ANTH5770: Making Places: Landscape, Culture and Society (2017-18)

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Lecture time: Thursday 1:30-3:15pm, Room UCC 111  
Tutorial time: Thursday 3:30-4:15pm, Room UCC 109

**Course Description**

In Hong Kong as elsewhere in the world, the landscape is a reflection of past interactions between people and their physical environment, which cumulatively create highly recognizable and culturally distinctive places. Such unique and geographically-defined records of particular groups and their way of life are what UNESCO calls “cultural landscapes” (Rössler 2006). Landscapes also reflect and embody intangible beliefs and if we are to understand such ‘non-material’ meanings we must embrace both Western and non-Western (e.g. Chinese) approaches to their study. For example, while at first glance Hong Kong’s cultural landscape is overwhelmingly urban and modern in character, embedded within, beyond and beneath the city lie other ‘hidden’ landscapes reflecting socio-economic practices connected to more ancient agrarian and maritime lifeways and their traditional belief systems. Hong Kong also has many culturally important ‘ephemeral’ landscapes, relating to the temporary transformation of spaces, for example during religious festivals, or even the more routine transformations that occur at street eateries (dai pai dong) or street markets.

This course explores the concept ‘landscape’, its tangible and intangible dimensions, how they are physically evidenced locally and abroad, and how anthropologists, archaeologists and a myriad of other disciplines approach their study and interpretation. In particular, we will work through a series of Hong Kong-China case studies to see what landscape can tell us about the lifeways, economies, politics and beliefs of past and present communities in our region. By studying landscapes we can also identify what communities, organisations and governments chose to keep and protect and what they let go. The evidence for continuity and change provides valuable insights into the underlying socio-political and economic drivers at work through time. In terms of heritage management, therefore, if we wish to militate against the gradual loss of cultural meaning in the places we inhabit, visit and value, then landscape is the key.
Major Topics

- Concept, history, use and understanding of ‘landscape’ in Western and non-Western contexts
- Landscape as a bridge between disciplines and facilitator of new dialogues
- Anthropologies and Archaeologies of Landscape
- Legislation and Guidelines for Landscape: from World Heritage to Local Interpretations
- Contested Spaces: Landscapes as Arenas for Conflict, Resistance and Negotiation
- Managing Historic Urban Landscapes: comparing Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Macau
- Before the Metropolis: Social Landscapes and Sustainability in Pre-urban Hong Kong
- Exploring the Intangible: Hong Kong’s Ephemeral Landscapes
- Assessing the Causes, Effects and Future Implications of Hong Kong’s ‘Landscape-less’ Approach to Heritage Management

Learning Objectives

After completing this course students will:

- Clearly understand the origins, development and fundamental ideas underlying the concepts of ‘landscape’, ‘cultural landscape’ and ‘social landscape’ and be able to explain how they interrelate;

- Be able to identify and explain the key differences in Western and non-Western (including Chinese) understandings and valuing of landscapes, and then apply and evaluate them in terms of real-life case studies;

- Recognise the research potential of landscape as a powerful concept connecting scholars across multiple disciplines, and an ‘arena’ where conflicting views, values, and meanings are negotiated by a range of different stakeholders, for example government legislators and curators, ‘expert’ consultants, and local community groups;

- Thoroughly grasp the importance of the ‘social landscape approach’ as a means of understanding cultural landscape creation and development in terms of ongoing recursive (feedback) interactions between human agency and natural processes;

- Fully appreciate the research-management significance of the fact that cultural landscapes materially reflect human choices and value-judgements across space and through time, and can
thus reveal what past and present communities, organisations and governments chose to keep and protect and what they let go, and most importantly why;

- Have a good understanding of the value of ‘landscape’, not only in terms of its critical importance to—among others—anthropologists, archaeologists and heritage managers, but also its key role in our day-to-day engagements with and understandings of the world about us as social beings.

**Learning Activities**

Two 45-minute lectures and one 45-minute tutorial per week for one semester, plus a field trip to explore a cultural landscape in Hong Kong (fieldtrip planned for Sunday 11\textsuperscript{th} March – to be confirmed).

**Course Requirements**

1. **Mid-term take-home exam (40\%)**
   Exam paper available on Blackboard 5pm Friday 23\textsuperscript{rd} February – completed papers with VeriGuide receipts to be submitted to Dept. Office by 5pm Monday 5\textsuperscript{th} March.

2. **Final Paper (approximately 4500-6000 words) (60\%)**: 
   Essay questions uploaded to Blackboard 5pm Friday 30\textsuperscript{th} March – completed papers with VeriGuide receipts to be submitted to Dept. Office by 5pm Friday 27\textsuperscript{th} April.

**Medium of instruction**

English.

**Submissions & academic honesty**

As required by the university, from Sept. 2008, students must submit a soft copy of their computer-generated text assignments to VeriGuide at a specified URL. The system will issue a receipt containing a declaration of honesty statement. Students should sign the receipt, print a hard copy of their assignment, and **submit the hard copy and the receipt to teachers for grading**. The university says that assignments without the receipt will NOT be graded.

