

Conceptualizing Cyber-urban Connections in Asia and the Middle East (23-24 January 2014)

Organized by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore,

Held at the ARI Seminar Room, Tower Block, Level 10, Bukit Timah Road

23 JANUARY 2014 (THURSDAY)

09:30 – 09:45	REGISTRATION	
09:45 – 10:00	WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	
	Mike DOUGLASS Asia Research Institute & Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore Asha RATHINA-PANDI Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore Peter MAROLT Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore	
10:00 – 11:00	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	
10:00	Politics of Space/Place: The Spatial Dynamics of the Contemporary Social Movements Merlyna LIM Princeton University & Arizona State University, USA	
10:45	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
11:00 – 11:20	TEA BREAK	
11:20 – 13:00	SESSION 1 – DIGITAL MATERIALITIES: NEW WAYS OF SEEING	
11:20	Ingrid M. HOOFD National University of Singapore	The Media and the Streets: The Global Consumption of Public Protest as 'Democracy'
11:40	Sanchari DE Jadavpur University, India	New Social Movements and Aesthetics of Information: A Case of Green Movement (2009), Iran
12:00	Peter MAROLT National University of Singapore	On the Reflexivity of Place-Based Autonomy and Social Movements (In Cyber-Urban Asia and Beyond)
12:20	CHAIRPERSON & DISCUSSANT Tim BUNNELL , National University of Singapore	
12:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	

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14:00 – 15:40	SESSION 2 – URBAN ACTIVISMS I: SQUARES & PARKS (PROTEST SITES)	
14:00	Atef SAID (via Skype) University of Michigan - Ann Arbor & University of Illinois - Chicago, USA	The Virtual Making of Tahrir: Social Media and the Egyptian Revolution of 2011
14:20	Apoorva PAL-RATHOD Université Pierre-Mendès-France	The Digital, Urban and Political Divide in the Delhi Gang Rape Protests
14:40	Teresita Cruz-del ROSARIO Independent Researcher	From Execution to E-Mobilization: Luneta Park as an Urban Site for Cyber-urban Activism in the Philippines
15:00	CHAIRPERSON & DISCUSSANT Joanne LIM , University of Nottingham – Malaysia Campus	
15:10	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
15:40 – 16:00	TEA BREAK	
16:00 – 18:00	SESSION 3 – MOVEMENT NARRATIVES & INTERDEPENDENCIES	
16:00	Asha RATHINA PANDI National University of Singapore	Squares and Streets: Sites for Cyber-(Physical) Urban Activism in Malaysia
16:20	Yuping MAO Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands Ahmed K. AL-RAWI Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands	The Internet, Public Opinion, and Mobilization: Comparing the Zhu Ling Case in China with Abdulhadi al-Khawaja Case in Bahrain
16:40	Rachel AMTZIS National University of Singapore	Converting the City to Butterfly: Street and Cyber Urban Environmentalism in the Kathmandu Valley
17:00	Aulia HADI Research Center for Society and Culture-Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Pusat Penelitian Kemasyarakatan dan Kebudayaan-Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (PMB-LIPI)	The Rising of Labour Movements in Indonesia: Cyber-urban Space Connections?
17:20	CHAIRPERSON & DISCUSSANT Rita PADAWANGI , National University of Singapore	
17:30	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
18:00	END OF DAY ONE	
18:30 – 20:00	CONFERENCE DINNER (For Speakers, Chairpersons & Invited Guests)	

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09:45 – 10:00	REGISTRATION	
10:00 – 11:40	SESSION 4 – GROUNDING THE CYBER: AUGMENTING SPACE	
10:00	Mike DOUGLASS National University of Singapore Merlyna LIM Princeton University & Arizona State University, USA Rita PADAWANGI National University of Singapore	Grounding Cyberspace: The Reflexivity of Digital Networks and Urban Space in Insurgencies in Asia and the Middle East
10:20	Alessandro AURIGI Plymouth University, UK	Constructing the Middle-class Augmented Space: Is the Smart City Missing a Trick or Two?
10:40	Laura FORLANO Illinois Institute of Technology, USA	Towards an Integrated Theory of the Cyber-urban
11:00	CHAIRPERSON & DISCUSSANT Eli Asher ELINOFF , National University of Singapore	
11:10	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
11:40 – 12:40	LUNCH	
12:40 – 14:20	SESSION 5 – URBAN ACTIVISMS II: WALKS & MOBS (PROTEST FORMS)	
12:40	Virág MOLNÁR The New School for Social Research, USA	The Rise of Flash Mobs: How New Media Reshapes Urban Public Space
13:00	Rebecca S. ROBINSON Arizona State University, USA	SlutWalk Morocco: Transnational Branding of Women's Rights Youth Activism
13:20	Debjani DUTTA Jawaharlal Nehru University, India	Choreographing Spaces: K-pop Flash Mobs and Fan Activism
13:40	CHAIRPERSON & DISCUSSANT Mike DOUGLASS , National University of Singapore	
13:50	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
14:20 – 14:40	TEA BREAK	

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14:40 – 16:20	SESSION 6 – RESISTIBLE RESISTANCES	
14:40	U-Seok SEO University of Seoul, South Korea	Facebook Pages of Local Governments and Emergence of Imagined Communities: Experiences of the Satellite Cities Surrounding Seoul
15:00	Rongui HUANG Fudan University, China Xiaoyi SUN City University of Hong Kong	Mediated Space of Power and the Resistance of Street Vendors in Guangzhou, China
15:20	Jessika TREMBLAY University of Toronto, Canada	Behind the King’s Bath: The Cultural Politics of Spatiality in a Javanese (Cyber)-Village
15:40	CHAIRPERSON & DISCUSSANT Merlyna LIM , Princeton University & Arizona State University, USA	
15:50	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	
16:20 – 16:30	BREAK	
16:30 – 17:30	CONCLUDING REMARKS	
	Asha RATHINA-PANDI Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore Peter MAROLT Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore Merlyna LIM Arizona State University & Princeton University, USA	
17:30	END OF CONFERENCE	

