

WORKSHOP: REPURPOSING PHNOM PENH: BUILT FORMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE AS ARCHIVE







Content

- 1. The sociomateriality of the urban fabric
- 2. Understanding Archives
- 3. Circular researching as a method
- 4. Guidance for pursuing a circular research
- 5. Proximities of the vivid recycling infrastructure
- 6.Wrap up



The sociomateriality of the urban fabric









What I perceived









What does the perceived tell me?
And how can I make sense of it?

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The archaeology of knowledge (Foucault 1969)

"The archive is first the **law of what can be said**, the **system that governs** the appearance of statements as unique events" (1972 [1969]: 146).

- Is not a physical repository of documents but:
- It is a "practice that causes a multiplicity of statements to emerge as so many regular events, as so many things to be dealt with and manipulated" (:146).
 - This underlying system of rules, practices and conditions governs the production, transformation and organization of knowledge within a particular era

Sociomaterial urban fabric as an archive = understanding the city as a result of underlying systems of rules, practices and conditions that are and were at stake throughout different eras.





Becoming an archeologist of knowledge?



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Circular researching as a method

3. Circular researching as a method

Circulation = referring back to something



go back and forth in time and space to understand how the (the knowledge on the) object of inquiry is produced, transformed and organized

Circular following is a research method or approach where an object of study (such as a theme, idea, or phenomenon) is traced in a non-linear, recurring manner. Circular following involves repeatedly returning to the same subject or point of inquiry, each time deepening the understanding by considering new contexts, interpretations, or connections.

Aims to connect:

- Methods and approaches from different disciplines
- Past and present and future (multitemporality of a research object)
- Topics, discourses from "elsewhere" (multispatiality of a research object)



Assumptions:

- even practices at "distinct" fields are connected (to your research object)
- these mediate how things are known and unknown, how they are governed and transformed
- things can only be understood as spatial, and temporal multiply produced

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Guidance to use it

4. Guidance for pursuing a circular research

How to proceed in a few steps:

- 1. Define your research interest based on the urban fabric (what do you want to find out?)
- 2. Identify **master narratives** (discourses, statements) and their issues/"problem", including solution ideas and TechFixes
- 3. Follow your intuitions: Look out for resonances, trust the "ethnographic hunch" (Pink 2022)
- 4. Do ethnographic research on that topic (i.e. interviews, participant observation, etc.)
- 5. Detect the **controversies**, **cleavages** and **differing nations** that become apparent (1st level of insight)
- 6. Map the **effects of proximities** that are at stake to understand the composition of the research object including its **power dynamics** (2nd level of insight)

level of information

1st level of insight

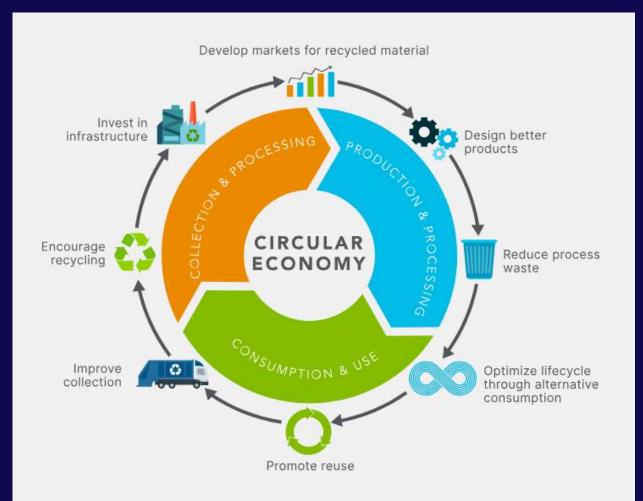
2nd level of insight

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Proximities of the vivid recycling infrastructure









