

URBAN AGE CONFERENCE

GOVERNING URBAN FUTURES

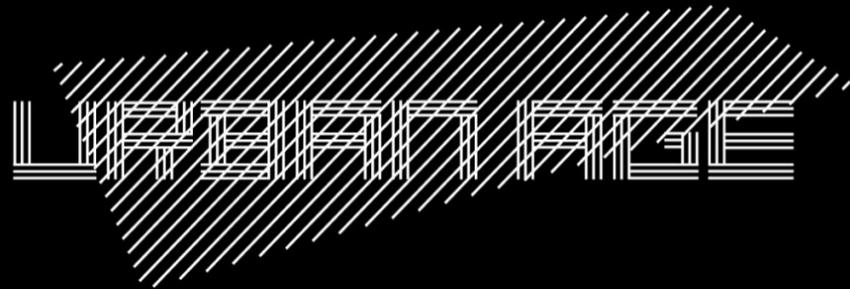
November 2014

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*Governing urban expansion in India
and China*

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**Occupancy Urbanism
as ways to think about
connections between
Indian and Chinese
urbanisms**

Governing Urban Futures LSE - Alfred
Herrhausen Society
Delhi 14-15 November 2014

Solomon Benjamin

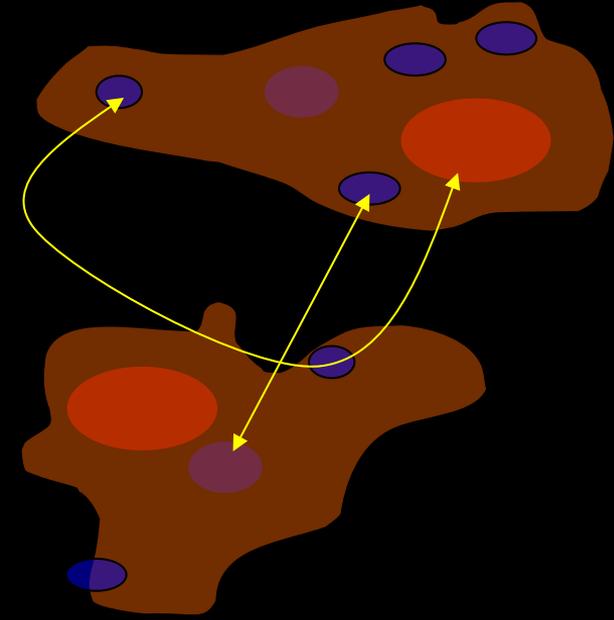
**Indian Institute of Technology
Madras**

1. Inter-connected Indian and Chinese urban Futures
2. Materializing Tenure / Property in Economy's Territorial Politics via the lens of Local Govt. and Economy
3. Conceptualizing Urbanisation as the 'density' of tenure as it disrupts and circulates Capital: Land grab / gain is one of tenure grab /gain, ...
Occupancy Urbanism is a way to think of that politics
4. The need for patience ethnography



1. Inter-connected Indian and Chinese urban Futures

Thinking connections between specific places as trans-national spaces



- Gaffar market (not Delhi);
- National Market (not Bangalore);
- Richie St./ Parry's / 'Burma Bazaar' (not Chennai),
- Lamington Road (not Mumbai)
- Chandani Bazaar (not Kolkata)..

Urban India's "China Bazaars" Delhi's 'Urban Villages'
Hua Qiang Bei Road, Guangzhou & Yiwu's wholesale markets &
Dongguan's 'anarchic' local village settlements;

These lie beyond binaries: metro-town, urban-rural

VEGETERIAN
விதிலி
VARYAA

BATTERY
BOUCH
FOR
ALL
MOBILE
AVAILABLE
RECHARGE
MOBILE
AVAILABLE

PANDIAN
ELECTRONICS & GIFTS
ALL MOBILE PHONE MOBILE ACCESSORIES
ALL SIM CARDS, RECHARGE, GIFT ARTICLES & KEY CHAINS

PANDIYAN STORE GIFT
பாண்டியன் ஸ்டோர்





Hua Qiang Bei Road (Not
Shenzen's High Modernism)
and not just Metros, but
also places like **Yiwu** !



2. Materializing **Tenure** in Economy's Territorial Politics



The porous boundaries of Innovation and Economy: reverse engineering 'the brand' -- Not just 'repair' .. but Toil and Innovation beyond IPR / Copy Rights / Patents...!



The opacity and fluidity of 'the brand'

this proposal and initiate necessary action. (Action Delhi Administration)

6. Water Supply and provision of sewer lines in regularised colonies as approved by Water Supply Committee vide Resolution No. 220 dated 19-11-78

3. Conceptualizing Urbanisation as 'density' of tenures that disrupts and circulates Capital....

6. Water Supply and provision of sewer lines in regularised colonies as approved by Water Supply Committee vide Resolution No. 220 dated 19-11-78

7. The proposal contained in the preceding paragraph would require the approval of the Standing Committee of the WS & SDU as also possibly the Corporation, which should be taken. (Action M.C.D.)

