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### **Good Place for Living? Land, Dirt and Mudslides**

The *rural* is home to the majority in Asia. Yet, with the advent of ‘development’ and its discourses, the rural is being marginalized. Global capitalism and its values become encroached upon the land. A ‘good place for living’ has no longer anything to do with the land, but is instead defined in terms of the non-place of urbanized, commercialized and, in the case of Hong Kong, ‘Sinotized’ networks. This, coupled with the pre-occupation with and domination of the urban imaginary in Cultural Studies, is a largely overlooked key issue in globalization.

This panel seeks to analyze and challenge the ideology of ‘development’ through three cases in Hong Kong, namely: 1) Choi Yuen Village, a village to be demolished to make way for the construction of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, 2) Tai O, a historical fishing village in Lantau Island, and 3) Mui Wo, also situated in Lantau with a dozen rural villages. It will facilitate a discussion on the use of heterotopias in conservation movement, management of natural disasters, and the fight against technological violence, and reflect critically the struggle for a foothold of living.