**Politics of Space/Place:
The Spatial Dynamics of the Contemporary Social Movements**

Merlyna LIM

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There is a growing body of work on social movements that attempt to describe the significance of digital media—the internet and social media—to mobilization. Most studies, however, focus on digital media's contribution on the communication aspect of mobilization. Very few studies try to unpack the complexity of the cyber-urban (physical) conflation in the making of social movements. Drawing on empirical evidence from various contemporary social movements globally, especially in Asia and the Middle East, this paper aims to show the importance of space and place-making (the politics of space/place) in the discourses and practices of these movements, in cyber and urban spaces. This paper develops a conceptual framework for more careful analysis of contemporary social movements by drawing from: (1) theories of social movement repertoires and outcomes and (2) production of space theory (e.g. Lefebvre). Combining the empirical and theoretical considerations, the paper attempts to tease out the complex relationship between online and offline activism and, further, deepen our understanding of the spatial dynamics of the contemporary social movements.

Merlyna LIM is a Visiting Research Scholar/Professor at Princeton University's Center for Information Technology Policy. She is currently on leave from Arizona State University (ASU) where she holds a position as a Distinguished Scholar of Technology and Public Engagement in the Consortium of Science, Policy and Outcomes and the School of Social Transformation. Lim is also Director of Participatory Media Lab at ASU. Merlyna Lim completed her PhD in Science & Technology Studies and Technology & Development in September 2005 (cum laude) at the University of Twente in Enschede, the Netherlands. Her teaching and research interests revolve around mutual shaping of technology and society and political culture of technology, especially digital media and information technology, in relations to issues of justice, democracy, civic engagement, and freedom of expression. Lim has published extensively on the politics of the internet and social media in Southeast Asia (especially Indonesia) and the Middle East.

**The Media and the Streets:
The Global Consumption of Public Protest as 'Democracy'**

Ingrid M. HOOFD

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What is left of the notion of *public* when the real-time public image
prevails over public space?

Paul Virilio, *Open Sky*, p.18

Protests against global capitalism are on the rise. Expressions of dissent abound – especially through social media – and numerous people are taking to the streets. Yet this intensification of political activity seems not very effective in countering the disenfranchisements of ever more people and capitalizations of ever more aspects of life. This paper seeks to shed light on this enigma of political inefficacy by theorizing the intimate relationship between new media, territory and the de-territorialisation of politics and power, and the ideal of democratic representation. It argues that the new global technocratic order, which logic resides in what it will call 'speed-elitism,' has brought about a situation where democratic political performances are increasingly summoned, accelerated, and *displaced*. Protest movements like Occupy and the Arab Spring are then products of 'speed-elitism' insofar they re-stage an under this logic obsolete idea of representational politics as tied to 'public' spaces like the streets. What is more, the media parade *images* of spectacular protests in streets and squares in order to dissimulate the fact that actual power has largely *vacated* such territories and instead has entered the networks of capital circulation. This means paradoxically that the same social media that allow for the greater dissemination and participation of protests are also the culprits behind such displacement and its net result of democratic inefficacy. The paper finally argues that the Arab Spring and Occupy are therefore mirror-images of global capitalism and its 'museumization' of territory in general, in which 'public' spaces like streets and squares, but also the new media, emerge once again as profoundly non-politically-neutral. In light of this, this paper also concedes that, since the social sciences and humanities also perform the democratic ideal by way of media representation and dissemination, celebratory analyses of these protests likewise confuse politics with pictures of politics.

Ingrid M. HOOFD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communications and New Media at the National University of Singapore. Her research interests are Issues of Representation, Feminist and Critical Theories, and Philosophy of Technology. Her work addresses the ways in which alter-globalist activists, as well as left-wing academics, mobilize discourses and divisions in an attempt to overcome gendered, raced and classed oppressions worldwide, and the ways in which such mobilization are implicated in what she calls 'speed-elitism.' This work explores in particular the intersections between various forms of contemporary political activism and the oeuvre of Jean Baudrillard and Paul Virilio. Ingrid wrote her Masters thesis on Cyberfeminism at Utrecht University in The Netherlands. She has been involved in various feminist and new media activist projects, like *Indymedia*, *Next Five Minutes*, and *NextGeneration*.

**New Social Movements and Aesthetics of Information:
A Case of Green Movement (2009), Iran**

Sanchari DE

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This paper deals with aesthetics of information in new social movements in the digital age. The term 'aesthetic' here has a greater value. By aesthetics I do not aim to mean only beautification of an object. Drawing upon Lev Manovich's theory of 'info-aesthetics', I Aim to discuss the concept of 'Aesthetics' that explicitly appeal and stimulate senses. This research studies the ongoing debates around social media and social movements e.g. 'Arab Spring' (2011) and tries to define the concept of social movement facilitated by the agency of new media. However this research particularly concentrates on the flow of information through the new media practices that eventually takes the form of organized social movements within the actual urban public sphere. But instead of banal notion regarding the development of the technology that enables the flow of information from personal space to public sphere, this paper hypothesizes that the easy flow of information into the everyday life allures its user to such an extent that even the non activists users become aware of the personal freedom when their simple everyday activity of photo sharing gets hampered by the government's decision of censoring internet media. As a result , the second hypothesis is, the public sphere does not get transformed into a mediated space. On the contrary the media itself becomes a space for resistance. In this context the concept of the architecture of urban space would be taken into consideration to investigate the extent to which this concept accommodates aesthetics of information of collective protests. I would refer to the Green Movement (2009), Iran as my case study and as the successful demonstration of the aesthetics of information on urban sphere.

Sanchari DE is a Research Scholar (PhD) at the Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, India. She has studied English Literature at the University of Calcutta and Film Studies at Jadavpur University. She has presented papers at international conferences/ seminars/ symposiums in India, Singapore and USA. Her research interest is related to digital media, political mobilization and electronic modernity. In spite of her interest in digital media, she keenly studies films, specifically New Iranian Cinema.

