

## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP

### Urban Ethnography in China: Theory and Practice

October 20<sup>th</sup> 2017

15:00-17:30

Room 702, Mong Man Wai Building

CUHK

#### PREAMBLE

As more people are now living in the urban areas than ever before, the physical defining characteristic of the twenty-first century is unquestionably that of the urban thanks to the major shift across the world toward service-oriented economies and info industries.

Despite its long history of agrarianism, contemporary China is no exception. The recent shift toward urban-based economies is a direct consequence of the country's rapid economic growth of the past three decades. Today's China consist of more than two dozen so-called "megacities," or cities with a population of ten million or more. What's the best way of researching contemporary urban China?

The goal of this workshop is to build intuitive point of departure to study contemporary urban China keeping in mind not only the socio-political and geopolitical situations in the region, but also traditional beliefs, and the cultural soft power of which the region is both absorbing and creating its own version. This workshop introduces ethnography as a much-needed lens in the study of contemporary China, aiming at creating a deep and critical conversation across the field of contemporary Chinese studies, especially urban studies, anthropology, cultural and media studies, and urban planning and architecture.

#### PROGRAM

##### Individual presentations

- Dr. Non ARKARAPRASERTKUL (Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning The University of Sydney)  
Title: **Gentrification and Its Contentments: Ethnography Space, Place and Social Change**
- Prof. Matthew GUTMANN (Anthropology, Brown University)  
Title: **Intuiting Shanghai**
- Prof. Hsuan Ying HUANG (Anthropology, CUHK)  
Title: **Beijing the Olympic City**
- Prof. Andrew KIPNIS (Anthropology, ANU)  
Title: **Research on urbanization and funeral in China**
- Prof. Minhua LING (China Studies, CUHK)  
Title: **The familiar and the strange**

##### Discussant

- Prof. Edward Akintola (Akin) HUBBARD (Arts and Society, Utrecht University in the Netherlands)  
Title: **Experimental Ethnography in the City**

**16:00 - 17:30 – Q&A session with students**

## Short Bio of Participants



**Non ARKARAPRASERTKUL** is an architect, urban designer, historian, and anthropologist. His research interests lie at the crossroads of transdisciplinary research between design and the social sciences. He has conducted research, written, and published widely on urban studies and urban design, architectural history and philosophy, and cultural studies and anthropology. He received his PhD in anthropology from Harvard, MPhil in China Studies from Oxford, and SMArchS and Urban Design Certificate from MIT.



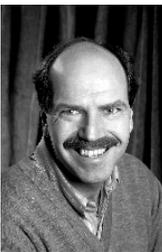
**Matthew GUTMANN** is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Brown International Advanced Research Institutes. Most of his ethnographic research has been conducted in Mexico and the United States, and more recently in China. His books include, *The Meanings of Macho: Being a Man in Mexico City*; *The Romance of Democracy: Compliant Defiance in Mexico City*; *Changing Men and Masculinities in Latin America*; *Fixing Men: Sex, Birth Control and AIDS in Mexico*; *Breaking Ranks: Iraq Veterans Speak out against the War* (with Catherine Lutz); and *Global Latin America: Into the 21st Century* (edited with Jeffrey Lesser). From 2009 to 2013, he was Vice President for International Affairs at Brown. He has also been a visiting professor in China, France, Mexico, and Spain.



**Hsuan Ying HUANG** is Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He received his Ph.D. in medical anthropology from Harvard University. Before studying anthropology, he received medical education and psychiatric training at National Taiwan University. Huang's research has focused on the rise of Western-style psychotherapy in urban China – a trend that he coins as “psycho-boom.” He held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Australian Centre on China in the World, the Australian National University before joining CUHK.



**Edward Akintola (Akin) HUBBARD** is Assistant Professor of Arts and Society at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. He holds a PhD in Anthropology from Harvard University and has previously taught courses at Harvard and New York Universities on media and globalization, avant-garde aesthetics, cinema, queer studies and ethnographic methods. Dr. Hubbard's multi-sited research spans a wide range of media that include cinema and visual culture, music, contemporary art and folklore. The regional focus of his research is the Afro-Atlantic – specifically the Caribbean, Brazil and Cape Verde– and its diaspora communities in Europe and the United States.



**Andrew KIPNIS** is Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the Australian National University. His research involves social, cultural, and political change in contemporary China. He is author of several books, including *From Village to City: Social Transformation in a Chinese County Seat* (University of California Press, 2016), *Governing Educational Desire: Culture, Politics and Schooling in China* (University of Chicago Press, 2011), *China and Postsocialist Anthropology: Theorizing Power and Society after Communism* (Eastbridge, 2008), and *Producing Guanxi: Sentiment, Self and Subculture in a North China Village* (Duke University Press, 1997). And his articles have appeared in journals such as *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *China Journal*, *China Quarterly*, and *Journal of Asian Studies*. He was also co-editor of *The China Journal*.



**Minhua LING** is Assistant Professor at the Centre for China Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She holds a PhD in anthropology and a MA in International Relations from Yale University. Her research has been published in leading journals such as *Anthropological Quarterly*, *The China Journal*, and *The China Quarterly*. She is currently completing a manuscript entitled *Coming of Age on Shanghai's Edge*. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation and Hong Kong Research Grants Council amongst other funding bodies.