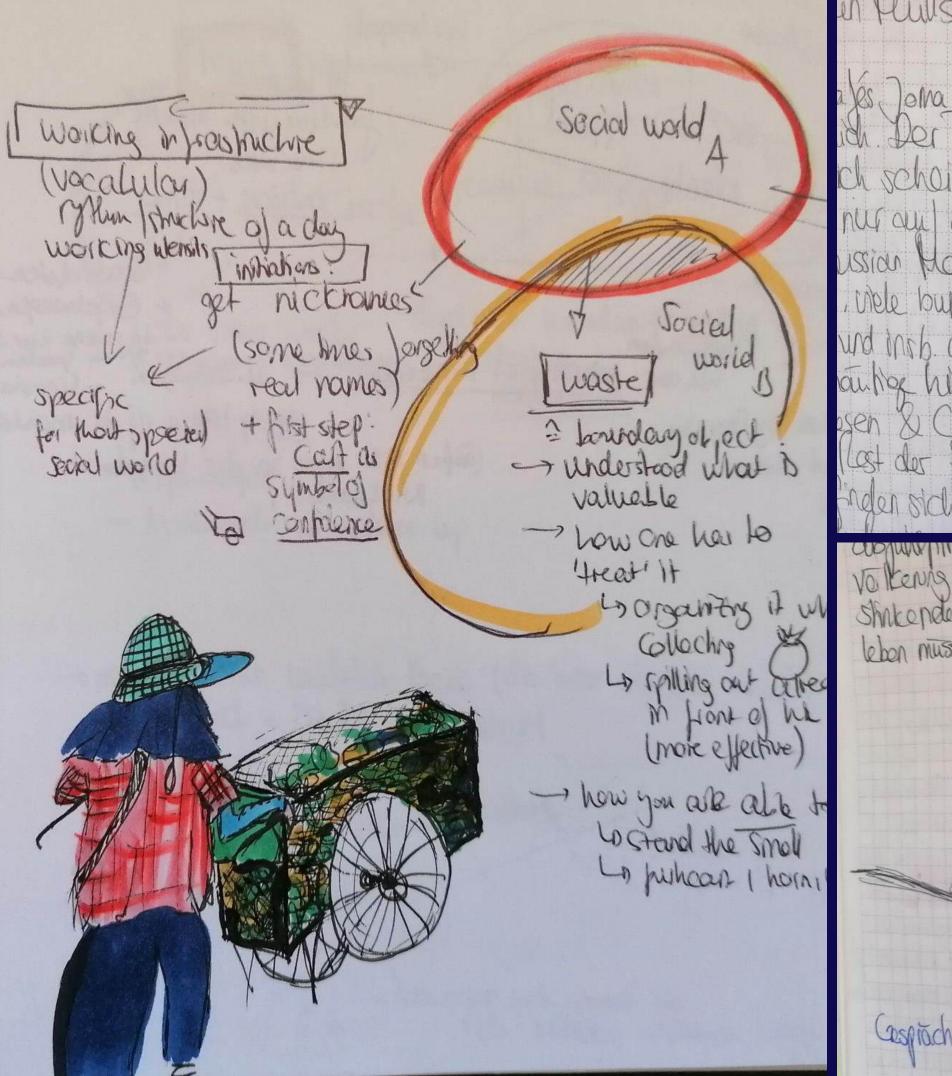








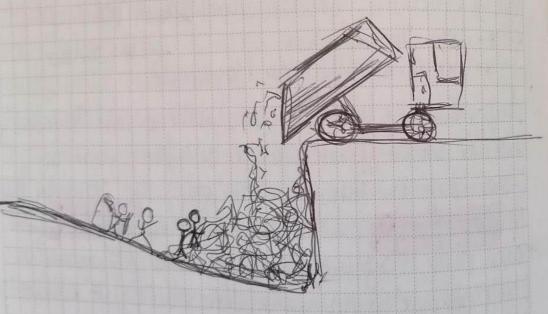




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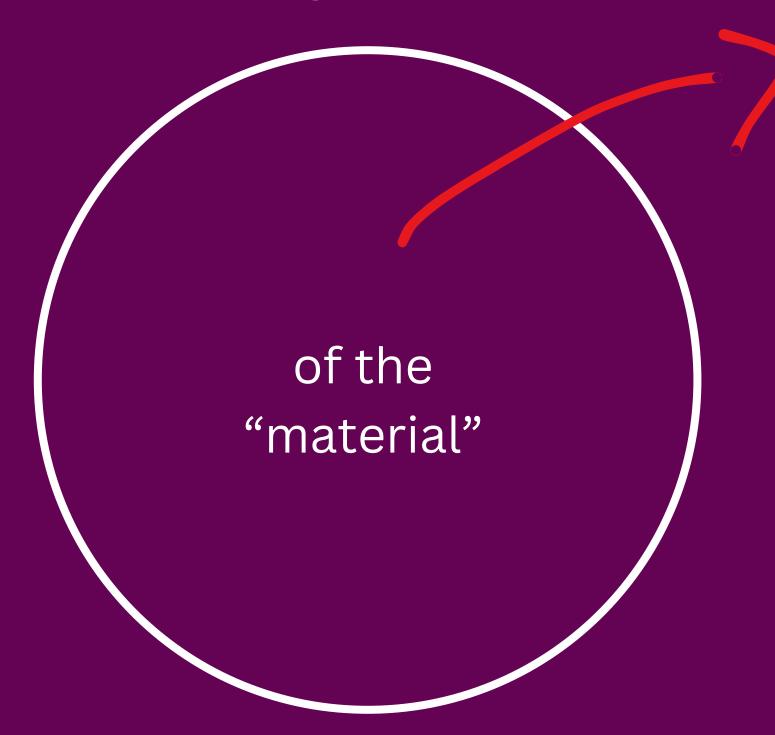
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Proximity I



Questions: how did plastic and aluminum enter the country, how was it perceived and what future vision were inscribed in these materials?