On the Reflexivity of Place-Based Autonomy and Social Movements (In Cyber-Urban Asia and Beyond)

Peter MAROLT

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This paper aims to call into question the sociological outlook that undergirds much contemporary social movement studies. I argue that rather than concentrating on how agency is employed, a solid grasp of cyber-urban connections must be grounded in comprehending where our power of agency and capacity to act originate. I suggest that we need to think beyond “social action” (i.e. individual situated conduct which has a social meaning), and trace how and why people have the will, and manage to act at all. Interviews with urban Chinese Internet practitioners corroborate that even in an environment controlled and manipulated by a powerful party-state, we see the emergence of thought-leaders imbued with the capacity for free and critical thinking and to intentionally alter both themselves and the places around them. Partly in reaction to the imposed flattening of their everyday urban place-worlds, these thought leaders took action and shifted their focus from altering themselves to fit their surroundings (cf. Lefebvre’s “social existence”) to actively altering their surroundings (“their spatial existence”). They are now building alternative and thicker place-worlds augmented by the Internet. Interestingly, connecting individual consciousness to the build-up of a system of alternative values (what Gramsci calls a “counter-hegemony”) happens before collective action and social movements become visible in urban squares. The crucial question is: In what (other) ways, and against which resistances, are the myriad lessons learned online applied to alter and negotiate physical urban environments?

Peter MAROLT is a Research Fellow at the National University of Singapore's Asia Research Institute. He received his PhD in Geography from the University of Southern California. He co-edited *Online Society in China* (Routledge, 2011) and is currently writing a book on *Cyber China: Making Space for Change*. In his research, Peter explores the frontier of New Media-augmented urbanity.

**The Virtual Making of Tahrir:
Social Media and the Egyptian Revolution of 2011**

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In this paper, I investigate the ways in which digital activism was intertwined with the power of Tahrir Square in the events known as the Egyptian revolution of 2011. Based on archival and ethnographic materials, including participant observations during the time of the revolution, I argue that the entanglement between the space of Tahrir and the cyber-activism before and during the revolution took the following ways. While cyber-activism was significant in both the initial mobilization that led to the making of the initial sit-in/occupation of Tahrir Square, and also in the iconization of Tahrir Square, the Square itself was the major site of bloggers and activists organizing efforts and campaigns during the revolution. In short, I propose an analysis which conceives on-line and off-line activism as undividable. In this research, I aim to challenge oversimplified accounts about the revolution that reduce the events to either mobilization via Facebook or in Tahrir Square.

Atef SAID practiced human rights law as an attorney in Egypt from 1995 to 2004, and wrote two books about torture in Egypt. His research interests are sociology of social movements and revolutions, sociology of the state and of law, sociology of colonialism and empire. He is now a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, USA, writing his dissertation about the Egyptian revolution of 2011. In the dissertation, based on ethnographic and archival materials, he investigates the power of Tahrir Square in the revolution, with a special focus on the role of space in revolutions and social movements. He is currently a Visiting Scholar at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The Digital, Urban and Political Divide in the Delhi Gang-rape Protests

Apoorva PAL-RATHOD

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Delhi, India's capital city, became the site for an unprecedented wave of protests sparked by the gang rape of a 23-year-old girl in a moving bus in December, 2012. The protests demanded justice for the victim and more rights for women all over the country. Digital networks, characterized by the internet, social networking sites, mobile phones applications and SMSes, played a key role in the organization and spread of these protests. Not only were digital networks responsible for enabling information flows and catalyzing the movement across Indian urban space, they also created their own spaces for activism and debate. This paper explores the development and dynamics of the Delhi protests across three levels - the digital sphere, the physical protests, and political response. The research is conducted through a review of literature, media reports and through personal interviews with protestors, participants and bloggers. The findings suggest that while the constant interaction between the digital and urban space shaped the movement and kept it alive despite attempts at suppression, political action was unfortunately limited to only token responses. The paper raises questions about the dependence of digital space on physical space for continued visibility and exacting change, the impact of the narrow demographic profile of social media users, and the real life impacts of social media supported urban social movements in the Indian context. Even though digital networks offer promises of new spaces of activism and participative democracy, the question of power remains significant.

Apoorva PAL-RATHOD is an architect and urban planner, with an interest in sustainable city development. Her research work includes study of energy savings potential from vernacular building materials, impact of urban form on sustainable city planning and environmental and public health effects of transport policy. She completed her undergraduate studies in India and worked in the field of solar passive architecture and low-cost building solutions with local materials. She is an Erasmus Mundus scholar specializing in social equity in urban development at Université Pierre-Mendès-France, Grenoble.

**From Execution to E-mobilization:
Luneta Park as an Urban Site for Cyber-urban Activism in the Philippines**

Teresita Cruz-del ROSARIO

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A generation has passed since the 1986 people power uprising that deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos, ended 21 years of martial law in the Philippines, and restored democracy. A generation of activists has since been groomed in the intricacies of navigating the delicate relationship between social movements and state power, between insurgency and critical collaboration. Over a period of two decades, the Philippines has experienced a political transformation that can be characterized, at best, as an attempt to continuously define and redefine the contours of a liberal democratic order with social movements and citizen participation as a core feature of social and political life.

One feature of Philippine political life has nevertheless endured: the Luneta Park. Set smack in the center of old Manila, the park remains a public site and a potent political symbol. From the execution of Jose Rizal, the national hero and insurgent anti-colonialist of the late 1900s to the “million man march” in the summer of 2013 demanding the abolition of “pork barrel” in Congress, the Luneta Park constitutes the one urban space accessible to all Filipinos throughout history. Adapting to the times, a generation of activists has utilized social media to galvanize collective energies to mobilize large numbers of Filipinos to descend on Luneta Park for a day of protest against pork barrel and to hold government accountable for the use of taxpayers’ money.

