Paris Ile-de-France Region (IAU) presented “Planning the Paris Metro Region: Strategies, Projects, and Innovations”.
- David Mangin, Architect and Urbanist, discussed his studies of GPE station’ neighbourhood projects. Bernard Landau, deputy of the Director of Urban Planning of the City of Paris discussed the public space briefing of the new stations.

- Jacques Ferrier and Pauline Marchetti, architect and urbanist, presented Sensual Station, the 2011 winning concept of the international competition for architecture and design of the GPE stations.

- The FSV was followed by a week of independent visits to European cities (Barcelona, Venice, Rome, Copenhagen)

3. Ms. Christina Lo

- Re-elected as Chair, Planners Registration Board (Jan to Dec 2017)

- Appointment to the Community Aspects (CA) Expert Panel, BEAM Society (1 April 2017 to 31 Dec 2018)
1. Dr. Ken Nicolson

- Won the Honor Award (top award) in the 2016 Awards of the American Institute of Architects International Region, for *St. Andrew’s Church Life Centre, Kowloon, Hong Kong*. The project was led by Nelson Chen Architects, and Ken was cited in the award as the landscape architect and heritage consultant. See:

http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/2091369/27346221/1479747919110/2016+AIA+International+Region+Design+Awards+for+website.pdf?token=ZaKFydrXLsP48CbocgzBK%2FOfeyE%3D

2. Gesa Schwantes (MSc Conservation 2011 graduate)

- As a member of the team working on a World Bank-funded conservation project in Guizhou Province, China, has been cited in a prestigious UNESCO award. The project won an Honourable Mention at the 2016 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.


The citation from the UNESCO website reads:

*The World Bank loan Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection and Development Project - Liu Ancestral Hall Preservation and Renovation Project of Sanmentang Village, Tianzhu County, Guizhou province, China.*

*The preservation of Liu Ancestral Hall is notable for the application of a rigorous scientific approach. Dating to the Qing Dynasty with further embellishment during the time of the Republic of China, the hall had declined into poor structural condition with damage to its surfaces, including its renowned decorative stucco façade. The project’s proponents successfully carried out non-intrusive investigation of the building fabric, systematic testing of possible solutions and meticulous conservation interventions. In reviving a significant historic building for on-going use by Dong ethnic group villagers and to attract outside visitors, the project contributes to a larger initiative to protect and promote Guizhou’s diverse cultural and natural heritage.*

The project had started already in 2011 with preliminary investigations by the team I am working with at Tongji University in Shanghai, but I was mainly involved between 2014 and 2016,” Gesa, currently the Director of the Architectural Conservation Laboratory at the Faculty of Architecture, said.

According to Gesa, the main challenge facing all conservation projects in China and Hong Kong is the lack of understanding for material conservation. “This project included a number of instrumental analysis and testing. It also served as a pilot project in the region to demonstrate how important it is to include scientific analyses and in-depth studies of the original materials in order to find the best conservation treatment.”
Gesa continues to promote the importance of material conservation. Currently she works mainly on completing the setting up and the opening of the Architectural Conservation Laboratory at the Faculty of Architecture, HKU. The new laboratory will allow the Division of Architectural Conservation Programmes to integrate more courses on material conservation, conservation science and instrumental analysis in the curriculum of the BA (Conservation) and MSc (Conservation) courses, and serve as a research and service laboratory for conservation projects in Hong Kong.

3. Dr. Hoyin Lee and Dr. Lynne DiStefano

- were invited by the Singapore Government’s Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) to give a joint-lecture entitled “From ‘Modern’ to ‘Moderne’: 20th-Century Architecture Heritage in Hong Kong” for the URA Speakers Series, held on 27 April 2017 at the URA Centre, Singapore. It was attended by about 100 professionals from various built-environment related disciplines. See: https://www.eventbrite.sg/e/from-moderne-to-modern-20th-century-architectural-heritage-in-hong-kong-cpd-event-tickets-33574268541#.
Research Achievements

HKUrbanLab research groups

Centre for Chinese Architecture and Urbanism (CCAU)

1. Dean Webster, Professor Nasrine Seraji, Professor Weijen Wang, Professor K W Chau, Dr. Tao Zhu, Dr. Xiaoxuan Lu and Research Assistants Josephine Liang Jiancong and Liang Qingxiang

- Attended the opening ceremony of The University of Hong Kong Faculty of Architecture – Guangdong Province The People’s Government of Chang’an Town Joint Research Centre for Architecture and Cities, chaired by Chang’an Party Secretary Mr. Shaotian He and Committee member Dr. Qingxiang Ye. The Chang’an government offers the joint Centre an office and a gallery space within its newly built Chang’an Youth Creative Center - an ideal venue for the Faculty to do knowledge exchange activities with Chang’an.

