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The Global City from Below

Used variously as a ranking mechanism, a planning template, and a critical framework, the global city has found favour with scholars, journalists, tourism authorities and the business sector alike. Global cities are usually defined by their advanced service-sector industries, their late-capitalist cosmopolitanism, and their capacity to attract foreign investment, skilled labour and tourism, but the purpose of this panel is to explore some of the many histories, capacities and possibilities of global cities in the Asia-Pacific region which fall outside this narrative. Featuring scholars with backgrounds in literary studies, cultural studies and media studies, it addresses emerging formations of cultural economy, urban identity, and representational strategy in Pacific rim cities through a cross-disciplinary set of case studies addressing grey-market media, everyday practices of thrift, and cinematic imaginings of Asian urbanism.