This study establishes the linkage between a physical site of historical significance and cyber-activism, a curious melding of tradition and technology that results in “e-citizenship” --- an emerging form of participation that utilizes the internet to promote and deepen democratic governance while continuing to rely on urban space.

Teresita Cruz-del ROSARIO holds a background in Sociology and Social Anthropology. She has authored a book *Scripted Clashes: A Dramaturgical Approach to Philippine Uprisings* (DM Verlag 2009) employs a Goffmanian framework to explain and analyse the quasi-religious, quasi-festival character of protest in the Philippines. She was formerly Visiting Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Her other research interests include comparative protest between Asia and the Middle East, migration and development, South-South land grabs, and new forms of development assistance that focus on new donors (China, Vietnam, South Korea).

**Squares and Streets:
Sites for Cyber-(Physical) Urban Activism in Malaysia**

Asha RATHINA PANDI

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Mass protests do not simply happen in cyber-space even if they start there. The year 1998 and beyond have witnessed a series of protests in Malaysia, which often have been characterized as digital media-driven, represented by civil society and/or social movements that organize and coordinate actions that transcend virtual space and local networks. This article focuses on the relationship between its virtual and physical dimensions – space, place and networks. To understand contemporary social movements and new forms of social networking, it focuses on the interlocking relationship between cyberspace and practices of protest in urban physical space. Using Malaysian case studies like HINDRAF (2007) and BERSIH (2007-2012), this paper analyses the spatial and temporal aspects of recent protests and suggests that the interactions between media and urban space does not simply generate relations between these entities, but also transforms them (AlSayyad & Guvenc 2013).

Asha RATHINA PANDI is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Asian Urbanisms Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. She has a background in Sociology and Urban Planning. Her research explores the dynamic relationship between space, digital media, and society. In particular, the focus is on minority populations, social justice and equality, and democratization. Her PhD dissertation entitled “Blogging and Political Mobilization among Minority Indians in Malaysia” examined whether blogs can foster political mobilization among minority populations, for example, minority Indians in Malaysia.

**The Internet, Public Opinion, and Mobilization:
Comparing the Zhu Ling Case in China with Abdulhadi al-Khawaja Case in Bahrain**

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The Internet provides opportunities for information sharing and mobilization across national borders since it can connect activists, general public, and the international society to mobilize social movements. Activists and the public usually use the Internet to get international attention because it is a powerful tool, but the way they use it may differ due to differences in media policy, culture, social and political backgrounds. This study focuses on mobilization and activism in two countries: China and Bahrain. The Chinese government, which has been criticized for its strict media censorship, shares some similarities with some Arabic countries such as Bahrain as public discourses on political issues remain sensitive and largely constrained in both countries.

Our study will compare the Zhu Ling poisoning case in China with Abdulhadi al-Khawaja Case in Bahrain. Zhu Ling was poisoned by Thallium in 1994 when studying in Tsinghua University in China. The case was not solved, but the discussion on it never stopped in Chinese Internet discussion forums. An online White House Petition on the whitehouse.gov website was created on May 3rd, 2013, to demand investigation on the major suspect from a Chinese family with strong political power. In Bahrain, Shiites protesters made use of the arrest of the Bahrain-Danish activist, Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, to mobilize the public and garner more attention. A campaign led by al-Khawaja's daughter was organized in which foreign pressure especially by the Danish government was exerted. Mainstream media channels, social media outlets, as well as press conferences and face to face communication were all used as means to pressure the Bahraini government into releasing al-Khawaja from prison. In both cases, we will analyze the activists' and the general public's use of the Internet to express their opinions and mobilize movements in their respective social and political contexts.

Yuping MAO (PhD, Ohio University) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Media and Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Her research focuses on intercultural, organizational, and health communication. Yuping teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on research methods, organizational communication, health communication, media campaign, and culture, new media, and business. She also supervises both undergraduate and graduate theses. Yuping has published a few book chapters, and her work has also been published in peer reviewed journals such as, *Communication Research*, *Canadian Journal of Communication*, *China Media Research*, *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*, *Journal of Substance Use*, and *Italian Journal of Pediatrics*.

Ahmed K. AL-RAWI (PhD Baghdad University, Iraq; PhD Leicester University, UK) is an Assistant Professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands, where he teaches media and communication courses. Al-Rawi authored two books including *Media Practice in Iraq* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) and published over thirty research articles and book chapters. His papers appeared in journals such as the *International Communication Gazette*, *Journal of International Communication*, and *Social Science Computer Review*.

**Converting the City to Butterfly:
Street and Cyber Urban Environmentalism in the Kathmandu Valley**

Rachel AMTZIS

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Responses to the negative environmental effects of the Government of Nepal's Kathmandu Valley road widening campaign and to the capital's environmental deterioration in general have proliferated via linked online and offline activities. This research examines grassroots initiatives that are tackling ecological and heritage degradation in the Kathmandu Valley, looking at how their narratives of community and self-reliance, nostalgia and aspiration, the natural and the built environment, and urban decay and renewal are constructed, expressed, and connected through cyber and physical landscapes. Data is drawn from initiatives by WATO (We Are the Ones), White Butterfly Movement, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Save Bagmati Campaign, Citizens for Trees, Kathmandu Cycle City 2020, Green Soldiers, and Clean up Nepal. The research will reveal how and to what extent these initiatives' narratives place themselves as part of global urban revitalization and heritage preservation efforts and analyze the mutually influential quality of their discourses in cyberspace and street space.

Rachel AMTZIS is based at the Research Division of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at the National University of Singapore, where she manages research projects and events for the Cities Research Cluster, the Environment Research Cluster, and the Singapore Research Nexus. Rachel has worked in Japan, the US, and Nepal, where she grew up. After working in communications for an NGO in Kathmandu, she researched ICT use by Nepal-based NGOs for fund and awareness raising for her Masters at the Department of Communications and New Media, FASS. Her recent papers focus on sustainable urban development in challenging environments, social media use in awareness raising campaigns, street art and street protests, and crowd-funding vis-à-vis crowd-voting for neighborhood revitalization initiatives.