- Attended a roundtable discussion with the Chang’an officials on the general work plan for 2017, including the three research topics on Spatial History of Chang’an, the Spatial Heritage Survey and the Landuse mechanism of Chang’an.
1. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- Invited to give a public lecture on “Subsidized housing policy of Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Singapore: comparing government roles and market functions” at the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Shenzhen University, 7 April 2017.

2. Dr. Shenjing He

- Was invited to give a lecture entitled "The Creative Fix: Making Creative Cities in China", for the China Talk Series, Samuel Tak Lee MIT Lab, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on April 5, 2017.

- Was invited to give a talk entitled "State-led Financialisation in China’s Low-end Housing Provision: A Case Study of Nanjing" at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA, USA, on April 6, 2017.

3. Dr. Roger Chan

- Present a paper entitled “China’s engagement with neoliberal urbanism: The experience of Chongqing” at the 2017 International Conference on China Urban Development organised by the Bartlett School of Planning, University College London on 5-6 May 2017. He served at session chair of the conference.

- Gave a presentation entitled “Land Finance and Urban Development in post-reform Chinese cities” at the ECON2342: China Economy Seminar at the National Bureau of Economic Research, Harvard University. The seminar was chaired by Prof. Richard B. Freeman and attended by Director Dr. John Trumpbour and over 30 Fulbright scholars and PhDs based in Harvard. There was active, interesting exchange over land tenure system and the process of assignment of land use rights in China and the comparison with western practices. The rent seeking behaviour in the China’s urban reform was contested during the Q&A.

- On 5 April, Dr. Chan and his PhD students visited Professor Eric Gordon, founding director of the Engagement Lab at Emerson College and faculty associate at the Berkman Centre for Internet and Society at Harvard University.
He studies civic media and public engagement with the US and the developing world. Eric’s work was featured in the “Gaming the Real World” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vme-ZDvhFvI. The Guardian (10 June 2014) carried an article on the Lab’s project on participatory Chinatown role-play and other studies founded on public engagement.

During the meeting, Professor Eric Gordon shared the different of approaches adopted by to promote public participation in the urban planning process. The Lab has committed to bridging research and planning practices and making influential impacts in planning practices, both in US and many parts of the world. We exchange opinion on the current situations and potential obstacles in promoting public participation in China’s planning practices. The good practices of the Engagement Lab are inspiring and providing useful ways to foster public participation.

Members of the Research Group visited the Engagement Lab, Emerson College, Boston hosted by Director Eric Gordon.

4. Dr. Roger C K Chan and PhD candidates Xueji WEI, Xin MAI, and Xu WANG

- At the invitation of the Secretary General of Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) and the Faculty of Science and Technology, Pokhara University, Dr. Chan visited Nepal in the week after Easter.

On 20 April 2017, Dr. Chan gave a presentation to SONA entitled “Asia’s World City: Connectivity, Gentrification and Conservation”. It was attended by about 100 members and students, who raised interesting questions in the floor session after the President of SONA, Mr. Suman N Vaidya, delivered a joinder on my presentation.

On 23 April 2017, Dr. Chan gave a talk entitled “Central and Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System: Lessons for Engineers” to staff and MSc students of Pokhara University, a leading university in Nepal in science and engineering.
During the visit, Dr. Chan met with the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and Dean of Social Science of the Far Western University in connection with his on-going research on the OBOROBS project.

Dr. Chan also carried out field survey and interviews in the town of Dhulikhel along Araniko (Nepal-China Friendship) Highway and in Pokhara on the impacts of infrastructure development and tourism on the region. Publication and research proposal based on these works are being prepared.

