

Seminar « Creating & Mapping the Heritages of the Ordinary City »

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

ENSA Paris-Belleville, room 4.

ENSA Paris-Belleville – Centre Asie du Sud-Est (CASE/UMR 8170) – Chulalongkorn University

Organised by:

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This seminar is organised within the framework of the cooperation between ENSA Paris-Belleville, the Centre Asie du Sud-Est (CASE/UMR 8170), and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. It brings together a series of presentations addressing shared themes: the mapping of ordinary urban heritages; forms of dwelling and everyday practices often absent from dominant heritage narratives; the relationships between local communities, institutions and heritage-making processes; and the ways in which cartographic, artistic, sensory and architectural tools can make fragile urban heritages visible — in Thailand, Laos and, more broadly, Southeast Asia. The seminar aims to provide both a methodological contribution to the observation, documentation and representation of ordinary cities, and a broader understanding of urban-making processes in Southeast Asian contexts.

Seminar Programme

Morning Session

9:00-10:45 *Theme “Ordinary Heritage, Mapping and Urban Activation in Bangkok”*

Roles of Creative Persona in Cultural and Heritage Area

Komgrij Thanapet (Chulalongkorn University)

Bangkok’s Chinatown Ordinary Urban Heritage Map: research, design and map making process

Prin Jhearmaneechotechai (Chulalongkorn University)

Dual Spatial Logic of Public Art in Old Town Bangkok: 2016–2025

Khaisri Phaksukcharern (Chulalongkorn University)

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 *Theme “Sensory, Aquatic and Community-Based Heritage Practices”*

Experiencing the Senses of Old Town through Chinese Gastronomy

Thitirat Panbamrungskij & Punthumadee Katawandee (Chulalongkorn University)

**Negotiating with Effects, Negotiating with the Apparatus:
Ordinary Aquatic Heritage Production along Two Thai Khlong
(Ayutthaya, Chiang Mai)**

Pramote Seemak & Armelle Ninnin (ENSAPB/IPRAUS)

Afternoon Session

14:00-15:00 *Theme “Vernacular, Archaeological and Ordinary Urban Landscapes”*

**Inhabiting the Vernacular in the Ordinary City: Persistences and
Recompositions of Lanna Housing in Chiang Mai**

Pijika Pumketkao-Lecourt (ENSAPB/IPRAUS, CASE)

**Mapping Beyond Monumentality: From Monumental Centers to
Ephemeral Habitats in Southeast Asia. (online)**

Christophe Pottier (École française d’Extrême-Orient)

15:00-16:00 Roundtable Discussion with Roland Lin, Programme Specialist of the Asia-Pacific Unit of the World Heritage Centre at UNESCO

Reflections and Future Research Directions.

Presentation Abstracts

Roles of Creative Persona in Cultural and Heritage Area

Komgrij Thanapet, architect-urban planner, Associate Professor at Chulalongkorn University

This study examines the application of persona mapping as a participatory tool for urban planning in culturally sensitive areas, with a focus on heritage and cultural districts where development pressures intersect with issues of identity, displacement, and community resilience. Drawing on stakeholder analysis and insight profiling, the research constructs representative personas — including Culture Keepers, Micro-Entrepreneurs, District Operators, City Regulators, and Visitor-Seekers — to capture the diverse motivations, pain points, and decision-making processes of those who inhabit and govern such spaces. By situating these personas within a creative urban ecosystem framework, the study reveals how historic districts function as complex social systems shaped by competing economic interests, cultural sensitivities, and governance needs. The findings underscore the importance of co-design participation and context-sensitive engagement strategies in navigating the tension between cultural preservation and economic development, offering planners actionable frameworks for inclusive and identity-conscious district management.

