

<b>Paper ID</b>	122
<b>Author(s)</b>	Mu Cao
<b>Title</b>	Are Ecological Cities Useless? Lessons from China's Experience
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>China is currently one of the most active nations in the construction and research of ecological cities. Over the past decade, Chinese research teams have contributed 30% to 40% of ecological city studies indexed in the Web of Science. However, despite continued efforts to promote ecological city development, domestic academic interest in the field has significantly declined. Data from CNKI, China's largest academic database, show that publications on the topic rose from 10 in 1995 to a peak of 755 in 2013 but then steadily dropped to just 91 by the end of 2024, forming an inverted bell-shaped curve.</p> <p>This decline parallels waning public attention and engagement, suggesting increasing controversy around ecological city construction. The public might question whether ecological cities are genuinely useful. Is it worthwhile to dedicate vast amounts of land and resources to constructing ecological city templates? At the same time, criticisms of the high costs and technological dependence of ecological cities have long existed in academia. Can China's diverse practices in ecological city construction provide reasonable answers to these controversies? This paper examines the historical development of ecological cities in China over the past two decades, exploring leading philosophies, regional flagship projects, environmental impacts, and international exchanges. By assessing achievements and controversies, it seeks to evaluate whether China can offer viable answers to the global debate on ecological cities.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Eco-city, China, Technological Dependence, Ecological Controversy

<b>Paper ID</b>	008
<b>Author(s)</b>	Guanmian Xu
<b>Title</b>	A World of Sea Cucumbers: Masculinity, Reef, and Expertise
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>This round-table discussion will centre on a new project tentatively titled "'A World of Sea Cucumbers: Masculinity, Reef, and Expertise.'" I plan to share some of my preliminary thoughts on how to reassemble the western Pacific world through sea cucumbers. This approach will explore the intersections of masculinity, marine ecosystems, and the specialised knowledge associated with harvesting and curing sea cucumbers, shedding light on broader socio-cultural dynamics within this unique maritime context.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Underwater environment, Chinese medicine, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, Sama people

<b>Paper ID</b>	041
<b>Author(s)</b>	YIN CAO
<b>Title</b>	The Malacca Dilemma of the Raj: The Indian Uprising of 1857, the Second Opium War, and the British Proposal of a Kra Passage
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>In the late 1850s and early 1860s, the idea of building a passage through the Isthmus of Kra in the Malay Peninsula was hotly debated amongst British officials, merchants, and investors. This study finds that the British East India Company's rule over the Straits of Malacca had been a dilemma for itself and British merchants in China. The Second Opium War and the Indian Revolt of 1857 exacerbated the dilemma and pushed some British</p>	

policymakers and investors to seek an alternative route between India and China. The proposal of the Kra passage was the response and solution to the Malacca dilemma. In historicizing the Kra passage proposal and putting it in the context of the British Empire's simultaneous crises in Asia in the mid-nineteenth century, the case of the proposed Kra Passage reveals the complex relations between different actors within the British Empire and the challenges of integrating multiple imperial interests into a British world system.

<b>Keywords</b>	Infrastructure, Malacca Straits, Indian Uprising of 1856
-----------------	--

<b>Paper ID</b>	082
-----------------	-----

<b>Author(s)</b>	Glenda Sluga
------------------	--------------

<b>Title</b>	Planetary histories of the UN (1945-1975) and what they might look like
--------------	---

<b>Abstract</b>
-----------------

This paper takes a number of case studies of the 'UN Environmental Program' and 'UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East' to examine how they engaged environmental policy in the context of the dominant developmental paradigm that became the <i>raison d'être</i> of the UN across the first three decades of the postwar.
---

<b>Keywords</b>	Water, Land, Development, Mineral Resources
-----------------	---