- Attended the annual conference of AAG at Boston during April 4th-9th, 2017. Dr. Roger Chan gave a presentation titled “Land development and land tenure model in the Pearl River Delta region” on April 7th and Xin MAI gave a presentation titled “An exploratory study of economic resilience in socialist China from 1953 to 2016”; Xueji WEI gave a presentation titled “The making of rural community and the changing grassroots governance in peri-urban China”; and Xu WANG gave a presentation titled “Economic upgrading and working conditions of workers in the Pearl River Delta, China”. All presentations were well attended followed by lively discussion.

5. Dr. Shenjing He

- Organized two paper sessions entitled "Formal and informal dynamics of affordable housing development", and presented a paper entitled "Bridging formal and informal dynamics of low-income housing development in urban China", and served as a panelist for the panel session entitled "Uncomfortable theoretical fit? China in the lens of neoliberalism and post-colonialism" at the
6. Dr. Kyung-Min Nam


Abstract: Can environmental regulations also enhance local industrial performance, overachieving their primary goal of protecting the environment? In this paper, I construct a 47-country panel data set, covering 2000-2014 and focusing on the global automotive industry, and examine the highly plausible but understudied causal link, based on a fixed effects logit model and a Granger causality test. My preliminary results show that those countries whose local automotive sector is dominated by foreign multinationals tend to show a higher chance of implementing relatively strict vehicle emission standards comparable to EURO3+. This suggests that the primary aims of such regulations may go beyond purely environmental motivations, given that local air quality and income levels are controlled for. In addition, the Granger test results demonstrate that implementation of emission standards is at least a partial contributor to market/technological catch-up in the local automotive sector.

- Was invited as a panelist to introduce his on-going research projects on China’s air pollution and carbon mitigation policy at the seminar on urban development and externalities, hosted by Samuel Tak Lee (STL) Real Estate Entrepreneurship Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (April 7, 2017/Cambridge, MA, USA).

7. Dr. Calvin Zhiyong LIANG (post-doctoral fellow)

- Has published the following article


Abstract: This article aims to explore the continuity of Shanghai’s public housing development in the first half of the 20th century. It seeks to examine three important aspects of the Republican “Villages for Commoners” and the Socialist “Workers’ New Village.” The first is the changing meanings ascribed to the term “new village,” which had since the 1920s become the name of many pioneering urban proposals as well as a key site of housing reform. Second, it examines different ways of thinking about the role of housing reform and urban governance in building a new society in Republican China. Third, it analyses the role of different actors, such as government and professionals, in shaping the practice and narratives of public housing. Through the comparison of the Republican “Villages for Commoners” and the Socialist
“Workers’ New Village,” it argues that the civilising mission and “scientific” comprehensive planning originating from early 20th century had been passed on in the Republican public housing projects and the Socialist New Village development, despite their difference in ideology and urban policy.

8. Professor Anthony Yeh

- Published the following articles:


  **Abstract:** Although mixed use is an emerging strategy that has been widely accepted in urban planning for promoting neighbourhood vibrancy, there is no consensus on how to quantitatively measure the mix and the effects of mixed use on neighbourhood vibrancy. Shannon entropy, the most commonly used diversity measurement in assessing mixed use, has been found to be inadequate in measuring the multifaceted, multidimensional characteristics of mixed use. And lack of data also makes it difficult to find the relationship between mixed use and neighbourhood vibrancy. However, the recent availability of new sources including mobile phone data and Point of Interest (POI) data have made it possible to develop new indices of mixed use and neighbourhood vibrancy to analyze their relationships. Taking advantage of these emerging new data sources, this study used the numbers of mobile phone users in a 24-hour period as a proxy of neighbourhood vibrancy and used POIs from a navigation database to develop a series of mixed-use indicators that can better reflect the multifaceted, multidimensional characteristics of mixed-use neighbourhoods. The Hill numbers, a unified form of diversity measurement used in ecological literature that includes richness, entropy, and the Simpson index, are used to measure the degrees of mixed use. Using such fine-grained data sets and the Hill numbers allowed us to obtain better insights into the relationship between mixed use and neighbourhood vibrancy. Four models varying in POI measurements that reflect different dimensions of mixed use were presented. The results showed that either POI density or entropy can explain approximately 1% of neighbourhood vibrancy, while POI richness contributes significantly in improving neighbourhood vibrancy. The results also revealed that the entropy has limitations as a measure for representing mixed use and demonstrated the necessity of adopting a set of more appropriate measurements for mixed use. Increasing the number of POIs has limited power to improve neighbourhood vibrancy compared with encouraging the mixing of complementary POIs. These exploratory findings may be useful for adjusting mixed-use assessments and to help guide urban planning and neighbourhood design.


