

EuroSEAS 2019 panel proposal (euroseas@kitlv.nl)

Title: Transforming urban areas in Southeast Asia: Places, practices and systems/infrastructures of provision

Convenors: Sigrid Wertheim-Heck* (Wageningen University and Aeres University of Applied Sciences), Mattijs Smits (Wageningen University), Arve Hansen (University of Oslo), Stephanie Geertman (Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development Dortmund)

Double session: 6 papers

Southeast Asia is experiencing interlinked processes of rapid economic growth, urbanisation and the emergence of new, urban consumer classes. As part of these processes, the systems of production and consumption are undergoing fundamental and irreversible changes. On the one hand, urbanising Southeast Asia is developing into 'modern' consumer societies, with the associated supermarketisation, motorisation of mobility, changing diets, increasing energy use and new forms of dwelling. On the other hand, it is confronted with the urgent need to avoid some of consumer society's dramatic and far-reaching social and environmental consequences, which are expected to hit hardest in urbanising Asia.

In academic approaches to consumption, a longstanding tension between systems approaches and practice approaches is manifested, as well as a division between production and consumption-centrism. Because these often fail to capture and provide solutions to the unsustainability of consumer society, new approaches are needed to capture the complex relationships between changing consumption patterns and local and global dynamics of production and provision (D'Alençon, Geertman and Kummel 2018; Hansen, 2018; Rinkinen, Shove and Smits, 2017; Wertheim-Heck and Spaargaren, 2015).

With this panel, we aim to advance interdisciplinary, cross-contextual, context-sensitive approaches that draw on diverse theoretical and empirical perspectives and address the urgent equity, health-related and environmental challenges in urbanising Southeast Asia. Possible topics include but are not restricted to food, mobilities, infrastructures, and energy (combinations are welcome).

References:

- D'Alençon, R., Geertman S. & Kummel, O. (2018). From energy consumption to integrated sustainable development: Multi-variable integrated appraisal at neighborhood-scale in the 1960s and 70s public housing stock of Berlin, Santiago, Ulaanbaatar and Hanoi, paper presented at conference "Breaking the Rules! Energy Transitions as Social Innovations," Berlin June 14th, 2018.
- Hansen, A. (2018). Meat consumption and capitalist development: The meatification of food provision and practice in Vietnam. *Geoforum*, 93, 57-68.
- Rinkinen, J., Shove, E., & Smits, M. (2017). Cold chains in Hanoi and Bangkok: Changing systems of provision and practice. *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 1469540517717783.
- Wertheim-Heck, S.C.O., & Spaargaren, G. (2015) Shifting configurations of shopping practices and food safety dynamics in Hanoi, Vietnam: a historical analysis. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 33(3): 655-671.

*Correspondence can be addressed to: sigrid.wertheim-heck@wur.nl