

The Institute of Asian Research and the UBC Urban Studies Program Present

“Asia Unbound – Globalizing the (Un)Making of Urban Histories”

A Public Lecture by

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From the mid-1980s Asia’s rapid urban transition has been marked by the rising dominance of globally created, financed and managed mega-projects that are remaking the built environment of its major cities. The world’s tallest buildings, global business districts, shopping malls for global consumption, and massive edge cities and gated housing estates are among the major elements filling Asia’s metropolises along with such infrastructure as global airports and super-highway networks to enhance local-global flows of people, goods, and resources. With little or no reference to local culture or architectural traditions, these elements of the new urban jigsaw are contrived simulations of imagined global cities that are together making ‘cities without histories’. As such they are actively engaged in ‘place-breaking’ – the delocalization of shaping and giving meaning to the building of cities. At the same time, however, globalization also fosters the rise of civil society demanding greater participation in the politics of urban development. While the unmaking of urban histories through megaprojects continues, citizens and local businesses are also organizing to reclaim place-making for associational life and cultural meaning, both through direct action in neighborhoods and indirectly through electoral processes.

Thursday, February 28th at 6:00pm

Room 120, C.K. Choi Building, Institute of Asian Research

Note: this is the opening event in

The 2008 IAR Graduate Student Conference

Globalized Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

An opportunity for students to come together and share their knowledge in the spirit of inter-disciplinary scholarship. Panels begin at 10:15 on Friday morning and continue until noon on Saturday, with a conference dinner and party on Friday night. All are invited to attend. For complete details, contact Pascale Massot at: pmassot@interchange.ubc.ca



Institute of Asian Research

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