



# INFORMAL MARKET WORLDS III

INDA Chula January 10&11, 2023

How to build participation in the **ECONOMY of SPACE | SPACE of ECONOMY**

A 2-day event of presentations and discussions on new demands for studying and engaging with informality

Organized by the international research project and network 'Incorporating Informality' and hosted by INDA Chula

With  
**Wan Chantavilajwong / Paul Chu / Chatpong Chuenrudeemol /  
Vineet Diwadkar / Samar Halloum / Peter Mörtenböck /  
Helge Mooshammer / Anton Nikolotov / Vyjayanthi Rao /  
Trude Renwick / Simpreet Singh / and others**

When:  
Tue January 10, 2023  
Wed January 11, 2023

Where:  
Chulalongkorn University  
Faculty of Architecture  
Library Auditorium  
Bangkok

Co-organized by:  
Faculty of Architecture  
Chulalongkorn University  
TU Wien

Supported by:  
INDA Chula  
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Incorporating Informality



A two-day research forum on new challenges for studying and engaging with informality, co-organized by INDA Program, Faculty of Architecture, Chulalongkorn University and the FWF-funded research project Incorporating Informality

## INFORMAL MARKET WORLDS III

### *Synopsis*

Over the past ten years, linkages between the *informal* and *formal* sector have expanded on a global scale both in terms of quantity, and degree of interdependence. Some examples of such linkages include the taxation of the informal sector, the creation of informal jobs by state institutions, and the instrumentalisation of informal market relations. In general terms, these expanding linkages indicate a relational hybridity to market relations identified as either 'informal' or 'formal.' A matter of *definition*, informal markets relay intricate fabrics of networked trade relations and the bringing-together of economic and non-economic events into terrains of ongoing spatial mutation.

Moments of rupture lie at the genesis of informal markets. Often triggered by political upheaval, economic destabilisation, migratory movements and new labour situations, informal markets foster alternative models of governance in contexts where institutional protocols have come to a deadlock, rendering these markets as primary sites of policy intervention. However, the heterogeneous nature of such policy interventions, which range from the closure of informal markets to the appropriation of their entrepreneurial energy, illustrates pronounced differences in policy attitudes towards the informal sector, which extend from the criminalisation of informal economic activities as a seedbed of conflict and violence, to the endorsement of the transformational potential of informal economies.

The working hypothesis of this 2-day research forum, organised in the context of the FWF-funded research project 'Incorporating Informality', postulates that the *spatial* unfolding of these interventions has become a crucial terrain for the negotiation of these competing orientations. Studying the ongoing spatial transformation and corresponding policy interventions at selected informal markets worldwide, the project seeks to gain novel insights into the current tension between competing concepts of economic development and governance, particularly into the emergence of novel forms of formal-informal linkages in these processes. 'Incorporating Informality' follows up on the earlier FWF-funded research project "Other Markets", which investigated how informal marketplaces are embedded in a global matrix of spatio-economic struggles (Informal Market Worlds: The Architecture of Economic Pressure, 2015). Led by Helge Mooshammer and Peter Mörtenböck, co-directors of the Centre for Global Architecture, and in collaboration with an international network of researchers, the research team will conduct in-depth case studies at twelve different sites, including Bangkok's Saphan Lek, Luanda's Roque Santeiro, Buenos Aires' La Salada, and Brčko's Arizona Market.

The findings of these field studies will be documented and analysed through a newly developed multidimensional mapping matrix that classifies four distinct categories and strategies of engagement with informal markets. These categories include: *forced closure*, *spatial relocation*, *infrastructural improvement*, and *appropriation* of entrepreneurial undertakings. Using maps, charts, diagrams and texts, this mapping matrix will help generate a basic typology of key spatial policies that are shaping the role of informal markets in contemporary urban development. The findings will be made available through journal articles, extensive monographs, exhibitions, on-site presentations and an online platform, all of which will provide a vital contribution to public debates about emergent forms of hybrid economic governance.

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### *Programme*

Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023    DAY 1

- 10:30 Welcome  
*Vineet Diwadkar, Pitchapa Jular, Christoffel Meyer, INDA Chula*
- 11:00 Incorporating Informality, introduction  
*Peter Mörtenböck, Helge Mooshammer, TU Wien & Goldsmiths College, University of London*
- 11:30 Gujari Bazaar Ahmedabad, case study  
*Vyjayanthi Rao, Yale University, and Vineet Diwadkar, INDA Chula*
- 12:00 Saphan Lek & Talad Rot Fai, Bangkok, case studies  
*Trude Renwick, Hong Kong University, and Vineet Diwadkar, INDA Chula*
- 13:00 *Lunch break*
- 14:00 Cherkizon & Sadovod, Moscow, case study  
*Anton Nikolotov, Fribourg University*
- 14:30 Karama Market, Dubai, case study  
*Samar Halloum, Yale University*
- 15:00 Dawn markets, Hong Kong  
*Paul Chu, Chu Hai College Hong Kong*
- 15:30 *Break*
- 16:00 Incorporating Informality research network, hybrid online meeting  
Participants listed above will be joined by  
*Mauricio Corbalan, Buenos Aires*  
*Melisa Vargas, Santo Domingo*  
*Allan Cain, Luanda*  
*Lovro Koncar-Gamulin, Carmen Hines, Bojan Ikic, Joanna Zabielska, Bilal Alame, Vienna*

Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 DAY 2

- 10:30 Welcome  
*Asst. Prof. Dr. Surapong Lertsithichai*, INDA Chula
- 11:00 Presentations by and exchange with students from INDA Chula  
Chaired by *Vineet Diwadkar*, INDA Chula
- 12:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 Key notes, chaired by *Vineet Diwadkar*, INDA Chula  
*Chatpong Chuenrudeemol*, CHAT Architects  
*Wan Chantavilajwong*
- 15:30 *Break*
- 16:00 Incorporating Informality, panel discussion and concluding remarks, chaired by  
*Peter Mörtenböck*, *Helge Mooshammer*, TU Vienna & Goldsmiths College, University of London  
With  
*Paul Chu*, Chu Hai Hongkong  
*Vineet Diwadkar*, INDA Chula Bangkok  
*Samar Halloum*, Yale University  
*Anton Nikolotov*, Fribourg University

VENUE:

Chulalongkorn University  
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