Please check the website "Honesty in Academic Work" at: [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/) for more information on plagiarism and on how to submit papers through VeriGuide

**Feedback for evaluation**

Emails and discussions will be used during the course to collect feedback from students.
Lecture topics and reading materials

NB: Please ensure that you read texts or websites marked thus **; and as many of the others if you have time.

NB: Each week lecture handouts will be uploaded onto Blackboard

Lecture 1 (Week 1; 11th January)

Concept, history, use and understanding of landscape in Western and non-Western contexts.


Lecture 2 (Week 2; 18th January)

Landscape and inter-disciplinary dialogues in humanistic research.


**Lecture 3 (Week 3; 25th January)**

**Anthropologies of Landscape**


Chapter 1: Quoting the ancestors, pp.1-13


**Lecture 4 (Week 4; 1st February)**

**Archaeologies of Landscape**


**Lecture 5 (Week 5; 8th February)**

**Reading the Landscape: Landscape as History**


**Muir, R. 1999. *Approaches to landscape*. London: Macmillan. (Chapter 2: The Practice of Landscape History pp.50-51; 60-75).**

**Rippon, S. 2004. *Historic landscape analysis: Deciphering the countryside*. York: CBA (pp.3-5, 19-24, 29-30, 51-52).**

**(NB: Week 6: Thursday 15th February: No class due to Lunar New Year)**

**Lecture 6 (Week 7; 22nd February)**

**Globalising Landscape Values? World Heritage Cultural Landscapes**


Lecture 7 (Week 8; 1st March)

Regional Heritage Legislation, Charters & Guidelines: Implications for Conservation of Historic (Cultural) Landscapes


Sun, K. 2011. The unclaimed baggage: who owns Hong Kong’s archaeological heritage? Huaxia Kaogu 2011:1, 139-145.

Lecture 8 (Week 9; 8th March)

Designed for Life: Socio-Ecological Sustainability of Traditional Agrarian Lifeways


**Field Trip to Sheung Wo Hang** (Sunday 11th March)**

**Lecture 9** (Week 10; 15th March)

Managing Change, Preserving Cultural Values: Historic Urban Landscapes in Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou


Lecture 10 (Week 11; 22nd March)

Contested Landscapes: Arenas for the Negotiation of Identity, Power and Stakeholder Rights


**Ku, A.S-m, 2012. Remaking places and fashioning an opposition discourse: struggle over the Star Ferry pier and Queen’s pier in Hong Kong. Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, 30, 5-22.


HK web-based case studies & websites:

Designing Hong Kong http://www.designinghongkong.com/v4/


Nga Tsin Wai: Urban Renewal Authority (URA) versus other stakeholders. URA Website: http://www.ura.org.hk/en/projects/redevelopment/wong-tai-sin/nga-tsin-wai-village-project.aspx; Search on “Nga Tsin Wai” for a variety of other perspectives
**Lecture 11 (Week 14; 12th April)**

**Ephemeral Landscapes and Intangible Cultural Heritage**

**Chau, H.W. 2011. Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: The Hong Kong Experience. In T.S. Liu (ed.) Intangible Cultural Heritage and Local Communities in East Asia. Hong Kong: UST/HKHM, pp.121-137 (especially 127-137).**


**Hase, P.H. 1995. Village Festivals. In P.H. Hase and E. Sinn (eds.) Beyond the Metropolis: Villages in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Branch Royal Asiatic Society, pp.51-63.**


Lecture 12 (Week 15; 19th April)

Landscape, Heritage and Tourism


Tutorials:

**Lecture 1** (Week 1; 11th January): No tutorials – please do the reading for the course.

**Lecture 2** (Week 2; 18th January): ‘Landscape as bridge between ‘disciplinary silos’

**Lecture 3** (Week 3; 25th January): ‘We shape our landscapes and they in turn shape us: the many anthropologies of landscape’

**Lecture 4** (Week 4; 1st February): ‘Towards holistic approaches to the human past: landscape archaeology’

**Lecture 5** (Week 5; 8th February): Can landscape really be read like an historical ‘document’?

**(NB: Week 6: Thursday 15th February: No class due to Lunar New Year)**

**Lecture 6** (Week 7; 22nd February): ‘What makes a cultural landscape World Heritage?’ ‘Can notions of “universal value” be applied globally?’

**Lecture 7** (Week 8; 1st March): ‘Landslaped and legislation: conserving Hong Kong’s historic (cultural) landscapes using ‘landscape-less’ legislation’

**Lecture 8** (Week 9; 8th March): ‘Designed for life: the research value and wisdom embodied in Hong Kong’s relict rice farming landscapes’
Lecture 9 (Week 10; 15th March): ‘A (contrasting) tale of three cities: managing historic urban landscapes (HUL) in Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou’

Lecture 10 (Week 11; 22nd March): ‘Contested space and the power of place: politics, people and landscapes’

** (NB: Weeks 12 and 13: Thursday 29th March and 5th April: No class due to Reading Week and Ching Ming Festival respectively) **

Lecture 11 (Week 14; 12th April): ‘Grasping the cultural significance of Hong Kong’s ephemeral and intangible landscapes’

Lecture 12 (Week 15; 19th April): No tutorial this week (Final Paper)