

A return of utopian neighbourhood planning?

Utopia tends to follow dystopia – in literature, fine art and other cultural milieus and also in political economy. Thomas More's *Utopia* was a satirical imagination of life without the corruption of the courts and church of the 16th century, and promoted a humanistic idea of religion and society at a time of rising European wealth. Plato's *Republic*, 1,800 or so years earlier, was perhaps a similar attempt, set against the Peloponnesian war and the corrupt politics of Ancient Greece. Londoner Ebenezer Howard published his Garden City idea at the very end of the 19th century, by which time it had become clear that without humanistic interventions, brute industrialism and its partner capitalism had the power to destroy life, environment, beauty, sanity, morality and so much more. Howard's publication was not the academic thesis that it was later interpreted as, but an investor's prospectus, suitably and neatly pocket-sized (I have a copy in my office if anyone is interested), and a small-time inventor's practical remedy for the urban ills of the day.

Utopian neighbourhood imaginations are local versions of bigger political economic machinations. The 19th century utopian thought experiments of Saint-Simon, Fourier, Owen and others were a local, physical, practical and pragmatic expression of the wave of socialism that eventually led to the grand communist experiments of the 20th century. They competed with Marxist political economy as a response to the bleakness of unbridled industrialisation.

A full century after Howard, a new consensus has emerged regarding the ills of unbridled industrial urbanisation. We now know how to build and manage humane cities at scale, but we do not know how to temper their impact on the environment. What are today's utopian responses? Worryingly, at the political economy scale, there seems to be no obvious viable alternatives left to try. 20th

century communism failed as an antidote to 19th century laissez-faire. Despite the beauty and elegance of western liberal democracy, and its many heights of humanistic achievements, it seems nigh-on impossible for open political economies to moderate the environmental costs of the human progress that they release. Looming on the horizon as possibly the only course now probable, is an authoritarian version of capitalism, be-it Chinese neo-communism or European neo-statism.

Much easier, and less scary, to focus on the pragmatic and the local! Where are the contemporary neighbourhood expressions of utopian hope and experimentation? All around us. The more eye-catching, catch our eyes and become doctrine. New urbanism in North America. Compact cities in Europe. Eco-cities in India. Sponge cities in China. Smart cities everywhere. It gets more specific: the 15-minute city in Paris that seeks to localise by policy; the localism agenda in British planning that, for the first time in 100 years of formal urban planning, gives local neighbourhoods the right to make their own plans; the normalisation of master-planned, privately managed and privately governed neighbourhoods in cities throughout the rapidly developing world.

For at least 20 years now, our students have been imagining along these lines. Actually, the influence of the 19th century utopian neighbourhood thinkers has never left us. From Clarence Perry in New York to William Drummond in Chicago and the English post-war new towns, to planned neighbourhoods and new cities in Mainland China and the world over, planners, architects, engineers and progressive thinkers have continually sought to refine the design specification of local utopias. Most combine, with various emphases, the idea of local self-sufficiency in amenities, services and jobs. While this used to be justified in terms of time, efficiency, convenience, welfare and social engineering, now it is pursued for the sake of energy and environmental goals.

In a built environment faculty of very bright students, ideas about utopian neighbourhoods abound. I would like to pose a question for our students and researchers to ponder. Two actually.

First, what new forms of utopian neighbourhood are yet to be discovered? The threats now and then are similar but different. Perhaps more existential than those facing Howard and his fellow 19th dreamers, but perhaps not (things were pretty dire in their day too). The experience and technology available today, however, is vastly different. Can 'smart' really deliver a qualitatively new utopian neighbourhood idea? What would it look like?

Second, how to overcome the paradox at the heart of the failure of all utopian experiments? The paradox is that we crave the local but need the global. Or that the global saves us but also threatens to destroy us. A literal 15-minute city

would look something like pre-1979 Chinese cities, where work units governed both production and consumption into small and relatively self-sufficient neighbourhood units. One single factor alone has driven humanity's upward trajectory of wealth and welfare, longevity and ennoblement: the division of labour. Progress is impossible without it. To progress, we have to continuously source knowledge and skills that we do not ourselves possess. We can design cities to encourage localism, but outside of a subsistence economy, people will always want to travel to both produce and consume, the more so the more advanced economies and societies become.

Bringing together the two questions, I have one frightening thought about how this paradox might be resolved. *Metaverse*.

What if people lived everywhere – dispersed across the land (you have to move outside HK for this thought experiment) – but were tied together in virtual communities in which they do their shopping, work in firms, enjoy music (and virtual dancing) together, discuss politics and the organisation of their community, buy and sell property?

