CURE1003
Cultural Studies of Space
(Fall 2012)

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Lecture time & venue: Wednesday 2:30 – 4:15 pm, KKB101

Nakagin Capsule Tower (Tokyo, 黒川紀章, 1972)
Course Description

Space and place are imbued with meanings, they are not just the contexts of everyday lives and sites of events, they also shape us and condition our agency. We inhabit in space and are culturally ‘produced’ by the spaces we encountered. On the other hand, powerful actors and agents are continuously devoting efforts in place-making, the spaces surrounding us are constantly transformed in ways we like or dislike. Space is also produced culturally, through conscious social actions and interventions. However, we do not just take the space and place we encounter for granted; we engage and interact with space through different means, we do so by touching, feeling, sensing, imagining and navigating in space differently. Thus, the meaning of space and place are almost always in flux and contested, the core aim of this course is to look at all these dynamics that are unfolding in space. In this you are encouraged not to see spaces as things ‘out there’ in the world but to take space as a method and a way of understanding our socio-cultural world.

The course is divided into three parts. The first part is a prelude session introducing space and place conceptually, we will look at how humanities and social sciences have come to understand space as an analytic category. In the second part we will look at some of the major tendencies that the spatial transformations in recent decades are described and felt. In this part we will focus on the notion of power, we will thus look at how places are shaped in various dominant ways and how they in turn influence our subjectivities and behaviors. In the third part we will look at some of the ways human engage space through imaginations and actions, such as mapping space and travelling in space. This part intends to open up a discussion of the possibility of conceiving and perceiving space alternatively, through different kinds of interventions and representations.

Learning Outcome

Students in this course are expected to gain a basic understanding in the recent emphasis on space and place in cultural theories, they are
also expected to observe and analyze spaces surrounding them actively. Through interdisciplinary inquiries and case studies, students will develop spatial imaginations and sensitivities towards the cultural process of spatial formation. Students will also develop critical awareness of how various forms of power are shaping space, and the following concepts in relation to the role of space: modernity, postmodernity, state, capitalism, nature, globalization and so on. Finally, students are expected to learn various empirical issues related to spatial transformation in Hong Kong and other parts of the world.

**Assessment (details of each will be further announced)**

Check-in exercise and participation: 10%
Mid-term paper: 30%
Tutorial Presentations: 25%
Case study report: 35%

**Academic Honesty**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/). In order to provide first screening against plagiarism, we request all term papers to be submitted through VeriGuide:

[https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/](https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/).
Lecture Schedule

A. Prelude

1. Introduction: Space as Method (**12 Sep**)
   Readings: Jon Anderson, *Understanding Cultural Geography*, introduction
   陳冠中，’香港作為方法’，《我這一代香港人》
   毕恆達，’導論’，《空間就是權力》

2. The spatial turn? Theorizing space and place (**19 Sep**)
   Doreen Massey, Some times, of space (unpublished, in pdf)
   郭恩慈，《東亞城市空間生產》，14-23; 58-93

B. Analyzing space, power and culture

3. Privatizing space: public vs private? (I) (**26 Sep**)
   Readings: Iain Borden, “Stimulating the Senses in the Public Realm,” in
   *What Are We Scared Of? The Value of Risk in Designing Public Space*, pp. 20-33 and 44.
   Frank Tonkiss, *Space, the city and social theory*, ch. 3
   郭恩慈，《東亞城市空間生產》，212-245
   草原地圖 [http://lawnmaphk.org/portal/](http://lawnmaphk.org/portal/)

4. Developing space: spatial dimensions of capitalism (**3 Oct**)
   葉蔭聰，《為當下懷舊：文化保育的前世今生》，第五章
   郭恩慈，《東亞城市空間生產》，24-57; 159-211

5. Consuming space: malls, themes and brands (**10 Oct**)
   Readings: Mark Gottdiener, ‘The consumption of space and the spaces of consumption’ in M. Gottdiener (ed.) *New Forms of Consumption*
   Mark Jayne, *Cities and Consumption*, introduction
6. Controlling space: sanitization, fear and surveillance *(17 Oct)*

Readings: Anne Schwan and Stephen Shapiro, *How to read Foucault's discipline and punish*

James C. Scott, *Seeing like a state*, introduction and ch. 1


David Sibley, *Geographies of exclusion*, introduction

7. Cyborg space: virtual, real and natural terrains *(24 Oct)*

Readings: Maria Kaika, *City of flows*, chapter 1 and 2

Lisa Benton-Short and John Rennie Short, *Cities and Nature*, Part I

Matthew Gandy, *Concrete and Clay: reworking nature in New York City*, preface and introduction

8. Queering Space: marginal, hidden and heterotopic space *(31 Oct)*

Readings: Marc Auge, *Non-places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*

Rem Koolhaas, ‘The Generic city’ in *S, M, L, XL*

Tim Edensor, ‘Mundane hauntings: commuting through the phantasmagoric working-class spaces of Manchester, England’ in *Cultural Geographies*, vol. 8 no. 1, pp. 1-19

Matthew Gandy, ‘Queer ecology: nature, sexuality and heterotopic alliances’ in *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 30 (forthcoming)