Bangkok's Chinatown Ordinary Urban Heritage Map: Research, Design and Map-Making Process

Prin Jhearmaneechotechai, architect-urban planner, Associate Professor at Chulalongkorn University

This presentation introduces Phase 2 of ouhmap.com, expanding into Bangkok’s Chinatown through a significant socio-technical upgrade. Driven by the OUH Research Team from Chulalongkorn University, the project acts as a vital bridge connecting professional private sectors with local communities, while intentionally weaving ordinary urban heritage into advanced technology. In this co-creative process, the research team collaborates with Digitopolis (expert in web application

development and user experience architecture) and Esri Thailand (provider of advanced Geographic Information System [GIS] infrastructure and spatial analytics) to transition the platform from standard web maps into a high-precision spatial tool.

The primary goal of this academic-private-community alliance is to enhance the visibility and accessibility of Chinatown's grassroots assets. To ensure natural tourist mobility, the CU research team seamlessly embeds ordinary heritage into existing contemporary tourism routes. Rather than isolating local culture, the platform overlays these pathways with specialized indicators: "OUH Food Recommendations" for everyday culinary assets and "OUH Sacred Spaces Recommendations" for communal spiritual sites. Furthermore, passive users are re-envisioned as active "Heritage Caretakers" who dynamically track the survival of these spaces.

By exploring this framework, this session invites debate on a core urban tension: How can research-led academic institutions effectively synchronize commercial high-precision tech with fragile local communities to capture the ephemeral nature of ordinary heritage without losing its authenticity?

Dual Spatial Logic of Public Art in Old Town Bangkok: 2016–2025

Khaisri Paksukcharern, architect-urban planner, Associate Professor at Chulalongkorn University

The presentation examines how the proliferation of the past decade's public art in old town Bangkok reflects a shift in the city's spatial logic. Using urban morphology and space syntax, it identifies two complementary strategies: monumental events such as Bangkok Art Biennale concentrate artworks at globally integrated landmarks, while district-based initiatives such as Bangkok Design Week distribute interventions across neighborhood networks. Together, these patterns show that public art functions both as symbolic consolidation and decentralized urban activation, embedded within everyday mobility systems as an "en-route" cultural layer. Bangkok thus emerges as a hybrid model in which art mediates between ritualized representation and dialogic urban interaction.

Experiencing the Senses of Old Town through Chinese Gastronomy

Thitirat Panbamrungskij, human geographer and creative tourism planner, Assistant Professor at Chulalongkorn University

Punthumadee Katawande, lecturer in tourism management and cultural resources management, Assistant Professor at Chulalongkorn University

This presentation explores how Chinese gastronomy in Bangkok's Old Town creates a multisensory experience of place, revealing layers of migration history, cultural identity, and urban transformation. Drawing on Hall and Mitchell's "three waves of food and globalization" framework, this study examines how Chinese eating establishments—from standalone restaurants to rotating street vendors with over 50 years of history—serve as living archives of diaspora experiences and vital conduits for experiencing a distinctive "sense of place" through the narratives of five major Chinese sub-groups in Thailand: the Teochew, Hokkien, Cantonese, Hakka, and Hainanese.

The analysis traces the evolution of these culinary spaces from the "second wave," which met practical needs of local labor forces with value-focused, quick meals, to the "third wave," where they have become destination attractions. Central to this study is the mapping of culinary identities across neighborhoods such as Chinatown, highlighting signature dishes—from Cantonese dim sum and Teochew braised goose to Hakka Yong Tau Foo and Hainanese chicken rice. However, the study reveals that these sites of culinary heritage face homogenizing pressures of rapid urban transformation and tourism-driven gentrification, which threaten to displace established communities and commodify the cultural practices that define these spaces.

Finally, the presentation proposes developing themed walking and culinary tourism routes. This strategy aims to enhance visitor experiences while supporting local communities and preserving the intangible cultural heritage embedded in Bangkok's Old Town, ultimately fostering deeper connections to place and promoting cultural sustainability in urban heritage districts.