The utopian/dystopian metaverse vision of urban neighbourhoods starts to become a reality once someone decides it is worth investing real money in virtual real estate. It has started¹. Once you start being able to earn money from your virtual neighbourhood investment, the idea is no more outrageous than *real* real estate. The money paid has use value, not just speculative investment value. Our real estate and planning students could calculate a rational value for a virtual neighbourhood lot via the residual valuation method of discounted cash flow analysis. If nanny-state governments want to get in on the act, they could perhaps require that citizens living in remote real locations but high density utopian virtual neighbourhoods, walk an amount of steps a day equivalent to someone in a real high density neighbourhood, logged through smart home exercise machines.

So, two predictions. First, most attempts by government policy and design that aim at what the famous UBC planner and urbanist John Freidman once called 'selective territorial closure', will fail, as they always have. Neighbourhood self-containment has only ever worked by coercion. Local utopias have only ever been achieved by religious communities, where the privations of localism are voluntarily suffered. Second, the dystopian vision of the metaverse will grow into a parallel spatial economy. And if one metaverse, why not more? What is to stop a young child of Ebenezer Howard in the 2040s from inventing a level-2 neighbourhood economy within King Zuckerberg's virtual kingdom? Like the

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/12/investors-are-paying-millions-for-virtual-land-in-the-metaverse.html>

fragmenting city states of Thomas More's time, a successful level-2 neighbourhood could threaten to cede from the mother kingdom unless the king shared more rights over surplus and land rights and lowered taxes. Capitalism becomes a force for democratising the brave new oligarchal metaversal future, as it did medieval Europe. Welcome to the Matrix. Welcome to a re-run of the entire process of urban civilisation.

If anyone wants to pen a response in a future DRup, please get in touch.

Congratulations to all those mentioned below. Particular congratulations to Eric and Chao who have captured FoA's first two CRF grants (Collaborative Research Fund grants are blue-chip academic research grants awarded by the HKSAR government's Research Grants Council). I am particularly pleased that both CRF grants have been won by the Department of Architecture. When I arrived in HKU, REC and DUPAD were regarded as the research engines of the Faculty. That distinction no longer holds. All departments/divisions are now research engines in their own way. To emphasise the point: equal congratulations to Wilson (REC), Bo Tang (DUPAD), Frank Xue (REC), Ren Chao (DLA) and Jianxiang Huang (DUPAD), for bringing in almost 10M HKD as part of a Theme-based Research Scheme grant. TRS grants are even bigger blue-chip funding sources. Well done all.

Chris Webster
Dean, FoA

Faculty of Architecture

A warm welcome to the following new colleagues, who joined our Faculty in December 2021:



Ms Natasza Joanna Minasiewicz
Research Associate, Faculty of Architecture

Natasza is an architect and interior designer graduated from the Technical University of Wroclaw. Her research-based practice focuses on spatial, material, social and historical investigations in the context of future cultures and environmental equality. At FoA she is conducting design research for Professor Juan Du's project, 'Housing in Place: Quality Homes for Sustainable Hong Kong', funded by the Bank of China Hong Kong Centenary Charity Programme.



Dr Mengxiao Tian
Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Architecture

Mengxiao recently completed her PhD studies at FoA, with her dissertation on reclamation settlements and landscape formation in Pearl River Delta. She is currently working on Professor Weijen Wang's CCFS project, ['Conservation and Revitalisation Strategies for Architecture and Landscape of Hakka Village Spaces in Sha Tau Kok'](#).



Dr Jiali Zhou
Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Urban Planning and Design

Jiali earned his PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering at MIT Transit Lab and Northeastern University in Boston last summer. At FoA, he is working with Dr Jiangping Zhou and Dr Zhan Zhao in research areas related to urban mobility, public transportation operations and simulation modelling.

Department of Architecture

1. Dr Kristof Crolla

- presents his outdoor art installation titled 'Resonance-In-Sight' in the 'Redefining Reality' exhibition organised by the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA), with the intention to explore the boundaries between virtual reality and physical reality. The artwork consists of a physical component and a virtual element. With the tailor-made AR application, visitors can interact with a special selection of the HKMoA's four core collections. The Instagram filters additionally allow visitors to immerse themselves further in the artwork. Please click [here](#) to view the video.

Date: 3 December 2021 – 11 November 2022

Venue: Art Square, Salisbury Garden, Hong Kong Museum of Art,
10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong



2. Dr Eric Schuldenfrei

- has been awarded by RGC a funding of HK\$8,320,000 (excluding on-costs) for 22 months, supporting all projects under his 'Spatial Exposure Notification' proposal submitted for the Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) 2021/22 and Second Round One-off CRF COVID-19 and NID Research Exercise, to be commenced on or before 30 June 2022.