National Toy Company

220, Nathan Road Opposite Shamrock Hotel KOWLOON Telephone: 63096



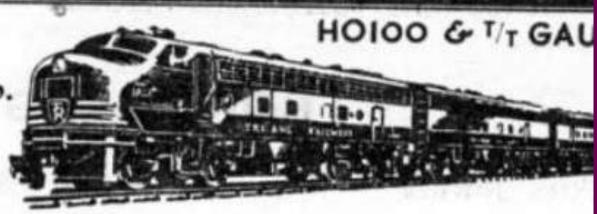
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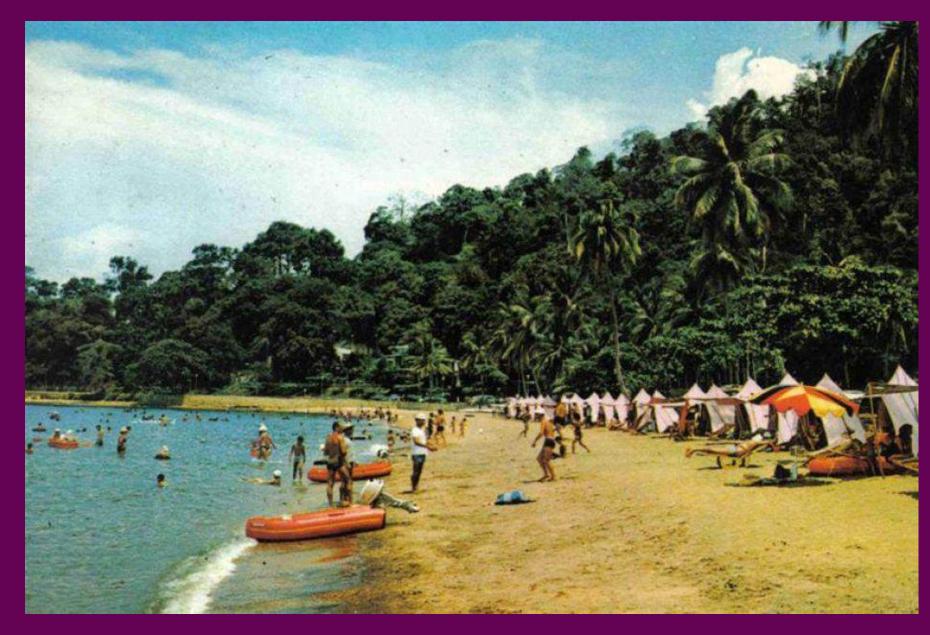
Bring Your Children To One Of The Largest Toy Shops In Hong Kong, Where All Kinds Of Toys, Tricycles, Scooters, Etc., Are Available.