  **Abstract:** This paper aims to study the political incentives of government officials to cooperate with one another to achieve a common goal through game theory. Game theory is often used to analyze and explain regional
cooperation by regarding it as a type of institutional collective action in which the actions of its participants (local governments or nations) greatly depend on those of the other participants. However, considering China’s political structure, the political relationship among local government key officials may also influence regional cooperation. This study used the Pan-Pearl River Delta (Pan-PRD) Cooperation, the largest regional cooperation bloc in China formed in 2004. The Pan-PRD covered nine provinces in Mainland China and two special administrative regions as a case study for this research; three models were constructed using game theory to analyze the political incentives of the provincial officials in cooperating with one another under the assumption of relative gains. Results showed that the cooperation incentives are sensitive to the variations of political rankings among the leading provincial officials. Driven by promotion incentives, cooperation is more feasible between jurisdictions with different political rankings and less feasible between jurisdictions with the same political rankings.

9. Dean Webster

- Conducted a half-day workshop for UCL CASA Master students for their dissertation projects in collaboration with HKU.

- gave a keynote speech at the IJURR Plenary Session of The International Conference on China Urban Development on 6 May, entitled "A big-data agenda for urban China research: HKUrbanLab's multi-disciplinary urban science approach"
1. Dr. Isabelle Chan

- obtained a research grant for the project entitled ‘Sustainable Development Worldwide: Assessment Standards, Policies and Costs of Green Commercial and Residential Buildings’, funded by the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS), HKS100,000, 2016-2017. (Co-principle investigator: Dr. Mei-yung Leung, City University of Hong Kong)

- was invited to be the Session Chair of The 5th ICUMAS 2017 International Conference on ‘BIM, Control & Utility Management for Smart City and the Sponge City’, Hong Kong, 29th-31st Mar 2017. More than 200 international participants joined this event.

- was invited by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) to deliver a workshop on ‘Occupational Health and Safety’, Hong Kong, 21st Apr, 2017.

- was invited by the Rotary Club Hong Kong to deliver a seminar on ‘Stress Management for Everyday Work and Life’, Hong Kong, 20th Apr, 2017.

2. Dr. Wilson Lu

- Dr Wilson Lu was appointed again as the member of the Expert Review Panel (ERP) of Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management (LSCM) from 1 Jan 2017 to 31 December 2018. The Center was founded in 2006 with funding from the Innovation and Technology Fund of the HKSAR Government. A member of the ERP is to (1) provide industry feedback and technological expertise to the Center’s R&D roadmap; (2) assess and endorse the scopes, implementation approaches of R&D projects proposals and; (3) provide comments & make recommendations to Technology Committee.

- Dr Wilson Lu visited Chengdu Architectural Design & Research Institute and discussed research collaborations on BIM from 19 to 21 March 2017. He also explored the research collaboration on BIM and smart cities with Atkins and Chenghua District (one of the central districts in Chengdu municipality).
1. Dr. Bin Jiang

- In March 2017, Dr. Bin Jiang and colleagues published a new article in Journal of Environmental Psychology (IF 2.647, 5-Year IF: 4.147).


- Dr. Jiang is working as one of facilitators to set up the Landscape Architecture Academy of the South China. The Academy includes most important designers and scholars in the Field of Landscape Architecture. It aims to enhance cooperation and communication among professionals and develop a set of methods to solve environmental and social problems in South China.
- In December 2016, Dr. Jiang was invited by Qinghu School as an expert of creating healthy neighborhood for urban village residents and sweatshop workers in Shenzhen. Qinghu School is an influential NGO in Shenzhen City and it was founded by sociologists from leading universities in Asia as a response to multiple suicides happened in the Foxconn factories in Shenzhen in 2010s. Qinghu School aims to provide social support, free education, and legal support for migrant workers in Shenzhen. Dr. Bin Jiang is working on with Qinghu School on creating living and working environment for workers.

- In February 2017, Dr. Jiang was invited by the China Construction Technology Consulting CO. LTD (CAG) to serve as an expert in the field of built environment and public health. CAG is a design and planning institution initiated and supported by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China. Dr. Bin Jiang is working with CAG on the implication of urban forestry and green landscapes to promoting public health in China.