3. Ms Yi Sun and Ms Chiara Oggioni

- received a second-round funding for 2021-22 from the Gallant Ho Experiential Learning Centre (GHELC), to support their eight-month project entitled 'Spatial Implications of Women's Work in Guangdong, China'.

4. Mr Guillaume Othenin-Girard

- received a second-round funding for 2021-22 from the Gallant Ho Experiential Learning Centre (GHELC), to support his two-year project entitled 'Borrowed Landscape: a design and build workshop on the shores of the Lemanic Arc'.

5. 'Alternative Materials' Exhibition @ PMQ

- features the experimental endeavours of BAsC(Design+) Year 3 students in their Fall 2021 Studio, exploring the full potential and usage of novel materials that have not been widely used in the construction and manufacturing fields.



Environmental issues are becoming increasingly alarming in the current climate. The exploration began with the students researching materials and techniques to identify a potential arena that may yield tangible outcomes. Next, the students were engaged in a deeper understanding of the chosen materials to demonstrate their full potential, including organic, plant-based, recycled, recyclable, waste generated, composite, biodegradable, circular, and low footprint materials.

In response to climate change and the overconsumption of plastics and concrete, the exhibition features students' explorations as future leaders through hands-on prototyping. By considering environmental, social, and cultural contexts, the collection addresses sustainability in design, reflecting how we exploit resources, manufacture goods and consume products, and seeks to use alternative materials.

Faculty Advisor: Dennis Cheung

Exhibition Assistant: Giselle Lau

Exhibitors: Anson Yik Hei Cheung, Tsz Kwan Heung, Duy Ngoc Anh Huynh, Matthew Tsun Tik Ma, Fergal Yau Wai Tse, Oscar Chun Yan Wong, Yan Shun Wong, Jianing Yu

Our exhibitors will host two weekend workshops, 'This is Paper!' and 'This is Loofah?'. Reservation is required via [Eventbrite](#) and details are to be announced in due course. For enquiries, please contact Ms. Isabel Wong of the Department of Architecture, HKU (Tel: 3917 2136, Email: isabel.wong@hku.hk). Please visit the [HKU Architecture Gallery Webpage](#) for more information.

Date: 14 January 2022 – 4 February 2022

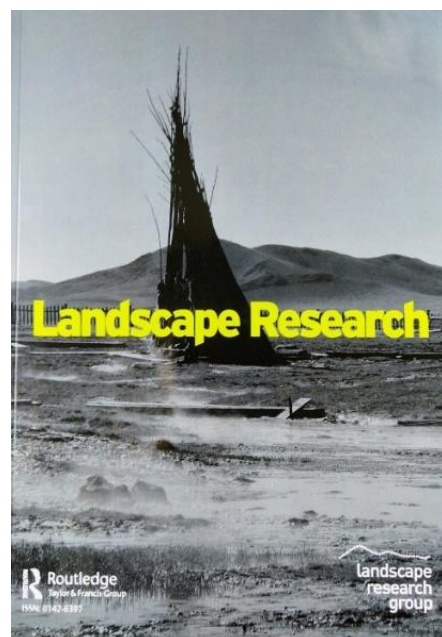
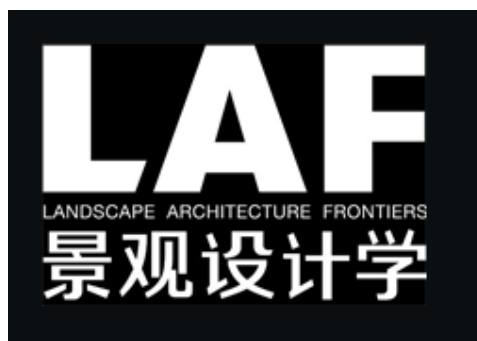
Time: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Venue: S314, 3/F, Block A (Staunton), PMQ,
35 Aberdeen Street, Central, Hong Kong

Division of Landscape Architecture

1. Dr Bin Jiang

- has been appointed as Associate Director and Executive Editor of the *Landscape Architecture Frontiers Journal*; a member of the International Editorial Advisory Board of the *Landscape Research Journal*; an editorial board member of the *PLOS Global Public Health Journal*; and an executive committee member of the Committee of Environmental Behaviour, The Architectural Society of China.



2. Dr Bin Chen

- has been appointed as an Associate Editor of [Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation](#) (Impact Factor: 5.5), an academic journal published by Wiley and the Zoological Society of London to provide a forum for the rapid publication of peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary research from the interface between remote sensing science and ecology and conservation.