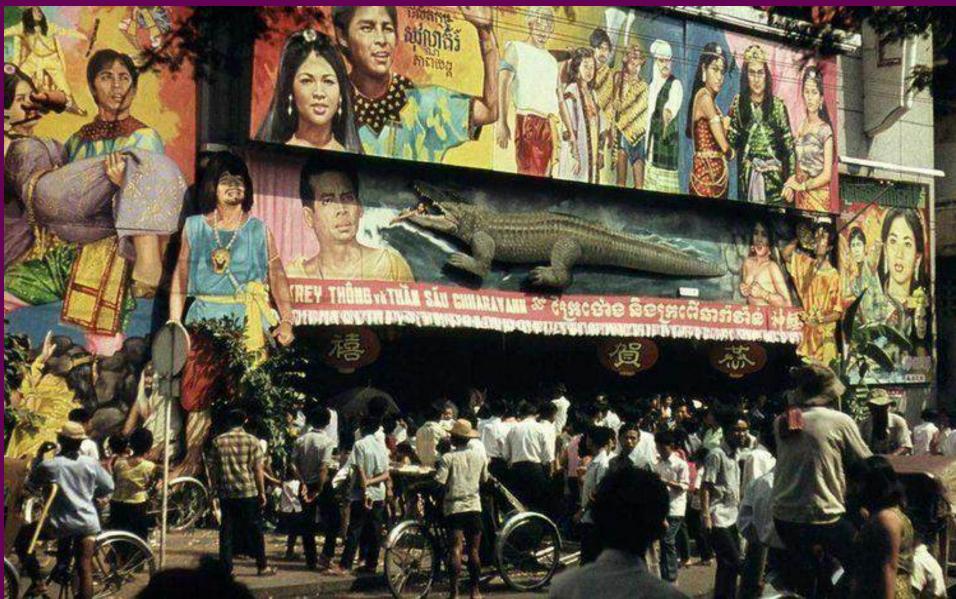
Tri-ang (AAILWAY5)

Sole Distributors:-

The Union Toyo Co.
228A NATHAN ROAD,
KOWLOON, H. K.
TEL. 61490

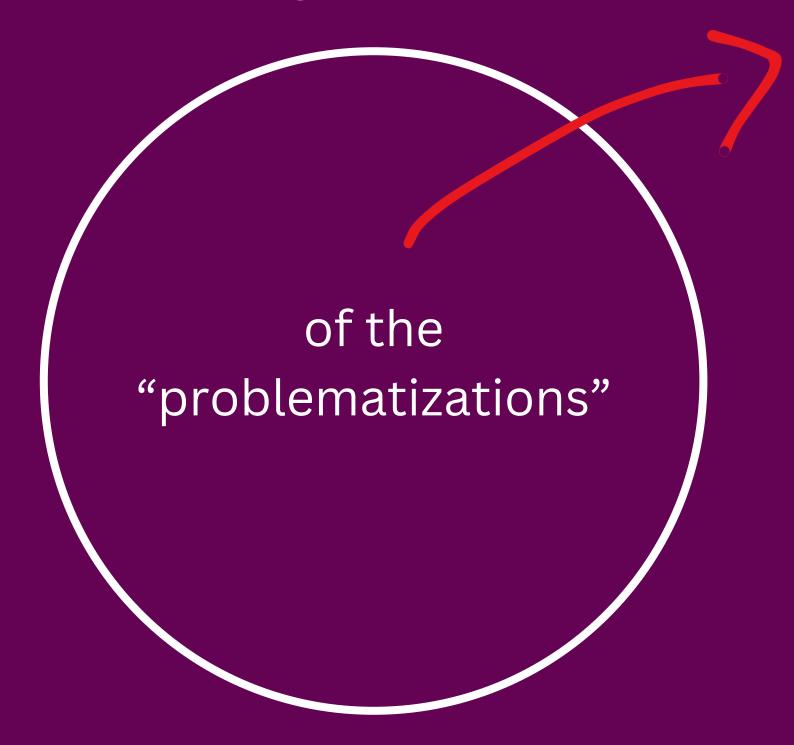








Proximity II



Question: Where does the legitimacy for waste disposal programs derive from?

