GLOBALISATION AND CITIES RESEARCH PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES

(Re)Focusing on “Centrality” in the Global City: Insights from Sydney, Australia

Presenter: Professor Richard Hu
Date: 24th August 2016, Wednesday
Time: 3.00 - 4.00pm
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ABSTRACT
This study tests the “centrality” proposition in the global city thesis, using Sydney as a case study. It draws on the theorisation of the ascendance of intermediation in the global economy, and the centralisation of the intermediary economy – advanced producer services – in global cities. The scholarship has emphasised an inter-city approach to the “relationality” in a global city network; little work has employed an intra-city approach to the “centrality” within a global city. This study fills the scholarly void, and builds a dialogue between the two defining attributes of contemporary global cities: “relationality” and “centrality”. This study uses inter-censual data in 2001-2011 to compare time-series shifts and spatial patterns of advanced producer services in Sydney CBD. The findings provide insights into the growing centrality of Sydney’s global capacity, financialisation in particular, and into the articulation between “space of place” and “space of flow” in global cities.

PROFESSOR RICHARD HU is an urban designer and planner. His research cuts across urban design, urban science, and urban policy to investigate important contemporary issues concerning global cities, urban competitiveness, and sustainable development. His research has been funded by the three tiers of Australian governments, the business sector and international agencies to inform design, planning, and policy making for sustainable and competitive cities and regions in an environment of increasing uncertainty and change. His current research projects include: “Designing Global Sydney”; “The Making of Global Shanghai”; “Crafting Innovative Places”; and “Relational Global Cities”.

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