

## Architectural Services Department Academy

### Landscape Talk

#### Part 1

**'Border Landscapes' - Dr. Xiaoxuan LU**

#### Part 2

**'Design Green Spaces for better health' - Kathy NG**

28 February 2019 (Thursday) 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Room 4129, 41/F,

Queensway Government Offices

#### Part 1

**'Border Landscapes'**

Xiaoxuan LU, PhD

#### Synopsis

The world has never been so interconnected in the long history of human beings. To the contrary, we also live in an increasingly divisive world. Increasing tensions between center vs. periphery, global north vs. global south, city vs. suburbia, urbanization vs. conservation, etc. are clear evidences we see in the news on an everyday basis. These debates operate at multiple scales, ranging from the local to the global. What does this mean for spatial designers? How can designers comprehend this, especially as professionals who often are expected to draw boundaries, borders, edges that define limits within our environments?

Two projects that both are centered around the topic of 'border' but at dramatically different scales will be presented. The first project, *Interstitial Hong Kong*, focuses on Hong Kong's Sitting-out Areas. HK aims to find new grounds for creative intervention, and to function as enabler of new public realms and social spaces that reflect social cultural concerns and evolving social practices in Hong Kong. The second project, *Tumen Diary*, is an on-going documentary project that aims to make a case for the analysis of water as urbanizing agent at the intersections of the material and cultural, acting upon the Greater Tumen Subregion. Forming the natural border between North Korea, China and Russia, the Tumen River is read a process by which social and subjective identities are formed and reformed.

#### Short bio:

**Xiaoxuan Lu**, PhD, is Assistant Professor in the Division of Landscape Architecture at the University of Hong Kong, where she teaches landscape history and theory, and design studios. Before joining the Division of Landscape Architecture, she practiced in the fields of architecture and landscape architecture at Turenscape in Beijing, West 8 in Rotterdam, Bjarke Ingels Group in Copenhagen, and SWA in Los Angeles. Her research focuses on the cultural landscape and geography of conflict, particularly in transboundary regions. Applying analytical cartography, photography and videography in her research, she aims to reveal the hidden layers of landscape where multiple tensions converge. Her articles have been published in *LEAP*, *Calvert Journal*, *ON SITE Review*, *Journal of Natural Resources*, *Human Geography*, and *Acta Ecologica Sinica*. She received her Bachelor of Architecture from Southern California Institute of Architecture, and Master in Landscape Architecture from Harvard University. She was a PhD Fellow at Harvard University during the academic years of 2014-2016, and received her PhD in Human Geography from Peking University in early 2017.

Part 2

**'Design Green Spaces for better health'**

Kathy NG

Synopsis

Good health involves well-being in the mental, physical and social aspects. Urbanites nowadays are facing unprecedented amount of stress in modern cities. Numerous studies show how green spaces relieve stress and contribute to our all rounded well-being. The talk will cover planning and design consideration in achieving quality green spaces for better health.

Short bio:

Further to Kathy's education in landscape architecture and geography, she has continued her study and training in project management, business administration, sustainable development, arboriculture and urban forestry.

She has participated in a number of high profile award winning projects including the development of Penny's Bay for the Hong Kong Disneyland, Greening Master Plans, Hong Kong 2030+, proactive vegetation management programmes and various large scale projects. She has been promoting landscape architecture and sustainable development through her work in projects and professional institutes. She is the Vice President of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects. Kathy is currently working in Highways Department as the Chief Landscape Architect.