Dear all,

We have a strong and varied line-up in the honour-roll this week, from papers published in international journals to an interview with the Economist, a letter in the South China Morning Post, a US Patent successfully filed, membership of three national standard – drafting teams (one in HK, two in Beijing), several successful panel sessions organized and presented at the AAG, Florida, and a public launch in Shanghai of an interesting magazine special issue on exporting Chinese urbanism to Africa. Thank you to all.

I would like to report a few things this week.

First, to note that donations have started to come in for Studio Myanmar, which is being promoted both as a global citizenship programme within the Faculty and as part of our larger ongoing research, teaching and outreach work in South-east Asia. Thanks to David Lung, Stephen Lau and HKU Journalism and Media Studies Centre for helping to secure 500,000 HKD. This will help fund the 3 to 4 studios planned each year and also allow journalism students to accompany our students and write up reports for wider dissemination about our work and wider issues touched upon.

Second, DUPAD held interviews today for two posts, with an amazingly high quality cast of interviewees. The quality of scholars wishing to work in HKU FoA is very encouraging to me, and should be to all of us, and bodes very well for the future. High caliber staff attract high quality students, especially at the graduate level and increase the amount of research funding coming in and the quantity and quality of research outputs. I hope for similar results from the recruitment exercises shortly to happen in REC and Architecture.

Third, I was in Shanghai with Stephen Lau last week signing an MoU with Tongji CAUP. Dean Li, the new incumbent, is very eager to work closely with HKU FoA and sees this MoU as cementing a special relationship. Stephen and I were touched by the warmth and sincerity of the welcome and sensed an unusual eagerness to develop meaningful engagements. As well as student exchange, we talked about many other possibilities including, for example, inviting our staff and grad students to use Tongji’s robotic arms in research and advanced teaching; collaborating with us on BIM and healthy cities research; having our first or second year architecture students join Tongji freshmen for their weekend visit to learn traditional carved-block printing techniques from a famous artist in a rural province of China (I forget which artist/province); joint workshop, studio and other programmes in our Shanghai Study Centre.
Fourth, I have formed a team from the Division of Landscape Architecture and DUPAD (three teachers, a PDF and a PhD student) to work with me and colleagues in Cardiff and Cambridge Universities on an analysis of green infrastructure in London. We intend to write 5 papers on specific aspects of the impact of greenery on the propensity to walk, using the London Travel Demand Survey, various GIS land-use data sets and satellite imagery. It looks like we may be able to access high resolution urban temperature data to add thermal analysis to the studies (such as investigating the joint impact of heat island mitigation effects of large green spaces and the walking-reducing effects of such spaces due to their impermeability). If there are other people interested in using this data, please let me know.

I would carry on but have to go out to dinner with a visitor from Guangzhou. Have a restful and productive weekend.

Congratulations to colleagues for the achievements mentioned below.

Chris
1. Dr. Hoyin Lee

- Confirmation of publication, “The Chinese Go West” (about the experience of the Chinese Labour Corps contracted by the British Army to serve in France during World War I) by Hoyin Lee and John R. Crampton, in the 100th (May 2014) edition of Stand To!, the journal of the Western Front Association (UK). This paper is published in the special commemorative edition for the centenary of World War I. The Western Front Association (http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/) is “the premier organisation for study, learning and research into all aspects of The Great War 1914-18, and to understanding more about the phenomenon which shaped the 20th century.”

- invited, as one of two speakers, to present a lecture entitled “Concepts and Definitions of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage” at Our Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage in HK Public Lecture (“「物質」與「非物質」文化遺產的概念和定義”, in Cantonese), held at the City Gallery, 12 April 2014. URL: http://www.citygallery.gov.hk/en/to-participate/activities.html#CACHE.

- appointed by the HKU Executive Vice-President (Administration and Finance) as a member of the HKU Estates Office Consultants Assessment Panel.
2. Dr. Hoyin Lee and Prof. Lynne DiStefano

- Letter to the Editor "Real conservation can enhance the way our city develops" published and highlighted in the 14 April 2014 edition of the South China Morning Post (p. A10). The letter elaborates on the latest thinking about the relationship between conservation and development; it is a concept that is gaining acceptance by the Hong Kong Government due to active promotion by ACP. (The article is attached.)
1. Ms. Juan Du

- invited to give public lecture "Urban Ecologies: Interventions for the Contemporary Asian City" at the Architecture School of the University of Oregon for the H.O.P.E.S Conference. Invited as panelist for discussion forums "Restraining Orders- The Politics of Responsible City Growth", and "Shaken or Stirred- Designing Cities for Natural Disasters".

2. Ms. Tris Kee

- her research proposal "Assessing Community Planning in Hong Kong: An Analysis of the Infrastructural Model of West Island Line" has been approved for funding support by Research Grants Administration System (RCGAS).
  Project Code: 201309176060

3. Mr. Stephen Lau

- has received a formal invitation to join the Editorial Committees for the drafting of two new National Standards, approved by the PRC State National Standards Bureau:
  
  1. National Standard (GB) on the assessment of Green Eco-district in China;
  

  In China, Standard drafting has to undergone various tiers of expert and legal vetting in addition to public consultation exercises. The entire process will take one year approximately.

  Both University of Hong Kong and his name shall be listed and publicized in the GB when approved and released.
4. Mr. Tom Verebes

- published the following article in the peer-reviewed journal Architectural Design AD May/June 2014:

1. Scott Jennings Melbourne

- delivered a public lecture at the University of Tokyo on 21 April 2014 titled “Landscape in a Pressurized Region: observations from China, Myanmar (Burma), and Eastern Tibet”.

