

Waseda Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies Colloquium Series
Series on Economy and Social Change in Asian Cities

Thursday, December 11, 2025 | 17:00 - 18:40
Building 19, Room 710, Waseda University



Napong Rugkhaman

Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Architecture,
Chulalongkorn University

***Contested Transformations: Redevelopment,
Gentrification, and Spatial Justice in Inner Bangkok***

This talk examines neighborhood change in inner Bangkok through the overlapping forces of rail-led redevelopment, gentrification, touristification, and the circulation of creative-city discourse. Drawing on recent cases, it shows how transit expansion and cultural-led regeneration reshape urban landscapes, often producing uneven benefits. While marketed as modernization and cultural vibrancy, these processes accelerate displacement, renovation, and socio-spatial exclusion. The discussion highlights how residents face restricted access to housing, livelihoods, and public space under speculative development pressures. By foregrounding questions of spatial justice, equity, and rights to the city, the talk situates Bangkok within wider debates on contested urban transformations.



Nattapaong Punnoi

Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Architecture,
Chulalongkorn University

***The Death and Life of Thailand's Tourism
and Urban Space***

The lecture highlights the dynamics of Thailand's tourism development from a spatial perspective, reflecting the complexity of its management structures and national policy systems. Thailand's core challenge does not lie merely in the number of tourists, but in the unequal distribution of income and economic opportunities between major and secondary cities. Additional barriers include legal constraints, land-use management issues, and a lack of inter-agency coordination. The lecture poses a critical question: *Is Thailand's tourism system still thriving, or gradually losing its vitality?* It encourages the audience to envision pathways for revitalizing tourism cities through data integration, public participation, and place-based development driven by cultural values and the unique identities of each region.

Commentator: Kojiro Sho, Associate Professor, the University of Tokyo
Moderator: Tamaki Endo, Professor, GSAPS, Waseda University



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