

'Silk Cities' Exchange Workshop, Thursday, 29 October 2015, 10:00 - 17:15

'Silk Cities' | info@silkcities.org | Website: <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/silk-cities>

Hosted by the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL)

Room 101, 34 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EZ

Registration opens at 9:30 am

Organisers: Farnaz Arefian, Kalliopi Fouseki

Advisors: Professor Yves Cabannes, Professor Julio Davila, Professor Ali Modarres

Opening remarks: Professor Julio Davila

Panellists

- Mansoor Ali, Independent researcher, Loughborough University
- Farnaz Arefian, Founder 'Silk Cities' Platform; Development Planning Unit, UCL
- Yves Cabannes, Emeritus Professor, Development Planning Unit, UCL
- Kalliopi Fouseki, Lecturer, Institute for Sustainable Heritage, UCL
- Gai Jorayev, Silk Road project on heritage management, UCL
- Cassidy Johnson, Senior Lecturer, Development Planning Unit
- Ramin Keyvani, Professor, Oxford Brookes University
- Karen Raith, Assistant Professor, University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria
- Guilong Shen, Professor, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, China
- M. Reza Shirazi & Somaiyeh Falahat, Research Associate, Oxford Brookes University; TU Berlin

Film screening | A transversal glance of cultures and urban perspectives from the film "Biruni, the Quill of the Invaders", Noemie Verdon and Vladimir Loncar, PhD Researcher, Lausanne University, Switzerland.

Introduction

From the second century BC to the end of the fourteenth century AD, a great trade route, the Silk Road, linked China with the Roman Empire. The Silk Road was not only a trading route for goods; but exchanged the rich cultures of China, India, Persia, Arabia, Greek and Rome. Such knowledge exchange was influential on how cities along the Road were formed and maintained. 'Silk Cities' exist in many countries and have urban cultural heritages related to the Silk Road. With the demise of the trading role of the Silk Road however still many of its related urban historic characteristics exist in 'Silk Cities'. In parallel, the world faces global challenges around cities and their development in general. This raises the question of how being a 'Silk City' plays a role in those challenges and the way they are dealt with, if at all. A common past unites these cities. We would like to explore if the past is the only common thing for talking about 'Silk Cities' or if there are some specific common urban related themes connected to that common past. For example, if there is such a case in heritage, reconstruction or environmental design. It is hoped the workshop contributes to exploring refining contemporary common themes for contemporary 'Silk Cities'. The 'Silk Cities' platform, supported by the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) and the UCL Institute for Sustainable Urban Heritage (ISH) is organising a one day cross-disciplinary workshop to connect researchers and practitioners in order to make contributions towards exploring Silk Road related urban issues.

The aim of this event is to connect multidisciplinary urban researchers and practitioners working on 'Silk Cities' in order to understand contemporary urban implications of being a Silk City in 21st Century. Specific objectives of this seminar are:

- Explore what it means to be a Silk City in 21th Century.
- Explore the complexities of 'Silk Cities' that are related to their existing historic urban elements towards linking them to contemporary urban debates in theory and practice (e.g. heritage, reconstruction and disaster risk reduction, and environmental design)
- Explore implications and interconnections of the existing historic context in 'Silk Cities' to contemporary global challenges and the way they are dealt with in theory and practice (if there is any).
- Develop a network of interested people and explore potential avenues for future work.

Programme

9:30 - 10:00 Registration

10:00 - 10:15 Welcome

Welcome to DPU by director of DPU, Professor Julio Davila

10:15 - 10:45 Why Silk Cities. Why the workshop. Why now.

Farnaz Arefian, Founder 'Silk Cities' Platform; Development Planning Unit, UCL

Kalliopi Fouseki, UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage, ISH

Yves Cabannes, Emeritus Professor of Development Planning, UCL

10:45 - 12:00 Panel I

— Moderator: Yves Cabannes

Guilong Shen, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, China

- **Shanghai's Role in Initiative of "The belt and the Road"**

Ramin Keyvani, Oxford Brookes University

- **The potentials and limits for global economic integration of cities in the region and Iran's post nuclear agreement**

12:00 - 13:45 Networking lunch

Film screening: A transversal glance of cultures and urban perspectives from the film "Biruni, the Quill of the Invaders", Noemie Verdon and Vladimir Loncar, PhD Researcher, Lausanne University. Film makers followed in the footsteps of the historical figure of Biruni, a Perso-Muslim scholar of the 11th Century to travel across Uzbekistan, Iran and Pakistan.

13:45 - 15:00 Panel II

— Moderator: Kalliopi Fouseki

Gai Jorayev, Silk Road project on heritage management, UCL

- **Managing the heritage of the Silk Road**

Karen Raith, University of Applied Arts Vienna

- **Urban transformation and crowd intelligence**

Cassidy Johnson

- **tbc**

15:00 - 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 - 16:15 Panel III

— Moderator: Farnaz Arefian

Mansoor Ali, Independent researcher

- **Traditional learning between Silk Cities**

M. Reza Shirazi, Oxford Brookes University; Somaiyeh Falahat, TU Berlin

- **Language, Dialogue, Institutions: Reflections on Commonalities and Differences in International Collaboration Projects**

16:15 - 17:15 Looking forward: Suggestions for future 'Silk Cities' activities

Farnaz Arefian, Kalliopi Fouseki, Yves Cabannes