

BROWNBAG LUNCHTIME TALK

Rethinking Urban Resilience, Ten Years from the Field: An Ideal, Metaphor, Strategy, or Dead End?

DATE AND TIME25 April 2023,
12 - 1pm**DR YANJUN CAI**Research Fellow,
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(2.304)

SYNOPSIS - In the face of an uncertain climatic future, resilience has been a prevailing keyword in academic and policymaking discourses, with rising critical examination of the definitions, practices, and policy implications. Among diverse discourses, an emerging scholarship argues that disproportional inequality integral to existing socioeconomic orders and global environmental challenges are significant threats to resilience, urgently calling for more inclusive and just urban governance. Drawing on the ten-year field research in disadvantaged urban communities of Southeast Asia and China, this talk reveals first-hand insights into the concepts, debates, tools, and implementations of resilience through interdisciplinary investigations, centering a place-based perspective. This talk explores the usefulness and challenges of resilience in non-Western contexts, presenting insights to disadvantaged urban communities worldwide tackling interrelating socioeconomic injustice and climate hazards.



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DR YANJUN CAI is a Research Fellow for Chen TianQiao Programme: Cities and Innovation at the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities. With more than ten years of research and practice experience, Yanjun has academically and professionally engaged with universities, NGOs, governmental agencies, and international organizations in Singapore, China, Canada, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and the U.S., including the Asian Development Bank and the University of Toronto. Through mixed and people-centric methods, Yanjun's research centers on climate resilience, environmental governance, inclusive urban development, digital engagement, and action-oriented sustainability transformation.



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