Dividing Environments: Rural Transformation and the Construction of Fungible Land Resources in China

In this talk, I’ll examine how national environmental mandates and local resource management practices operate to define value for rural land in China. I argue that accounting systems focused on abstracted metrics of "ecosystem services" and aggregated farmland area preservation construct rural land as a fungible, nationally scaled resource. These processes paradoxically divide environments from a given quanta of rural land, strip it of existing social–environmental relationships, and negate historical forms of sustainable livelihoods as ecologically irrational and backward.

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Security Capitalism & Gated Architecture In Contemporary Cairo

This paper depicts the rise of security as a mindset for the provision of housing in Cairo in the last sixty years with special emphasis on the neoliberal era since the nineties that ultimately led to a popular revolution in 2011. In laying out the term “security capitalism” as the governing tools of disciplining space mostly significant in the production of isolated gated enclaves, I explain two aspects; first, the methods of security units in gated communities in securitizing subjects and spaces, and the role played by the military caste that benefits from the security enterprise. Secondly, I highlight the dynamics of residents’ activism in claiming their rights, citizenship, and common space in the private and public spheres before and after the 2011 uprising. These political, economic, and social activism contingencies play out simultaneously, visibly and invisibly, to distinguish the Cairene enclaves from its global pier.

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