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**AN ETHNOGRAPHY OF PROPERTY AND PRECARIETY IN HONG KONG,
KUALA LUMPUR AND MELBOURNE**

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Contribution Type: PhD Workshop

Topic:

Social construction of property & processes of urban precarity

Discipline (sub discipline)

Social Theory/ Human Geography/ Development Studies

Title:

An ethnography of property and precarity in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Melbourne.

Abstract:

This PhD project looks at property and precarity in three cities, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Melbourne. The broad problem addressed is that new transnational urban land markets are altering older city and state scale property relations and intersecting with displacement, exploitative property forms and homelessness. Yet we have limited understanding of how, at the level of the everyday, these new formations and assemblages of property produce the social, construct new realities in the city, and mediate futurity for these most precarious of city dwellers. Deploying qualitative research methods such as participant observation, in depth interviewing and document analysis, the research is a multi-sited ethnography with three-month blocks spent in each city. It includes a document analysis of multi-scalar legal and policy contexts (governance assemblages) in each site. The research will address gaps identified in my Masters and contribute to important work in social and urban theory around the spatial politics and lived experience of property in the context of urbanisation and globalisation. It contributes specifically to new work in critical poverty studies and social theory addressing problems that pertain to the futures of the poor and precarious in the world's cities.

Main Research Question:

What new intersections of property, precarity and subjectivity in the city are produced in the global financialisation of urban land?

Sub Questions

How are the intersections of global finance, urbanisation, marginality and property experienced in the everyday lives of precarious citizens?

What methods and concepts are useful for interrogating the intersection of property and marginality under global systems of financialisation?

What can everyday practices of property teach us about urban futurity? Can they enrich our understanding of new forms of intergenerational marginality?

Keywords: property and lived experience; property and change; global cities and property rights