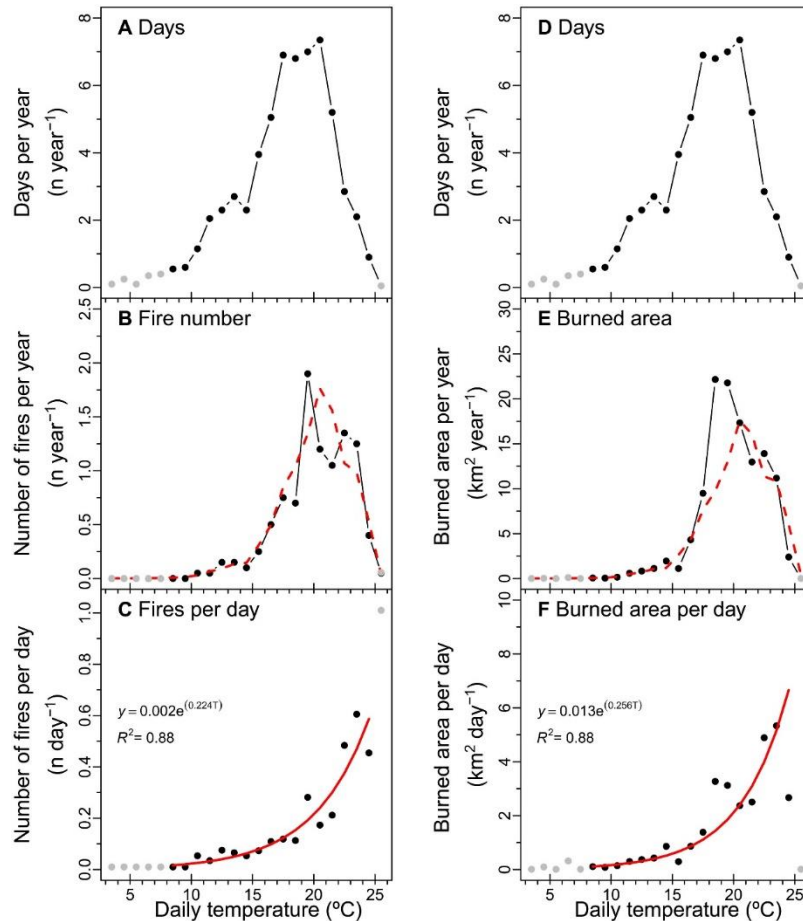


- has co-edited three Special Issues, namely '[Sustainable Urban Development with the Support of Earth Observations](#)' in *All Earth*, '[Geo-Information in Smart Societies and Environment](#)' and '[Remote Sensing for Environmental Health: From Fine-Scale Measurement towards Dynamic Exposure Assessment](#)' in *Remote Sensing*.
- has co-authored the following publications:

- (i) Gutierrez, A. A., Hantson, S., Langenbrunner, B., **Chen, B.**, Jin, Y., Goulden, M. L., & Randerson, J. T. (2021). Wildfire response to changing daily temperature extremes in California's Sierra Nevada. *Science Advances*, 7(47), eabe6417. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abe6417>

Abstract: *Burned area has increased across California, especially in the Sierra Nevada range. Recent fires there have had devastating social, economic, and ecosystem impacts. To understand the consequences of new extremes in fire weather, here we quantify the sensitivity of wildfire occurrence and burned area in the Sierra Nevada to daily meteorological variables during 2001–2020. We find that the likelihood of fire occurrence increases nonlinearly with daily temperature during summer, with a 1°C increase yielding a 19 to 22% increase in risk. Area burned has a similar, nonlinear sensitivity, with 1°C of warming yielding a 22 to 25% increase in risk. Solely considering changes in summer daily*

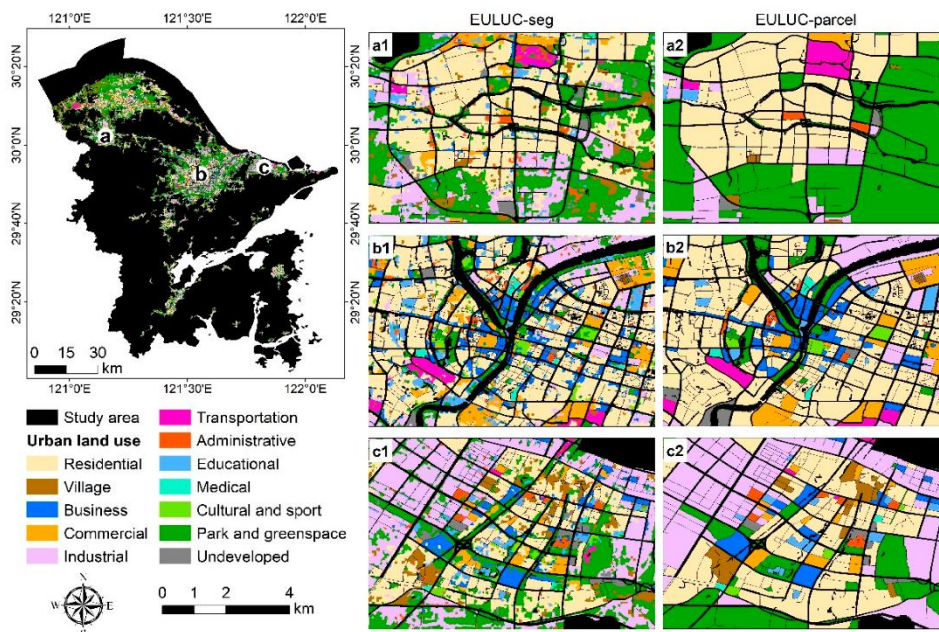
temperatures from climate model projections, we estimate that by the 2040s, fire number will increase by $51 \pm 32\%$, and burned area will increase by $59 \pm 33\%$. These trends highlight the threat posed to fire management by hotter and drier summers.