The Rising of Labour Movements in Indonesia: Cyber-Urban Space Connections?

Aulia HADI

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This paper describes the connections between cyber and urban space, with a specific attention paid to a labour movement within the *Federasi Serikat Pekerja Metal Indonesia (FSPMI)*-Indonesian Metalworkers' Federation. Findings show: (1) the ways FSPMI create its social capital through educating, advocating, acting, and affiliating; (2) the growing of urban industrial working class and militant labour movement in the recent urban space; (3) the use of cyberspace to extends the function of mass media --to inform, to educate, to entertain, as well as surveillance mechanism; (4) the presence of cyberspace adds force to the labour bargaining position through networking and solidarity; and (5) the ways labours engage in cyberspace to produce their own discourses. Today the cyber-urban spaces are more interdependent with each other because those two are already embedded within most of the Indonesian urban working class. The interconnectivity of cyber-urban spaces eases the labours to create their networks and collective imagination about their position as marginalized people who are dominated by the state and the capital, which in turn strengthen their solidarity. However, this interconnectivity also potentially weaken the labour movement, in which the labours fail to counter the popular discourse influenced by large media perceiving labour movement as militant, radical, and high-risk.

Aulia Hadi is a junior researcher in the Research Centre for Society and Culture, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (PMB-LIPI). She got her B.A. in Communication Studies from Gadjah Mada University with her thesis about the representation of management and employee relations in internal media. She has just obtained her M.Sc. in New Media and Communication Studies at the University of Twente, the Netherlands. Her thesis is called *Interactive Communication for Bridging and Bonding Communities: Experiences of Indonesian Migrants in the Netherlands*. She has conducted several researches focused on urban spaces, cyber spaces, and identity construction. Since 2010, she has collaborated with a team in PMB-LIPI to conduct the research on *Social Dynamic in the Northern Coast Cities of Java and its Implication for Indonesia*. She wrote about the ways cities' residents construct the symbolic meaning of their cities and the ways Arabic ethnic groups in Pekalongan and Jepara construct their identities in the urban space. In her recent study, she tries to comprehend the connections between cyber and urban spaces in the context of labour movements in Indonesia.

**Grounding Cyberspace:
The Reflexivity of Digital Networks and Urban Space
in Insurgencies in Asia and the Middle East**

Mike DOUGLASS

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Merlyna LIM

Princeton University and Arizona State University, USA
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Rita PADAWANGI

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The purpose of this paper is to conceptually link cyber-activism with urban activism in social movements for political reform and alternative development. Evidence from case studies is provided to illustrate contemporary interdependencies between digital information networks and the physical spaces of insurgent actions. In today's urban world of protests and insurgencies each mode of activism has become contingent on the other. While the virtual spaces of digital communications have the benefits of operating without propinquity in peer-to-peer realms that are difficult to subordinate to centralized forms of power, i.e., the state, actions to accomplish aims require propinquity in face-to-face or larger scale confrontations. In contrast to cyber-space, activism in physical spaces has a geography of power, with some spaces being much more politically potent than others. Failure to bring the cyber-world of mobilization into such spaces marginalizes and can truncate insurgent actions. Similarly, without access to digital information networks, insurgencies on the ground are likely to be limited. Experiences in China, Indonesia, and Cairo (?) vividly show these reflexive relationships.

Mike DOUGLASS is Professor and Leader of the Asian Urbanisms Cluster at the Asia Research Institute and also Professor of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. He received his PhD in Urban Planning from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He is Emeritus Professor, former Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and former Director of the Globalization Research Center at the University of Hawai'i. Until 2012 he was *International Development Planning Review*. He previously taught at the Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands) and at the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia (UK). He has been a Visiting Scholar/Professor at Stanford University, UCLA, Tokyo University, Thammasat University and the National University of Singapore. With a professional focus on urban and regional planning in Asia, he has lived and worked for many years in Asia both as an academic and as a staff of the United Nations. He has also advised university programs on planning education in Asia and the U.S. His current research focuses on globalization and livable cities, creative communities, disaster governance, and global migration.

Merlyna LIM is a Visiting Research Scholar/Professor at Princeton University's Center for Information Technology Policy. She is currently on leave from Arizona State University (ASU) where she holds a position as a Distinguished Scholar of Technology and Public Engagement in the Consortium of Science, Policy and Outcomes and the School of Social Transformation. Lim is also Director of Participatory Media Lab at ASU. Merlyna Lim completed her PhD in Science & Technology Studies and Technology & Development in September 2005 (cum laude) at the University of Twente in Enschede, the Netherlands. Her teaching and research interests revolve around mutual shaping of technology and society and political culture of technology,

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especially digital media and information technology, in relations to issues of justice, democracy, civic engagement, and freedom of expression. Lim has published extensively on the politics of the internet and social media in Southeast Asia (especially Indonesia) and the Middle East.

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Constructing the Middle-Class Augmented Space: Is the Smart City Missing a Trick or Two?

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As we try and conceptualise cyber-urban relationships, to what extent can it still make sense to reflect on the topic through looking at the tensions between online and offline domains? This paper will be challenging this dualism and inviting the audience/readers to consider the implications of a change of perspective, and the consideration of one, augmented, space instead of two separate dimensions, however related.

The paper will look at this from the point of view of the growing concept of 'smart' or 'u' cities. Visions about smart urbanism involve the seamless recombination of physical and digital aspects of life and the space supporting it. As such, it becomes increasingly pointless to look at the production of 'real' and 'virtual' space as distinct phenomena. This is also proven by how 'recombinant' and hybrid political protest has become, hinging on and claiming place, not simply space or cyberspace.