- On December 5th, 2016, Dr. Bin Jiang was invited to deliver a speech in the Hunan University in Changsha City, China. Topic: Across the Boundary: From Research to Design. Dr. Jiang also met with Dean of Faculty of Architecture and introduced the Landscape Architecture education in HKU.
On December 22nd, 2016, Dr. Bin Jiang was invited to deliver a speech in the South-West University in Chongqing City, China. Topic: Healthy City, Healthy Landscape. Dr. Jiang also introduced the Landscape Architecture education in HKU to faculty members and students.

Healthy Cities

1. Scott Jennings Melbourne

- Presented "Quantifying the green spaces absorbing urban growth in Yangon, Myanmar" as part of the Myanmar in Transition session at the Association of American Geographers' Annual Meeting that took place in Boston, USA 5-9 April 2017.

2. Dean Webster

- Met with the research team in University of Oxford Nuffield Department of Population Health to agree a collaboration between HKUrbanLab and China Kadoorie Biobank (CKB) (http://www.ckbiobank.org). The agreement is to create CKBUMP, a third healthy cities research platform following UKBUMP and HKBUMP. CKBUMP will eventually be a gene-social-environment platform of 500,000 cohort members in 5 large Chinese cities and 5 rural areas. HKUrbanLab’s role will be to create built environment metrics for each of the 500,000 cohort members. This will start with a pilot phase of 50,000 cohort members in Suzhou, one of CKB’s 5 city locations.
1. APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference - Portland, Oregon

Call for Proposals:

APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Hub

September 15-17, 2017 | University of Oregon | Portland, Oregon

Management of the nexus between cities and their surrounding landscapes is central to most pressing sustainability issues, including the degree to which connections to regional landscapes provide health, vitality and a sense of place to urban residents. Numerous “sustainable” solutions have failed due to lack of understanding of the city-landscape system as a whole. Through cross-disciplinary collaboration, the Association of the Pacific Rim Universities’ Sustainable Cities and Landscape Hub will explore the synergies and tradeoffs among different approaches to enhancing landscape-level sustainability and resilience in the face of continued urban growth and global climate change.

The inaugural conference will focus on best practices from the US Pacific Northwest with cross-regional comparisons across the Pacific Rim. Field trips will highlight the Oregon model, which looks beyond city boundaries to situate urban environments in the landscapes that support urban life through its well-known urban growth boundaries and comprehensive statewide land use planning.

2017 Thematic Working Groups
APRU SCL provides attendees unique opportunities to participate in thematic working groups (WG). Members of each WG will work intensively throughout the conference to craft a collaborative paper on their theme. The WG papers are intended for submission for the first volume of a book series or journal publication. Working Groups include:

From Urban Agriculture to New Urban Commons: Productive Landscapes and
Infrastructural Ecologies (Jacques Abelman)

The Chengdu Plain and Dujiangyan Irrigation District, Sichuan, China: A Case of City-Landscape Sustainability in Comparative Perspective (Dan Abramson)

Impacts of urban development patterns and climate change on habitat connectivity for Pacific salmon under future scenarios in the Pacific Northwest (Marina Alberti)

Redrawing Our Urban Waters (Adell Amos and Brook Muller)

Urban Biodiversity (Isaac Brown and Bart Johnson)

Resolving Conflicts of “Greens”: Energy Planning for Sustainable Landscape Conservation (Yekang Ko)

Sustainable Urban Design (Nico Larco)

The Future of Urban Water and Sanitation (Kory Russel)

Sustainable Transportation in an Era of Autonomous Vehicles (Marc Schlossberg)

Containing Urban Expansion Using “Boundaries” in the Era of Rapid Urbanization (Yizhao Yang)

Transitions in Urban Waterfront Operations and Development (Ken Yocom, Anne Taufen Wessells, and Nicole Faghin)

How to participate?
Attendees who wish to join a working group should submit the online application available on our [conference website]. Deadline for submission is May 15, 2017.

Visit the Sustainable Cities and Landscape Hub Website for more information about the working groups and the Hub.

Important Dates
Applications due: May 15, 2017

Acceptance notification and registration opens: June 1, 2017
Priority registration due: July 1, 2017
Tentative agenda available: August 1, 2017
Conference dates: September 15-17, 2017