

# **Urban Revolutions: Socio-spatial Transformation and Everyday Life across an Urbanizing Planet**

## **Abstract**

Our planet is an increasingly urban place, and a larger share of human beings now live in cities than ever before. Social scientists work to understand and contend with this profound transformation of our world by focusing attention on both problems and solutions, working with an immense array of increasingly sophisticated tools and approaches. In this seminar, urban geographer Professor Ben Gerlofs will introduce several research projects at HKU that address three crucial aspects of urban life and landscapes from the perspective of contemporary Hong Kong: 1) 'gentrification' and the transformation of neighborhoods; 2) 'territorial stigma' and the attachment of negative perceptions and associations to particular urban areas; and 3) the commodification of nature required to satisfy the demands of urban residents.