Moreover, I will argue that – beyond their supposed innovativeness and game-changing potential – located digital technologies also tend to share the same bias towards control, branding and a relative insensitivity to local contexts that a certain type of economic development-driven production of physical urban spaces has shown in the past decades. When leading urban designer Jan Gehl (2006) talks about the need to shape our spaces considering “initially the ‘Life’, then the ‘Spaces’, then the ‘Buildings’, it becomes crucial asking ourselves: “what ‘life’ or lives are we designing for, exactly?”, and “what lifestyles and social groups are we focusing on?”. Much of the envisaged production of our increasingly hybrid urban space is informed by visions which are over-focused and exclusive. The users of the smart city are 'constructed' as all middle-class consumers, all conforming to a rather specific economic and social development model. And the space of our cities shares way too often the same bias, as examples of critique of this from Marie-Christine Boyer, Michael Sorkin, Elizabeth Wilson and Anna Minton amongst others can show.

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Towards an Integrated Theory of the Cyber-urban

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Over the past decade, scholars have worked to develop a new lexicon of the cyber-urban in order to express, in a more nuanced and careful way, the hybrid nature of everyday life in cities of the 21st century. This keen awareness to the digital materiality of urban centers has been used to describe emergent forms of organizing (Humphreys, 2008), new modes of citizen engagement (Foth, 2008; Foth, Forlano, Gibbs, & Satchell, 2011) and novel ways of experiencing and navigating cities (Ito, 2003). Specifically, terms such as net locality (Gordon & Silva, 2011), code/space (Kitchin & Dodge, 2011), situated technologies (Shepard, 2011), media spaces (Couldry & McCarthy, 2004), Hertzian space (Dunne, 2001), neogeography (Turner, 2006), radical network empiricism (Mackenzie, 2010) and codescapes (Forlano, 2009) have been introduced. Yet, for the most part, our current verbal and visual metaphors and imagined futures along with our theoretical and analytical frames, to a large degree, continue to emphasize the separation of the physical and the digital into discrete and hierarchical layers and ‘stacks.’ These metaphors, many of which herald back to the 1960’s defense department funded research at MIT, are apparent in science fiction movies, architectural fly throughs and promotional videos about augmented reality. For example, in the recent science fiction film *Elysium*, by South-African-Canadian director Neill Blomkamp and Matt Damon, the world has descended in to a dystopia in which the poor, non-white population must live in squalor on Earth working for a factory that makes robots while the wealthy have moved to a man-made country club in the sky. Given our limited metaphors for the cyber-urban, which continue to emphasize separation and distinction, it should come as no surprise that we are unable to traverse socio-economic barriers and build more equitable and pluralistic cities. This paper will discuss the need to move beyond hybrid language and towards a truly integrated theory of the cyber-urban.

Laura FORLANO is a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Design at the Institute of Design at Illinois Institute of Technology and a Visiting Scholar in the Comparative Media Studies program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. Her research is on emergent forms of organizing and urbanism enabled by mobile, wireless and ubiquitous computing technologies with an emphasis on the socio-technical practices and spaces of innovation. She is co-editor with Marcus Foth, Christine Satchell and Martin Gibbs of *From Social Butterfly to Engaged Citizen: Urban Informatics, Social Media, Ubiquitous Computing, and Mobile Technology to Support Citizen Engagement*, which was published by MIT Press in 2011. Forlano’s research and writing has been published in peer-reviewed journals including *The Information Society, Journal of Community Informatics, IEEE Pervasive Computing, Design Issues* and *Science and Public Policy*. She has published chapters for books including editor Mark Shepard’s *Sentient City: Ubiquitous Computing, Architecture, and the Future of Urban Space* (MIT Press 2011) and The Architecture League of New York’s *Situated Technologies* pamphlet series and is a regular contributor to their *Urban Omnibus* blog. One of Forlano’s current projects, “Designing Digital Networks for Urban Public Space,” in collaboration with Anijo Mathew (IIT) is focused on the use of urban technology for citizen engagement. Another project, “Design Collaborations as Sociotechnical Systems,” which was funded by the National Science Foundation, is an international comparative study that focuses on the role of technology in supporting networks of designers in New York, Barcelona and Brisbane. Forlano was part of a collaborative project “Breakout! Escape from the Office” that was included in The Architecture League of New York’s *Toward the Sentient City* exhibition in 2009. Forlano received her Ph.D. in Communications from Columbia University in 2008.

**The Rise of Flash Mobs:
How New Media Reshapes Urban Public Space**

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The paper examines the global spread of flash mobs as a prism into understanding how new media reshapes the use of contemporary urban public spaces. In the past decade flash mobs have evolved from an odd curiosity to a standard staple of urban public life across the globe. While media coverage and scholarly analysis have focused on showing the centrality of digital communication technologies in organizing flash mobs, my aim is to shift attention to exploring how they shed light on the intersection and interaction between new media and changing uses of physical urban space. I argue that flash mobs illuminate how new communications technologies have become part and parcel of the repertoire of urban tactics which ordinary city dwellers creatively employ to reappropriate the city to their own ends. Based on the analysis of a large number of flash mobs from New York, London, Berlin, and Budapest to Tokyo, I create a basic typology of flash mob activity. I use this typology to understand (1) international variation in flash mob practices: why, for instance, there are more political flash mobs in East European, Middle Eastern and Asian cities than in other parts of the world; and to explore (2) how these new forms of urban creativity have in turn inspired commerce and politics to rediscover urban space, increasingly borrowing the organizational techniques of flash mobs in marketing campaigns and social protests.

Virág MOLNÁR received her PhD in Sociology from Princeton University in 2005. Her general research and teaching interests include urban sociology, economic sociology, sociology of culture, and social change. She is primarily concerned with the cultural politics of the built environment and urban planning in a historical and comparative perspective. She is currently working on a book manuscript that explores the political uses of architecture in Hungary and East Germany in the post-Second World War period. She has also been awarded a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship by the European Commission to study the impact of globalization on housing construction by comparing the spread of private planned developments in contemporary Berlin and Budapest. Molnár's research has been supported by grants from the DAAD, the National Science Foundation, and the Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars at Princeton University.