- (ii) Tu, Y., **Chen, B.**, Lang, W., Chen, T., Li, M., Zhang, T., & Xu, B. (2021). Uncovering the nature of urban land use composition using multi-source open big data with ensemble learning. *Remote Sensing*, 13(21), 4241. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs13214241>

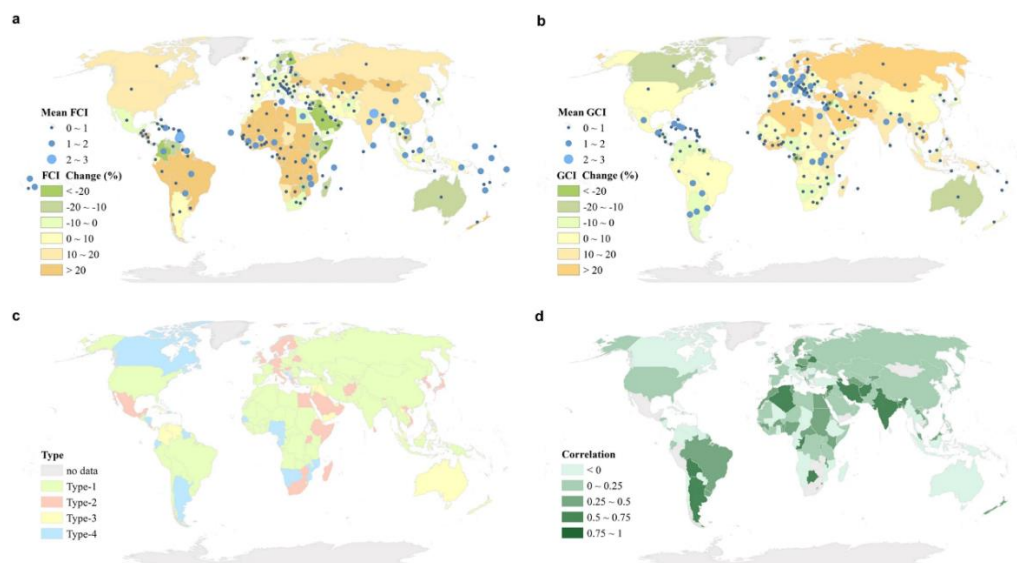
Abstract: Detailed information on urban land uses has been an essential requirement for urban land management and policymaking. Recent advances in remote sensing and machine learning technologies have contributed to the mapping and monitoring of multi-scale urban land uses, yet there lacks a holistic mapping framework that is compatible with different end users' demands. Moreover, land use mix has evolved to be a key component in modern urban settings, but few have explicitly measured the spatial complexity of land use or quantitatively uncovered its driving forces. Addressing these challenges, here we developed a novel two-stage bottom-up scheme for mapping

essential urban land use categories. In the first stage, we conducted object-based land use classification using crowdsourcing features derived from multi-source open big data and an automated ensemble learning approach. In the second stage, we identified parcel-based land use attributes, including the dominant type and mixture mode, by spatially correlating land parcels with the object-based results. Furthermore, we investigated the potential influencing factors of land use mix using principal components analysis and multiple linear regression. Experimental results in Ningbo, a coastal city in China, showed that the proposed framework could accurately depict the distribution and composition of urban land uses. At the object scale, the highest classification accuracy was as high as 86% and 78% for the major (Level I) and minor (Level II) categories, respectively. At the parcel scale, the generated land use maps were spatially consistent with the object-based maps. We found larger parcels were more likely to be mixed in land use, and industrial lands were characterized as the most complicated category. We also identified multiple factors that had a collective impact on land use mix, including geography, socio-economy, accessibility, and landscape metrics. Altogether, our proposed framework offered an alternative to investigating urban land use composition, which could be applied in a broad range of implications in future urban studies.