- rampant marketization in the 80s
- well-known ideas of modernity that are linked to plastic and aluminum
- driven on long-entranched ways of doing politics with "others"
- Legitimized on insider knowledge

Problems are always produced

Based on these problems, such as a of a "waste crisis", strategies can develop





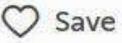


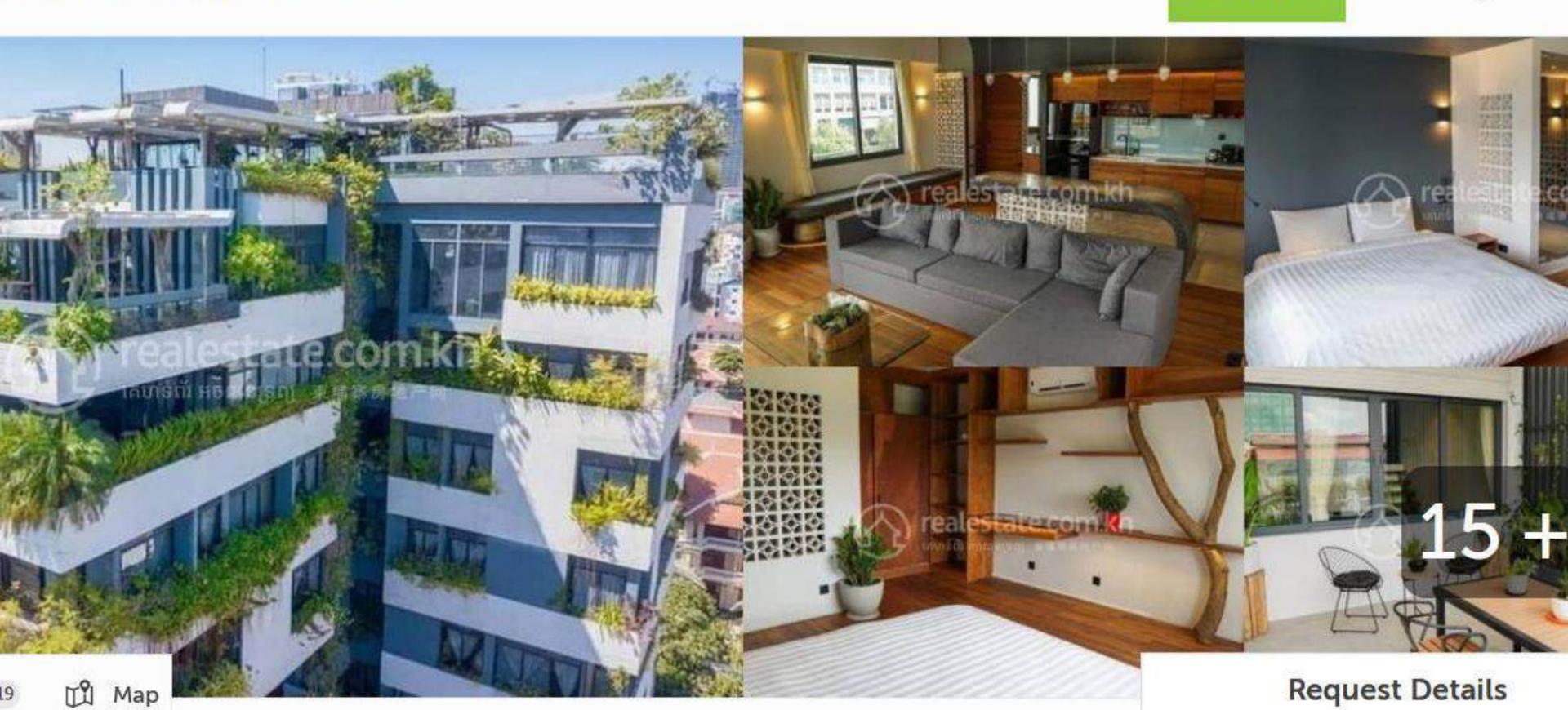
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kh

Brochure *







Proximity III



Question: what knowledge is part of these problematizations?

How are these strategies confirmed?