**SlutWalk Morocco:
Transnational Branding of Women's Rights Youth Activism**

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SlutWalk was born out of the resistance of young Canadian women to the ignorant remarks of a police officer who told them they could avoid rape by not dressing like “sluts.” In April 2011, more than 3,000 people took to the streets in opposition to this pervasive belief that women are at least partially responsible for their rapes because of their lack of modesty. Within months the movement had spread throughout the globe—the hundreds of Facebook pages promoting citywide SlutWalk events are indicative of the popularity of the movement.

The objectives of the SlutWalk movement have resonated with youth activists throughout the world, including those in Muslim countries. After conducting an extensive analysis of the SlutWalk Morocco Facebook page, my findings suggest that SlutWalk Morocco has not materialized in the same way that the movement has in Western countries. Theoretically speaking, Moroccan activists appear to have rallied under the SlutWalk movement as a form of branding, following Harvey (2009), to express solidarity with transnational youth activism and to demonstrate the universality of certain women's rights issues. Nonetheless, some aspects of SlutWalk Morocco are distinctly Moroccan, such as its campaign to eradicate Article 475, the so-called “rape law.”

This paper will analyze how a Western movement that spread globally through social media materialized in a Muslim urban space: the dual movements of social media into the streets and the streets onto Facebook. To compare these SlutWalks, I will examine the dress of the protesters, protest sites, the protesters' signs, and other multimedia related to the protests to unpack the messages of protesters, to whom they are directing their resistance, and their proposed measures for change. I will also explore how SlutWalk Morocco has employed visual representations of the conditions for women in the streets on Facebook to promote change.

Rebecca S. ROBINSON is a doctoral candidate of Justice Studies at Arizona State University. She is currently teaching classes and serving as a consultant for an NSF grant for which she conducted some of the initial research for the proposal and acted as the research assistant from August 2011-May 2013. Robinson is also writing her dissertation entitled “Individuals, Collectives, Sisters: Social Media Use and Collective Action Among Muslim Women.” In conjunction with the NSF grant, she has been following bridge bloggers from the MENA region and Asia since 2009, which provided the foundation for her study of collective action among Muslim women. She is also working on a separate but interrelated research program: the socio-economics of hijab. Robinson anticipates completing her dissertation in December 2013 and plans to be on the job market for a post-doc or tenure-track position.

Choreographing Spaces: K-pop Flash Mobs and Fan Activism

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The widening geographical spread of the Korean Wave has spawned dispersed transnational communities of fans that are increasingly congregating and connecting on online networks. This encounter with Korean cultural products is not just virtual and textual but also intervenes in offline spaces, shaping a new sensorium of experience through popular music, dance, food, language etc. Even as they move across unfamiliar intercultural terrains, fans exhibit a desire to inhabit space and make it one's own. This paper maps these distinctive forms of bodily and spatial organization set in motion by the Korean Wave through a series of internationally co-ordinated flash mob dances in support of the pop music group 2PM. Taking place in 23 cities across the world, the flash mobs serve as an example of fan-based activism conducted across three distinct but interconnected orders of spatiality—urban, cinematic and cyberspaces. The paper traces the movements of fans as they engage intensely with cinematic images, travel through virtual spaces and renegotiate their relationship to urban landscapes. Drawing on Giuliana Bruno's (2002) work on the conjunction between the haptic and spatial qualities of cinema and the city, I argue that fans not only move across the terrestrial map of the image but also continue this affective journey into the landscape of the city. Urban landmarks such as public squares, cultural monuments and shopping malls are appropriated momentarily by fans who disrupt the rhythms associated with them. By breaking the habitual relationship with time and space through the adoption of a different bodily rhythm, I argue that flash mobs play a role in the affective production of social space. Moreover, the online arena functions parallel to the physical flash site as videos of performances are uploaded and circulated. This expands the possibilities for coalition-building through sharing the experience of passionate and affective navigation.

Debjani DUTTA has completed her M.Phil from the Department of Cinema Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India and is currently pursuing her PhD. Her research focuses on fan cultures emerging around the Korean Wave, exploring the manner in which online interfaces affect notions of labour, space and materiality in a globalizing environment. She has previously worked as a film programmer with the Korean Cultural Centre India. Her current research interests include questions of law, evidence and video technologies in the contemporary.

Facebook Pages of Local Governments and Emergence of Imagined Communities: Experiences of the Satellite Cities Surrounding Seoul

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Korea is one of the most highly developed countries in the world in terms of using new media like Internet and smartphones. Given these circumstances the use of SNS in Korea has been rapidly spread last years. Subsequently, many public authorities are trying to use SNS for better communication with people. Local governments have a greater interest in using SNS to develop a channel to residents than any other public authorities, presumably under the pressure of local election every 4 years. Prior to the introduction of SNS local governments have already been using a set of Internet tools such as email and web board in their homepages. Yet, SNS sites of local governments seem to provide qualitatively new possibilities in enhancing communication with residents. In addition, communication through SNS brings residents an opportunity to have wider interest in local environment through sharing historical memory, experiences of local events and pictorial images. This new development, which could not be expected from the usage of previous formalized online communication tools of local governments, is particularly visible in the Facebook pages of the satellite cities surrounding Seoul where finding common ground may be otherwise not easy.

In a sense that this emergent development is not just about deliberative democracy or participation in local activities, but also about an emerging sense of belonging to living environment, this study will try to give an interpretation for that referring to Benedict Anderson's explanation of "imagined communities". Furthermore, this study will analyze various factors of this development including role of personalized communication and importance of bringing fun experiences to site users.

