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DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GLOBAL URBAN STUDIES

Speculation Speculation: Everyday Views of Property Investors, Urban Planning, and Developers in Ho Chi Minh City

Speaker: Associate Professor Erik Harms
Yale-NUS

Chair: Dr Jamie Gillen
Department of Geography, NUS

Date/Time: Friday 15 March, 3.30pm

Place: Earth Lab (AS2 #02-03), Department of Geography, NUS

Abstract

The concept of “speculation speculation” describes how city dwellers regularly and pervasively speculate about the activities of real estate speculators. Building from several cases in urban Vietnam, this paper argues that speculation produces two contradictory effects.

On the one hand, it offers a continuous and ongoing critique of real estate speculation. On the other hand, the speculative nature of these critiques inadvertently normalizes the practice of real estate speculation (which itself becomes understood as something continuous and ongoing).

About the Speaker



Erik Harms is associate professor of anthropology at Yale University, specializing in Southeast Asia, Vietnam, and urban anthropology. He is the author of *Luxury and Rubble: Civility and Dispossession in the New Saigon* (California, 2016) and *Saigon's Edge: On the Margins of Ho Chi Minh City* (Minnesota, 2011).

He is spending the 2018-2019 academic year as a visiting faculty member at Yale-NUS.

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