



An event organised by MARC  
(Manchester Architecture Research Centre)

# "Beautiful Pictures on a Blank Sheet of Paper"

## Utopian Planning and Urban Sprawl in Contemporary China

# Samuel Y. Liang

Samuel Y. Liang specializes in modern Chinese architecture and urbanism and has published articles in leading journals in architectural history and Chinese studies. His forthcoming book examines urban vernacular architecture of nineteenth-century Shanghai and maps the city's spatial, gender, and material modernity. His current research focuses on housing and state-led urban rebuilding programmes in Maoist and contemporary China.

In this presentation, Liang examines the Chinese state's continued deployment of utopia in planning large-scale construction projects and the persistent urban sprawl paradoxically as a result of the state governance that favours such projects. In post-Mao China, Liang's analysis shows, the local governments of great cities reassert state leadership in implementing mega-projects of "scientific planning."

Tuesday, April 21 2009, 14:00

Arthur Lewis Building G0.038

Campus map: [www.manchester.ac.uk/map](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/map)



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