U-Seok SEO is Associate Professor of Urban Sociology at the University of Seoul, South Korea. He also currently serves as chair of Department of Tourism and Culture, Graduate School of Urban Sciences. He received a BA from Seoul National University in 1990 and a MA from Seoul National University in 1993. He got his PhD from University of Cologne, Germany in 2002. His research interests include cultural capital, digital media, cultural policy, urban sociology, and survey methodology. He published numerous papers in academic journals and books including "Determining Recipients of Cultural Welfare Based on Cultural Deprivation(2013)", "Networked Cultural Consumers and Cultural Capital (2010)", "A Sociological Perspective on Yong-san Redevelopment (2009)", and "Interrelated Development of Urban Tourism and Culture Industry (2008)". He received a Gallup Academic Award in 2012 for "How to Measure Daytime Population in Urban Streets? Case of Seoul Pedestrian Flow Survey (2011)".

Mediated Space of Power and the Resistance of Street Vendors in Guangzhou, China

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Conflicts between urban management enforcers (*chengguan*) and street vendors recently have become ever more visible in urban China. In March 2013, one such conflict triggered an outcry on the social media site of Sina Weibo, and later led to the first administrative litigation of street vendors against the urban management authority. By conducting content analysis of Weibo posts and news comments, this study intended to trace the development of this case to unveil new dynamics of power and space in China's urban streets. Existing literature tends to see vendors' resistance as power struggle between the state and street vendors. This study, however, finds that social media has significantly extended the space of power which engages the state, street vendors and the public in redefining (street vendors') rights to the city. This space of power is mediated through the Internet and thus straddles between online and offline domains. Journalists and opinion leaders played a significant role in initiating online debate as well as maintaining the momentum. Online debate, together with lawyers' voluntary legal aid, facilitated the subsequent legal action. This study also suggests that entrepreneurial activists are increasingly willing to voice concerns on behalf of the marginalized groups in the age of social media.

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**Behind the King's Bath:
The Cultural Politics of Spatiality in a Javanese (Cyber)-Village**

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Indonesia's current ranking as one of the world's top ten Internet and social-media users points to a potential for the use of technology in resisting widespread political corruption and economic inequality. Yet there is also evidence that the constraints of urban space, at least in Central Java, may contribute to the reproduction of structural economic inequality even as citizens make use of the Internet to overcome poverty. This paper will be based on ethnographic research in *Kampoeng Cyber*, the self-proclaimed first "cyber neighbourhood" in the royal city of Yogyakarta, a grassroots Internet cooperative which has provided each of its 125 residents, with fast, inexpensive, and reliable Internet since 2008. The objective is to document the effects of the emergent relationship between space, culture, and politics in Central Java. The paper will argue that Kampoeng Cyber embodies the rising trends of "Disneylandization" and "cybercification" (Wakabayashi 2002), where themed neighbourhoods and the rising popularity of online communities herald the erasure of a once ubiquitous sense of Javanese cultural community partly rooted in a sense of "placeness". It will show how the community's economically precarious location behind a popular tourist attraction, the 18th century ruins of the Sultan's bathing complex, along with Post-New Order neoliberal economic policy, prompted the production of an Internet-themed community – active both online and offline – which uses the technology to circumvent both its economic and cultural marginality. The effect, however, is that while the Internet both technologically and symbolically mediates the cultural identity politics of a community left to the "semantic emptiness" of a once culturally powerful kingdom, if used as a tool for resisting economic marginality, the Internet actually reproduces relations of structural inequality.

Jessika TREMBLAY is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto, Canada. She has conducted research on the impact of the Internet on socioeconomic development in Africa, and on the One Laptop per Child program in the Rwandan primary school system. She is currently conducting a year and a half of ethnographic fieldwork in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

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Eli Asher ELINOFF received his BA (Anthropology) from University of Colorado, Boulder, and MA and PhD in Anthropology from the University of California, San Diego. He is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Asian Urbanisms Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. His research focuses on citizenship, emerging political practices, notions of sustainability, and contestations over urban development in Thailand. He has co-edited a special focus issue of *South East Asia Research* that explored Northeastern Thailand's political transformations.

Joanne LIM is Assistant Professor and Deputy Head of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Nottingham (Malaysia Campus). She is also Deputy Director of the Centre for the Study of Communications and Culture. Recently awarded the Nottingham Chancellor's Award for her contribution to the overall teaching and learning experience at the University, Joanne teaches at all levels of the International Communications Studies programmes and the MA in Cultural Studies, specialising in the areas of Media and Cultural Studies, Postcolonialism, Political Communication and the Creative Industries. Her research is concerned with discourses on media and globalization, which explores the politics and implications of the media within Asian transformations (identities, cultures and state politics) in the era of globalization. Her areas of specialization also include youth and popular culture. She has contributed several book chapters including an article published in *Media Consumption and Everyday Life in Asia* (Youna Kim, 2008). She also contributed to the independent online journal – *darkmatter*.

Nausheen H. ANWAR is a Research Fellow in the Asian Urbanisms Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University Singapore. She received her PhD in Urban Studies/Urban Planning from the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation, Columbia University in 2008. Nausheen's research and teaching interests lie at the crossroads of urban planning/urban studies, migration studies, political anthropology and gender studies with a focus on Pakistan and more broadly urban South Asia. She is currently working on a book length project. Based on historical and ethnographic research, it looks at how migration/mobility, planning and the politics of the poor intersect in the broader context of urban change in postcolonial, globalizing Karachi. Aspects of her work appear in *Antipode*, *Citizenship Studies* and *ARI Working Paper Series*.

Tim BUNNELL is Associate Professor at the Asia Research Institute and in the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore. He is an urban geographer with research interests in Malaysia and Indonesia as well in interurban connections between Southeast Asia and other regions. He is the author of *Malaysia, Modernity and the Multimedia Super Corridor* (Routledge, 2004) and more than 30 refereed papers in human geography and urban studies journals. As a member of the Asian Urbanisms cluster at ARI, his recent work has considered the position of Asia in Euro American-dominated urban theory, including in a special issue of *Urban Studies* (co-edited with Daniel Goh, C.K. Lai and C.P. Pow) on *Global Urban Frontiers: Asian Cities in Theory, Practice and Imagination*. His current research concerns aspirational cities in Asia, as principal investigator for a comparative research project on grassroots urban aspirations and their relational geographies.