- (iii) Liu, X., Zheng, J., Yu, L., Hao, P., **Chen, B.**, Xin, Q., Fu, H., & Gong, P. (2021). Annual dynamic dataset of global cropping intensity from 2001 to 2019. *Scientific Data*, 8(1), 283. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-021-01065-9>

Abstract: The cropping intensity has received growing concern in the agriculture field in applications such as harvest area research. Notwithstanding the significant amount of existing literature on local cropping intensities, research considering global datasets appears to be limited in spatial resolution and precision. In this paper, we present an annual dynamic global cropping intensity dataset covering the period from 2001 to 2019 at a 250-m resolution with an average overall accuracy of 89%, exceeding the accuracy of the current annual dynamic global cropping intensity data at a 500-m resolution. We used the enhanced vegetation index (EVI) of MOD13Q1 as the database via a sixth-order polynomial function to calculate the cropping intensity. The global cropping intensity dataset was packaged in the GeoTIFF file type, with the quality control band in the same format. The dataset fills the vacancy of medium-resolution, global-scale annual cropping intensity data and provides an improved map for further global yield estimations and food security analyses.



3. Dr Bin Jiang, Mr Mathew Pryor and Ms Wenyan Xu

- have published an article in the *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, a flagship publication in the field of environmental psychology.

Jiang, B., Xu, W., Ji, W., Kim, G., Pryor, M., & Sullivan, W. C. (2021). Impacts of nature and built acoustic-visual environments on human's multidimensional mood states: A cross-continent experiment. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 77, 101659. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2021.101659>

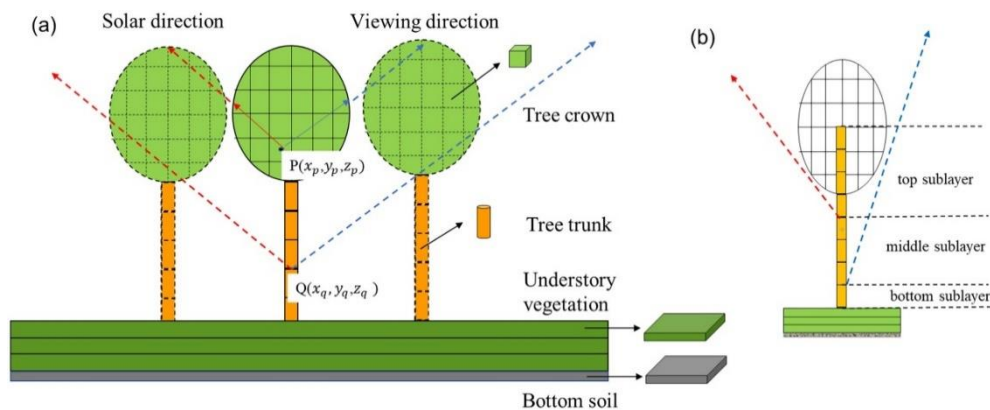
Abstract: *New and complex acoustic-visual environments are emerging in contemporary high-density cities. The independent and interactive effects of acoustic and visual environments on human's mood states have been rarely investigated in that context. This study examined the extent to which 12 pairs of four acoustic environments and three visual environments influence multiple-dimensional mood states, including emotion, attention, and stress. Sixty-eight local participants from Illinois, USA, and 69 non-local participants from Hong Kong SAR, China, were randomly assigned to watch and listen to one of 12 videos. The participants' mood states were measured before and after the exposure. Two-way ANOVA analysis controlling for baseline mood and gender, and pairwise comparisons yield four major findings after. First, the acoustic and visual environments have significant independent and interactive effects on mood states. Second, the acoustic environments have stronger effects on mood states than the visual environments. Third, in general, effects of acoustic-visual environments are more positive and stronger for local participants than for non-local participants. Fourth, evidence suggests a universal restorative effect that grows from exposure to natural acoustic-visual environments. This study provides new and specific evidence to support planning and design of healthy high-density cities.*

4. Dr Shengbiao Wu

- has co-authored the following publication:

Bian, Z., **Wu, S.**, Roujean, J. L., Cao, B., Li, H., Yin, G., Du, Y. M., Xiao, Q., & Liu, Q. (2022). A TIR forest reflectance and transmittance (FRT) model for directional temperatures with structural and thermal stratification. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 268, 112749, ISSN 0034-4257. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2021.112749>

