

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
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SEMINAR

CO-ORGANISED WITH MSSC IN GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY PROGRAMME



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**The Politics of Pixels:
Laying the Building Blocks of
Critical Remote Sensing**

ABSTRACT

While critical GIS is a widely researched subfield within geography, critical remote sensing has received significantly less attention. Yet as remotely sensed imagery and the “view from above” become more prevalent both in daily life and in policymaking, greater research is needed into the political and technological contexts in which satellites and satellite data are embedded. Unlike maps, which can theoretically be produced by any individual, producing remotely sensed data requires engineering expensive satellites and launching them into orbit. As a result, until recently, national governments have dominated the field, although private companies are now challenging their hold. At the same time, satellite data is increasingly available for individuals with access to a computer or mobile phone to view and analyse, which may engender new and more critical approaches within remote sensing. Over the past several decades, while scientists have widely analysed satellite data to study natural and anthropogenic phenomena on Earth, most of their work has been done within an orthodox context without serious consideration of the political (as opposed to technological) biases and limitations of remote sensing. In this talk, I will examine the politics of remote sensing and attempt to sketch out some potential pillars for critical remote sensing.

LANGUAGE

English

DATE

17 Sep 2020 (Thu)

TIME

4:30 – 6:00 pm

ZOOM MEETING

ID: 973 6037 5790

<https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/97360375790>

(no password required)

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mia Bennett is an assistant professor in the Geography Department and School of Modern Languages & Cultures (China Studies Programme) at the University of Hong Kong. As a political geographer with geospatial skills, through fieldwork and remote sensing, she researches the geopolitics of development in northern frontiers, namely the Arctic, Russian Far East, and along the more remote corridors of China’s Belt and Road Initiative. Mia received a PhD in Geography from UCLA, where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, and an MPhil in Polar Studies from the University of Cambridge, where she was a Gates Scholar. She has published extensively in both peer-reviewed journals and popular publications and edits a long-running blog on the Arctic at cryopolitics.com.

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