Plastics-Hons Second Export

By E. M. Giles

of plasticware in operated machines. These, plus the factories in which plastics form only a subsidiary line, considerably increase the

large, or to the m the small factories

Most of the me led and factories aided by the im imports of raw HK\$51.73 millio Kingdom supplying United States 23.8



1. C. Chieng, owner-manager of na Plastics Co., and jounder of ny's plasticware industry.

Mr. H. C. Ting, Managing Director of the Kader Industrial Co., and President of the Hongkong Plastic Manufacturers'

with blown bottles

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The 'solution' to the problem is understood as the careful separation of a definable area into its individual part

- Plastic is classified, for example, according to its individual material parts
- Waste strategies are categorized into social, economic and environmental aspects

ustry is designers, draughtsmen and machine tool small injection moul Official operators. Subsidised meals and recreaplastic- tional facilities are provided by two or the major outlets.



Waste fantasies are materialized imaginations for navigating optimal synthetic waste management, based on long entrenched ways of doing politics.



The city's numerous
wastelands — as unruly urban
sites-, however, are completely
indifferent to solid waste
management programs and
capitalistic value productions.

In-place hybridity of urban naturecultures provokes different visions of the city







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- The effect of the different proximities have unveiled
 - the dominances that are at stake in the sociomaterial urban fabric
 - the way predominant waste disposal strategies flourish (but are often unsuccessful)
- When we do see waste on streets, it is because different strategies cannot be implemented on the whole city, as the system has grown over time and has its own recycling practices.
- The waste "problem" cannot be solved on this *contemporary* site, where circular economy approaches try to adjust things as they are produced and managed by a system of rules from elsewhere that envisions future, cleanliness and nature otherwise



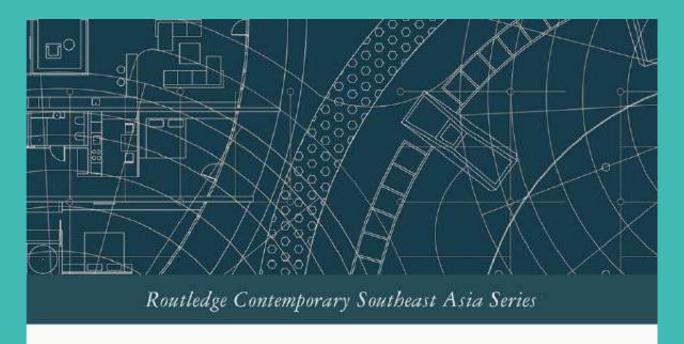


6. Wrap up

Understanding the sociomaterial urban fabric as an entrance point to grasp first unseen connection, help to do a temporal and spatially holistic research.

Be more than archeologist be circularists!

Make use of different methods, approaches and epistemic patterns in order to understand the many different "archives" – system of rules and practices – that is among us.

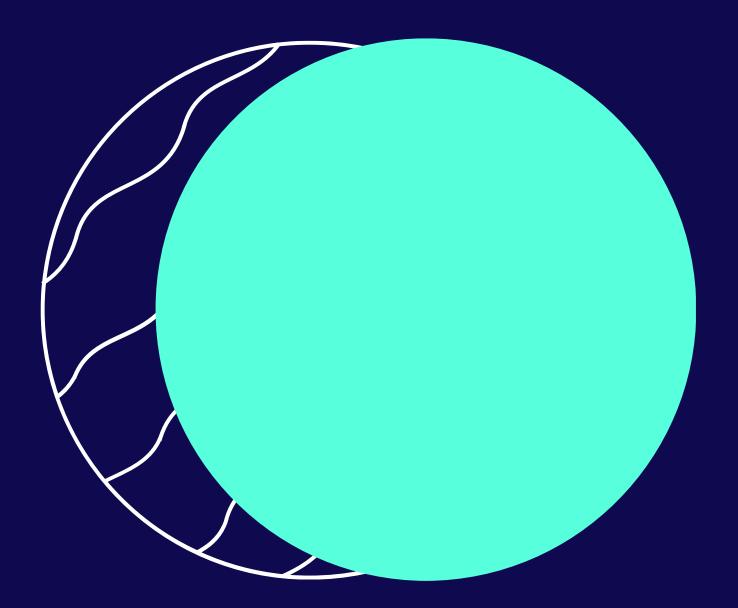


RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURES IN CAMBODIA

CIRCULARITY, WASTE, AND URBAN LIFE IN PHNOM PENH

Kathrin Eitel





Thank you!

www.kathrineitel.com

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