8. It was also felt that the other items of development like provision of parks, community services etc. could be undertaken in a

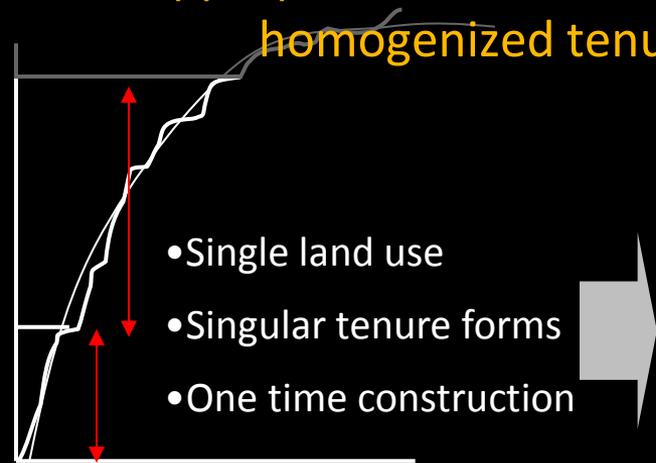
- 50. Policy regarding electricity by Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, MCD, in unauthorised regularised colonies as details given in Lok Sabha unstarred Question Dy. No. 1250 for 11.10.82
- 51. Provision of funds for electrification of regularised unauthorised colonies, a letter from D.S.U. to Secy., LSG, Delhi Admn.
- 52. Cash flow statement for Development of unauthorised colonies as compared by the Group in 1979
- 53. Abstract of general Statement for unauthorised colonies as compared by the Group in 1979
- 54. Cost Estimates of the project as estimated by D.D.A in 1980-81
- 55. Record of discussions of the meeting of the working Group on development of unauthorised regularised colonies held on 23.2.82

Not 'illegal' but "porous legalities"

License for electrical power connections within "un-planned" / "mixed land use" categories incorporated into office orders from the 'Porous Bureaucracy' process (From Benjamin 1996, compiled from various MCD documents)

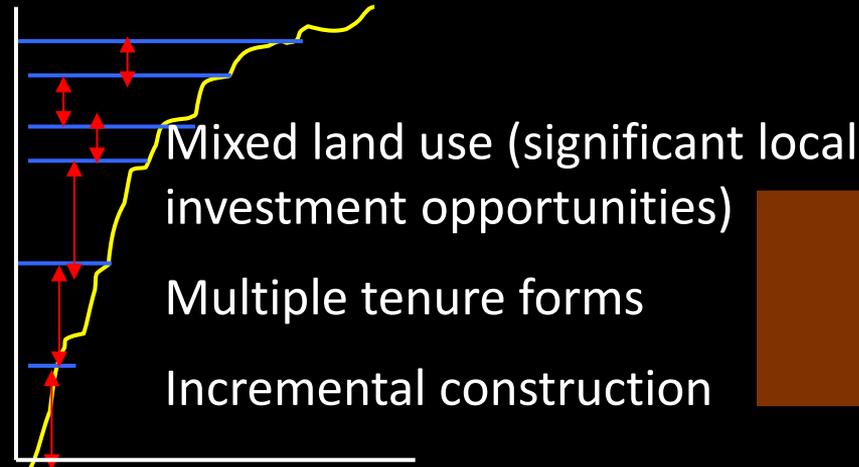
LOCAL COMMERCIAL AREA	URBAN VILLAGE	HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY	HEATING & COOLING LOADS	AD-HOC REGISTRATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Commercial areas are identified by the Delhi Development Authority (Municipal Corporation Delhi and the Ministry of Rehabilitation periodically -- usually main roads or declared 'Light Industrial Areas') Power load restriction is upto 7.5 HP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village to be in urban areas. Typical trades allowed are: Dal (lentil), rice, wheat flour, mill, kutti cutting, cotton earding Power load is upto 20 HP and nos. of workers upto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrepreneur operating from dwelling unit. Power load allowed up to 1KW (3KV), raised to 15-20 HP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For main road enterprises with loads upto 11 KV: A/c showrooms, restaurants, clinics, auto maintenance shops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For registration purpose of units in non-confirming areas functioning in a un-authorized way without any license. the units which have come up upto 31.12.89 are eligible (proof of date to be submitted) Polluting/ Obnoxious/ hazardous units not to be registered (listed under Annexure C in master plan) Maximum ceiling of power is 40HP, increased to 70-80 HP in 1982-83, and 100-120 Hp under Ad-hoc certificate policy of 1990-91
<p>.....Cases which were booked in un-authorized const. after 10.6.92 shall be kept pending until further instructions....'</p>				

Land appropriated for the elitist shaped by homogenized tenures



Homogenized Tenures consolidate real estate surpluses.. Political suppression of 'use' and valorization of 'exchange value..