- traveled throughout Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka to investigate and film sites as part of an ongoing research effort focused on the programmatic legacy and physical integrity of landscape architect Peter Walker’s built works in Japan.
Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr. Wilson Lu

- was interviewed by *The Economist* on 16th April 2014 to comment on building demolition technologies and building related waste in China.

2. Professor Steve Rowlinson

- visited IIT (Madras) for 7 days as guest of Professor Koshe Varghese, Professor Satyanarayana and Assistant Professor Ashwin Mahalingam to present a seminar to graduate students, advise students on Research opportunities at HKU and further discussions on collaboration in both research and staff and student exchange. Professor Rowlinson also took the opportunity to visit Auroville, an experimental eco-township south of Chennai.

- visited RICS School of Built Environment at Amity University, Delhi for 2 days at the invitation of Dean Emeritus Professor K T Ravindran and Associate Dean Anil Sawhney and delivered a lecture “The Seven Deadly Sins of BIM” and discussed teaching and research with members of the School.

- has been commissioned to co-author two new books: “New Forms of Procurement: PPP and Relational Contracting in the 21st Century” with Marcus Jefferies of Newcastle University, NSW by Routledge and “Occupational Health & safety on construction Sites” with Professor Helen Lingard of RMIT, Victoria for Wiley-Blackwell.

- The Centre for Construction Innovation & Technology, Faculty of Architecture, HKU as a partner of Intelibuild has been chosen to produce the BIM Standard for Hong Kong by the Construction Industry Council.
1. Mr. Kishan Datta Bhatta (PhD student) and Dr. Roger Chan

- PhD Research Student Mr. Bhatta Kishan Datta co-authored with Dr. Roger C. K. Chan published a book chapter with details as below:


- Mr. Kishan Datta Bhatta along with Dr. Roger Chan (co-author) presented a research paper entitled “Ecotourism and Sustainable Community Development: A Critical Examination of Tourism Impacts on the Environment and Local Communities in the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, Nepal” at the Himalayan Studies Conference (HSC3) at Yale University, New Haven, USA, on 15 March 2014. The talk was followed by a round table discussion with other three presenters of the panel focusing on the issues related to tourism and communities in the Himalayas specifically in Nepal, China and India.

2. Professor Rebecca Chiu and Dr. Bokyong Seo

- published a paper with details as below:


3. Dr. Cecilia Chu

- organized a panel, entitled “Housing as Social Experiment: Rethinking the Legacy of Modernist Planning Outside Europe, 1900-1950,” at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), held in Tampa, Florida, USA from 8-12 April 2014.
presented a paper, entitled “Housing Crisis, Speculative Craze, and the Advent of Modernist Planning in Hong Kong, 1912-1925” at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), held in Tampa, Florida, USA from 8-12 April 2014.

4. Dr. Wenfeng Li


5. Professor Anthony Yeh

- has obtained the United States Patent on Lane-Based Road Transport Information Generation (Patent Number: US 8,612,138) that will enable automatic acquisition of lane-based road network information for navigation purpose from a road mark database. The co-inventor is Dr. Yang Yue, a PhD graduate of the Department, who is now working at Shenzhen University.

- published a paper with details as below:


6. Dean Webster

- Dean Webster's and Professor Wu Fulong's 2010-2012 project on 'China's slums' has been rated as 'Outstanding' by the funding body (ESRC and Department for International Development). (The development of migrant villages under China's rapid urbanization: Implications for poverty and slum policies ESRC grant RES-167-25-0448, ESRC/DFID £333,000). (Wu Fulong is Bartlett Professor of Planning, UCL and a distinguished alumni of HKU. He was Professor Yeh's PhD student here in the 1990s and then became Professor Webster's Post Doc Fellow in Cardiff.)

7. Miss Xiaoxia Xu (PhD student) and Dr. Roger Chan

- PhD Research Student Miss Xiaoxia Xu co-authored with Dr. Roger Chan presented a paper, entitled “Scaling upward as a tool for local development: case of Tianjin and Guangzhou” at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), held in Tampa, Florida, USA on 12 April 2014.
8. Dr Shi Xian and Dr. Roger C.K. Chan

- Dr. Shi Xian and Dr. Roger Chan published a paper with details as below:


9. Mr. Muhammad Adeel (PhD student of Prof. Anthony Yeh and Dr Zhang Feng)

- presented a paper, entitled “Gender, Mobility and Travel Behavior in Pakistan: Analysis of 2007 Time Use Survey” (co-authored with Prof. Anthony Yeh and Dr Zhang Feng), at the 5th International Conference on Women’s Issues in Transportation - Bridging the Gap, held at CNIT-La Defense, Paris, 14-16 Apr 2014. It won the Best Paper Award in Theme (Pillar) 1 : Transport Policy, Transport Patterns and Mobility. He was the only male PhD student to be invited to participate in final Round Up Session of the conference along with the leading experts in the field.
Following their research on Chinese mega cities, architect Daan Roggeveen (MORE Architecture/HKU/Shanghai Study Centre) and journalist Michiel Hulshof (Tertium) have now shifted their focus to understand the physical impact of one of the most important geopolitical changes of this time.

Hulshof and Roggeveen have collaborated with magazine Urban China to make an issue completely dedicated to impact of Chinese Urbanism in Africa, which will be launched at HKU/Shanghai Study Centre on Saturday, 26 April, 3pm.

Speakers at the event are Huang Zhengli, Everlyne Otieno, and Daan Roggeveen. Huang Zhengli is a PhD student on Kenyan cities and informal housing and editor of Urban China. Everlyne Otieno works at the Municipal Council of Kisumu, Kenya and is currently following the master program at Tongji University.