Abstract: Land surface temperature (LST) is listed as an essential climate variable (ECV) and supports quantitative estimates of the energy budget while serving as a proxy for measuring the effects of climate change and extreme events. Forested areas are considered a major land unit impacted by temperature rise; therefore, thorough monitoring is mandatory. An accuracy assessment of the LST of forests must consider their directional anisotropy (DA). This latter can be well depicted by thermal infrared (TIR) radiative transfer models, but the problem is complex for forests because many of the shaded areas generate multiscale gradients of temperature. In this paper, we adapted a mature and widely used visible and near-infrared (VNIR) radiative transfer model called forest reflectance and transmittance (FRT) to enhance the characterization of the DA of forest temperature. In the FRT model, the vertical heterogeneity of the forest is quantified by using the discrete elements of multilayer scene components (i.e., the tree crown, trunk, understory vegetation, and soil), thus inferring vertical thermal gradients. The Planck function and spectral-invariant theory are considered to assess the thermal emissions of the scene components and their multiple scattering processes. The FRT model is validated using directional forest brightness temperatures (BT) measured from an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and simulated by using the three-dimensional ray-tracing LESS (large-scale remote sensing data and image simulation framework over heterogeneous 3D scenes) model. The results show that FRT behaves reliably since the root mean square error (RMSE) is lower than 1.0 °C for UAV measurements obtained at 09:20 and 13:10 and with coefficients of determination (R^2) larger than 0.74 and 0.56, respectively; these results are better than the simulated results by existing models. Moreover, the comparison with ray-tracing simulations was also deemed satisfactory. According to the analysis, large variations in BT DAs may appear for different forests and seasonal changes staged by structural and thermal stratification, thus indicating the necessity of using the FRT model for complex and dynamic forest canopies.

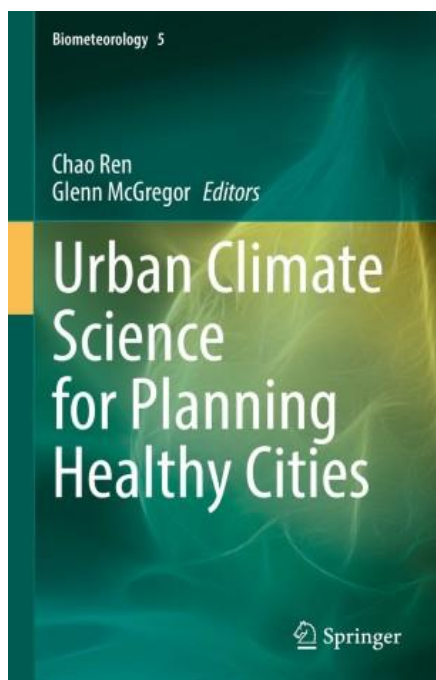


5. Dr Chao Ren

- has been awarded by RGC a funding of HK\$6,125,102 (excluding on-costs) for 36 months, supporting all projects under her proposal titled 'Turning 2060 Carbon Neutrality into Reality: a cross-disciplinary study of air pollution and health co-benefits of climate change mitigation of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA)', submitted for the Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) 2021/22 and Second Round One-off CRF COVID-19 and NID Research Exercise, to be commenced on or before 30 June 2022.
- co-edited with Professor Glenn McGregor (Department of Geography, Durham University) a new book titled *Urban Climate Science for Planning Healthy Cities*, published by Springer.
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-87598-5>

eBook ISBN: 978-3-030-87598-5

Print ISBN: 978-3-030-87597-8



Introduction: *This volume demonstrates how urban climate science can provide valuable information for planning healthy cities. The book illustrates the idea of 'Science in Time, Science in Place' by providing worldwide case-based urban climatic planning applications for a variety of regions and countries, utilizing relevant climatic-spatial planning experiences to address local climatic and environmental health issues. Comprised of three major sections entitled 'The Rise of Mega-cities and*

the Concept of Climate Resilience and Healthy Living,' 'Urban Climate Science in Action,' and 'Future Challenges and the Way Forward,' the book argues for the recognition of climate as a key element of healthy cities. Topics covered include: urban resilience in a climate context, climate responsive planning and urban climate interventions to achieve healthy cities, climate extremes, public health impact, urban climate-related health risk information, urban design and planning, and governance and management of sustainable urban development. The book will appeal to an international audience of practicing planners and designers, public health and built environment professionals, social scientists, researchers in epidemiology, climatology and biometeorology, and international to city scale policy makers.