Land grab / gain is one of tenure grab /gain, ...Occupancy Urbanism is a way to think of that politics (OU is not 'resistance')



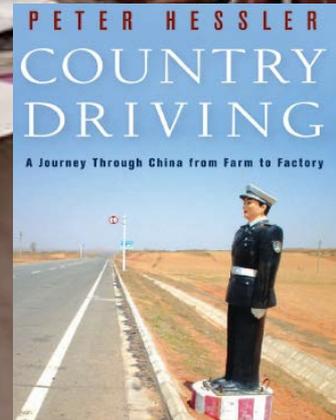
Fluid and greater distribution of surpluses ...

Multiple claims on both use and exchange value

Land Occupied into diverse tenure forms 'distributes' real estate surpluses in complex ways....

- **EMERGING OF INTER-CONNECTED MANUFACTURING AND TRADING FIRMS:** Fine line between management – workers – trader;
- **STEP BY STEP PRODUCTION CHANGE** that relates to the incremental upgrading of services and infrastructure Allows entrepreneurs to test the waters and start small and expand via consolidating their networks
- **PROPERTY SURPLUSES** fund Economy
- **COMPLICATED 'AUTHORSHIP' WHERE ECONOMY DISRUPTING THE 'BRAND'** – reverse engineering defies copyrights & trademarks
- **PRODUCTS EVOLVED IN A SYSTEMIC WAY:** Reworking of each component is linked to others in the group

(See Benjamin (DUSP - MIT 1996) 'Neighborhood as Factory'; Peter Hessler's Country Driving)





Photograph by Mark Leong

ELECTED COUNCILS / ADMINISTRATIONS
mobilized by political clout for basic
services and infrastructure

- **LAND TENURES REWORKING
PROPERTY SURPLUSES** to fund
Economy
- **LAND INCREMENTALLY DEVELOPED**
.. Allows entrepreneurs to test the
waters and start small and expand
via consolidating their networks;

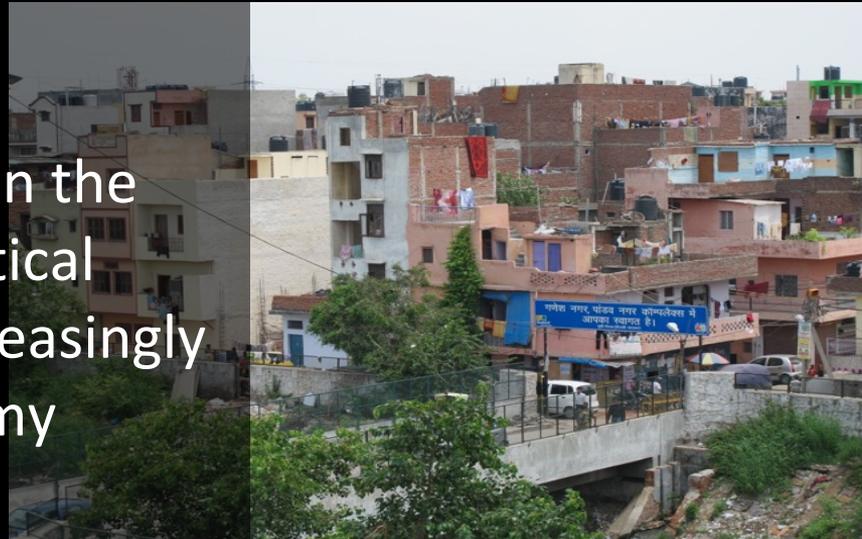
‘Neighborhood as Factory’ as
a Politicized Setting



Shared Futures: CONNECTED NETWORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHAPED BY SUCH ECONOMY?



Local Government
mobilization via land in the
construction of a Political
Space shaping an increasingly
trans-national economy



the eastern shore villages is that the funeral had to be held in the village. Even those in nearby villages



Zhang Tianxin Peking University Sustainable Living at the Urban Edge: A Bottom-up Revitalization Project in Hong-Ren Village, Yunnan, China. The importance of the village councils but also county bureaucracy in confronting eviction

Juan Du on Shenzhen's 'urban villages'. In contrast to the modernist narrative, which implicitly suggests these to be 'leftovers', Du shows these to reoccupy space proposed for that city's mega Master Planning – but also where Master Planning has occupied earlier territories. See for instance, Slide 7, 8, in the online power point by Juan Du in 'CitySpeak XIII – HKU', Jul 12, 2010

4. The need for quiet and patience ethnography

Looking back after a few years, the meeting at a teahouse can justly be considered as critical: here th



Meisen Wong (CMS, TU Berlin) on Ghost Cities: '...A comparative study between New Ordos in Inner Mongolia and Zhengdong in Henan, my dissertation is an ethnographic exploration of the temporal experiences of residents who live in a state of 'suspended futures' and the informal practices of production and consumption which they undertake to manage a global future which appears and recedes simultaneously...'