

Thursday, 8th February 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

Abstract

Drawing on a project on the super-rich and their transnational real estate investments conducted in Hong Kong during 2014–2015, this paper analyses how intermediaries of the super-rich contribute towards socio-economic and spatial transformations. Specifically, we argue that their services and bespoke solutions for the super-rich aggravate and entrench existing inequalities and socio-spatial segregation in the city. Looking beyond the Hong Kong case study, this paper calls for further research into the invisible and invisibilised labour work of intermediaries in order to fully comprehend the workings of socio-spatial polarisation, fragmentation and segregation in urban contexts.

Speaker's Profile



Koh Sin Yee is Assistant Professor of Geography at the Institute of Asian Studies, UBD. She was previously Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Public Policy at City University of Hong Kong. Her research, positioned at the intersection of migration studies and urban studies, is informed by three areas of interests: (1) postcolonial geography and colonial legacies; (2) migration/mobilities and citizenship; and (3) urbanisation, inequality and social change. Among her last publications:

“Race, Education, and Citizenship: Mobile Malaysians, British Colonial Legacies, and a Culture of Migration” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), Cities and the Super-Rich: Real Estate, Elite Practices, and Urban Political Economies (edited with R. Forrest and B. Wissink, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), “Enabling, Structuring and Creating Elite Transnational Lifestyles: Intermediaries of the Super-Rich and the Elite Mobilities Industry” (with B. Wissink, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 2017).