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Professor Wilson Lu

- has been nominated by Professor Anthony Yeh, seconded by Professor Guanhua Chen of the Department of Chemistry, to an election of three Professors from Group B (Architecture, Engineering and Science) to serve as a member of the Senate under the provisions of Statute XXII.1(f) for a period of three years from 12 January 2022 onwards. On 29 December 2021, Professor Lu was declared elected unopposed to serve as a member of the Senate under the above provisions for the aforementioned period of time.
- was interviewed by the Hong Kong Economic Journal on applying BIM and blockchain technologies in modular integrated construction (MiC) projects, such as the HKU Wong Chuk Hang Student Residence, in an article on 31 December 2021:

<http://startupbeat.hkej.com/?p=113543>



Professor Wilson Lu and Mr K. L. Tam, Director of Estates, HKU

Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning

1. Dr Roger Chan

- has published the following article:

Zhou, C., & **Chan, R. C. K.** (2022). State-scalar politics of rural land reform in China: The case of Wujin district. *Land Use Policy*, 114, 105940. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2021.105940>

Abstract: *China's central government has been devoted to advancing its dualistic land administration system, such as by designating pilot areas to explore rural land circulation and marketization. Given the increasingly liberalized rural land development practices at localities, this paper aims to explore the variations between policy-making by the central government and implementation at the local scale in the context of interactive politics. A case study of Wujin District, located in the economically developed Yangtze River delta, was examined to unfold the local policy implementation process as intertwined with scalar politics, rural land politics, and the experimentation features of China's reform. Conducted qualitatively, crucial policy actors were interviewed across multiple administrative levels ranging from the province, prefecture, county, and township governments to village collectives. It was found that within China's hierarchical land administration, decentralized policy experimentation encouraged by the central government was compromised by the scalar politics and local governmental power structure when implemented on the ground (i.e., the city-county struggles and the resultant incomplete authorities of the primary policy actor). The findings highlight that central policy design and the autonomy of local governments during the policy-making process should be coordinated by embracing scalar complexity.*

1. Maosu Li (PhD candidate)

- was featured in the cover story of the latest [Newsletter of The Graduate School](#), HKU (Issue 2, 2021), recognising his research achievement.



Supervised by Professor Anthony Yeh and Dr Frank Xue, Mr Maosu Li is a PhD candidate at the Department of Urban Planning and Design and stationed at iLab. The Newsletter cover story is about his winning of the 2021 Esri Young Scholars Award (Hong Kong). His research findings about 3D urban views have been applied to several scenarios, such as automatic window view assessment, landscape management and sustainable urban planning, and architectural space planning.

Read the HKU Graduate School Newsletter at:

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/bbead6e388.html>

Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research

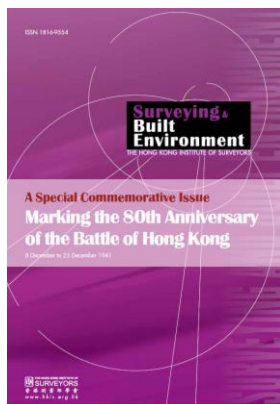
1. Dr Ren Ren, Professor Kelvin Wong and Professor K. W. Chau

- Co-authored a conference paper entitled 'Supply Elasticity and Substitution in the Within-city Heterogeneity of Price Movement', which was presented by Dr Ren Ren and received the Best Manuscript Award in Urban Design and Development at the 2021 American Real Estate Society (ARES) Annual Meeting. The achievement was released in the [ARES Newsletter \(Volume 36, Number 2, page 9\)](#), in October 2021.

2. Professor Lawrence Lai

- has published about key British pillboxes in Hong Kong in a [Special Commemorative Issue](#) for the *Surveying & Built Environment Journal* of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, as well as a related publication which was also featured in Nikkei Asia on 25 December 2021:

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Hong-Kong-s-WWII-memories-evolve-80-years-after-fall-on-Christmas>



3. Professor K. W. Chau

- shared his insight and suggestions for the HKSAR Government's 'Northern Metropolis Development Strategy', in an interview with the Hong Kong Commercial Daily:

http://www.hkcd.com/hkcdweb/content/2021/12/14/content_1311899.html



Image: Hong Kong Commercial Daily

Social Infrastructure for Equity and Wellbeing Lab

1. Professor Shenjing He

- was invited to join the Editorial Advisory Board of *Territory, Politics, Governance* (Impact Factor: 3.878, Q1), a Regional Studies Association journal focusing on territorial politics and governance of space, for a period of three years from January 2022 to December 2024.



Urban Analytics and Interventions Research Lab

1. Dr Guibo Sun

- won the Faculty-based Research Output Prize under the University's [Outstanding Researcher Award scheme](#) of 2020-21, which is to honour the best research output from each Faculty, for his following paper:*

Sun, G., Zhao, J., Webster, C., & Lin, H. (2020). New metro system and active travel: A natural experiment. *Environment International*, 138, 105605. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2020.105605>

Ten Research Output Prizes have been conferred to all the HKU Faculties. For details, please visit the Research Services webpage at: <https://www.rss.hku.hk/honours-awards/internal-awards/rop-winners>.

*The Dean was not involved in the selection process because of his co-authorship of one of the entries.