C. Engaging Space

9. Mapping space: cartographic reason and other visual representations *(7 Nov)*
Readings:  
Richard Dennis, Cities in Modernity, ch. 3-4  
John Wylie, Landscape, ch. 3  

10. Representing space: narrative, documentation and imagination (21 Nov)  
Readings: Steve Piles, Real Cities: Modernity, Space and the Phantasmagorias of City Life, introduction  
香港文化博物館，《城市漫遊者—社會紀實攝影》  
張偉雄編，《雙城映對：香港電影與香港城市初對談》  
黃宗儀，《面對巨變中的東亞景觀：大都會的自我身分書寫》，第一、二章  
董啟章，《地圖集》及《繁勝錄》  
葉靈鳳，《香港方物志》  
饒玖才，《香港的地名與地方歷史》〈上〉、〈下〉  
香港風物 http://www.hkitalk.net/HKiTalk2/forumdisplay.php?fid=10

11. Creating space: art, architecture and planning (28 Nov)  
Readings: Rosalyn Deutsche, Evictions : art and spatial politics, introduction, chapter 2 and 4  
Hal Foster, The Art-Architecture Complex, introduction  
Robert Klanten and Matthias Hübner, Urban Interventions  
Malcolm Miles, Art, space and the city, introduction and chapter 4  
Jane Rendell, Art and architecture: a place between, introduction and section I  
Deyan Sudijc, The Edifice Complex, ch.1, 3  
謝傲霜、謝至德，《新春糊士托．菜園藝術快樂抗爭》  
BLDGBLOG http://bldgblog.blogspot.hk/
12. Navigating in Space: walking, driving and beyond *(14 Nov)*
Readings:  Iain Borden, “Driving: Automobiles, Speed and Restless
Cities,” in Gregory Dart and Matt Beaumont, (eds.), *Restless
Cities*, pp. 98–121.
Michel de Certeau, ‘Walking in the city,’ in *The Practice of
Everyday life*
Jeff Maples, *Pedaling Revolution: how cyclists are changing
American cities*, ch. 1 and 3
David Pinder, ‘Errant paths: the poetics and politics of
walking’, *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*,
29(4), pp. 672–692
David Serlin, ‘Disabling the Flâneur’, *Journal of Visual
Culture*, 5(2), pp.193–208
白雙全, 《單身看 II，與視覺無關的旅行》
Georges Perec, *An attempt at exhausting a place in paris*
Patrick Keiller, *Robinson in Ruins* (Film)

13. Contesting space: play, intervention and transformation *(5 Dec)*
Readings:  張讚國、高從霖, 《塗鴉香港》
Iain Borden, *Skateboarding, Space and the City: Architecture and the Body*, introduction
David Harvey, *Rebel Cities : From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution*, ch. 5
Tom McDonough (ed.), *The Situationists and the City: A Reader*, pp. 1-30
Edward Soja, *Seeking Spatial Justice*, introduction
Frank Tonkiss, *Space, the city and social theory*, ch. 7
Place Hacking [http://www.placehacking.co.uk/](http://www.placehacking.co.uk/)
浸大視藝校園發展關注組 [http://vakaitak.blogspot.hk/](http://vakaitak.blogspot.hk/)
影行者 [http://www.v-artivist.net/](http://www.v-artivist.net/)
Gary Hustwit, *Urbanized* (Film)
The readings for each week are only indicative, further readings may be suggested at the end of each class.

**Selected References**


Borden, Iain. “Stimulating the Senses in the Public Realm,” in CABE (ed.)

Tonkiss, Frank. *Space, the city and social theory*. Cambridge: Polity,

What Are We Scared Of? The Value of Risk in Designing Public Space, pp. 20-33 and 44. online publication, accessed at


Edensor, Tim. ‘Mundane hauntings: commuting through the phantasmagoric working-class spaces of Manchester, England’ in

*Cultural Geographies*, vol. 8 no. 1, pp. 1-19.


Gandy, Matthew. ‘Queer ecology: nature, sexuality and heterotopic alliances’ in Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, volume 30, forthcoming
Harvey, David. Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution. London: Verso, 2012
Massey, Doreen. Some times, of space. online publication, assessed at http://www.olafureliasson.net/publications/download_texts/Some_times_of_space.pdf
Pinder, David. ‘Errant paths: the poetics and politics of walking’, Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, 29(4), pp. 672-692


何尚衡, “百貨公司之死與商場之崛起”, online article, assessed at http://www.inmediahk.net/%E7%99%BE%E8%B2%A8%E5%85%AC%E5%8F%B8%E4%B9%8B%E6%AD%BB%E8%88%87%E5%95%86%E5%A0%B4%E4%B9%8B%E5%B4%9B%E8%B5%B7


香港文化博物館. 《城市漫遊者—社會紀實攝影》. 香港：康樂及文化事務署, 2010.


張讚國、高從霖. 《塗鴉香港》. 香港：城市大學出版社, 2012.


郭恩慈. 《東亞城市空間生產》，台北市：田園城市文化, 2011.

葉葉. 《為當下懷舊：文化保育的前世今生》. 香港：香港中文大學香港亞太研究所, 2010.