



Contribution ID: 69

Type: **Oral Presenter**

Material Archives; Understanding Urban Geographies Built from Material Circulation

Tuesday 3 April 2018 10:40 (20 minutes)

The physical world is highly materialized; materials fabricate our living spaces, construct our economic and geopolitical conditions. It is the materials that define urban functionality and designs the ultimate purpose of a space. Materials have become more than how they appear to the eye, affecting not only the architecture but also other things and people around them. If one is uncertain of the visual conditions, administrative laws or social ecology on which the description and networking of a space rests. It is best to set the description against the materials and resources; the terms begin to explain themselves.

A new architecture for material circulation has been visualized by the two neighbouring countries - Pakistan and China. It is thought to challenge our existing resource system. It has been observed globally that exploitation or mismanagement of a certain high valued materials or resources have often been cited as a key factor in triggering, escalating or sustaining violent conflicts across the globe. The purpose of the research is to explore the geographic importance and the prospects of a newly established market place under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Such knowledge can generate perspectives on current conflicts, or obstruct the peaceful resolution of existing ones.

The architectonics of the research is strictly geographical. It defines the strategies of governance that influences urban spaces where production or distribution of material and resources is carried out. Cutting across geographies the aim is to presents circulation patterns forming global chains and networks. Perhaps, the emphasise remains, that architecture and infrastructure of cities, need to be understood in terms of protocol and systems of material.

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Session Classification: Architecture and Town Planning

Track Classification: Architecture & Town Planning