Negotiating with effects, negotiating with institutional frameworks: ordinary aquatic heritage production along two Thai khlong (Ayutthaya, Chiang Mai)

Pramote Seemak, landscape architect and urban planner, associate researcher at IPRAUS

Armelle Ninnin, architect-urban planner, associate researcher at IPRAUS, lecturer at ENSAPB

This presentation examines ordinary aquatic heritage — spatial forms, practices and meanings produced by canal-side residents — as a situated social production whose conditions vary with the governance regime framing canal transformations. We compare two Thai khlong. At khlong Khao-Mao (Ayutthaya), uncoordinated public interventions have accumulated without targeting residents, who — as landowners — negotiate with their cumulative effects through architectural adaptations and touristic reconversions. At khlong Mae Kha (Chiang Mai), a UNESCO-driven rehabilitation scheme explicitly targets informal residents, who negotiate with the institutional framework itself through spatial reconfigurations, economic activities and participatory co-regulation. Drawing on critical heritage studies, the hydrosocial cycle, and theories of inhabitant agency, we show that the articulation between land tenure and institutional targeting determines the very object of negotiation — effects versus framework — producing two distinct forms of heritagisation : an *emerging heritage* inscribed durably in the built fabric, and a *conditional heritage* dependent on an exogenous institutional framework. This distinction moves beyond the classical opposition between heritage from below and Authorized Heritage Discourse, revealing an intermediate space where heritage production operates either in the interstices of institutions or within their folds.

Mapping Beyond Monumentality: From Monumental Centers to Ephemeral Habitats in Southeast Asia

Christophe Pottier, DPLG architect and archaeologist, Associate Professor at the École française d'Extrême-Orient.

This presentation explores how archaeological mapping can move beyond monument-centered approaches to address the “ordinary” dimensions of heritage in Southeast Asia. Drawing on research conducted at multiple scales — from regional archaeological landscapes to recent excavations of domestic and ephemeral occupations — it examines how mapping, remote sensing, GIS, and macro and micro-stratigraphic excavations reveal forms of habitation, industries and everyday practices often absent from dominant heritage narratives.

Rather than opposing monumental and ordinary heritage, the presentation argues for understanding them as part of the same spatial and social continuum. By shifting attention from temples alone to broader inhabited landscapes, domestic spaces, activities areas and fragile material traces, it reflects on how archaeological mapping can contribute to more inclusive understandings of past societies and their heritage.

Inhabiting the Vernacular in the Ordinary City: Persistences and Recompositions of Lanna Housing in Chiang Mai

Pijika Pumketkao-Lecourt, heritage architect, lecturer at ENSAPB, associate researcher at IPRAUS and the Centre Asie du Sud-Est.

This presentation examines Lanna vernacular housing in Chiang Mai through the lens of the “ordinary city”. Rather than treating the Lanna house as a fixed heritage object or a traditional type to be preserved as such, it considers it as part of an inhabited urban fabric shaped by everyday practices, local knowledge, climatic adaptation and ongoing transformation. The presentation addresses the fragility of Chiang Mai’s ordinary urban fabrics in a context of rapid urbanisation, land pressure, tourism development and construction standardisation. Timber houses, domestic courtyards, gardens, alleyways and artisanal spaces are often poorly documented and remain outside dominant monumental or institutional narratives of urban heritage, although they play a central role in the making of the city. The central question is: How are Lanna houses changing today, and what do these transformations reveal about current ways of living, building and adapting in the ordinary city of Chiang Mai?

Methodologically, the presentation draws on architectural and urban surveys, inhabited drawings, field observations and interviews carried out between 2010 and 2025, especially in Ban Wua Lai. The analysis combines morphological, socio-spatial and processual readings of built forms, uses, materials, thresholds and transformations. The theoretical framework brings together the notion of the ordinary city, developed by Anne-Sophie Clémenton, Jennifer Robinson, Backouche and Montel, and a renewed understanding of vernacular architecture inspired by Paul Oliver, Amos Rapoport, Pierre Frey and Marcel Vellinga.

The presentation first introduces the urban and scientific issues, then briefly recalls the main devices of traditional Lanna housing, before analysing their contemporary recomposition. It argues that urbanisation does not simply erase the vernacular, but produces hybrid forms in which inherited spatial principles persist, move, close or change function. The vernacular thus becomes a critical resource for rethinking contemporary housing and urban design in Southeast Asian cities.