

ABSTRACT for LANZHOU October 2014

Never ever modern? Even ever ancient?

Latour (1991) writes how “We have never been modern” and Serres (2009) argues how the Neolithic era extended all the way to the last part of last millennium. I ask how we should understand our current urban development and relation to past civilizations through our handling of heritage preservation; if we are not modern, and still in the hangover of our Neolithic past?

In this talk I will share some reflections on agencies related to transformation, change and perceptions on our positioning of past in present. I will use urban space and architectural proposals on representation of past within Han Chang’An City in Xi’an as an example, while also building on observations in the management of heritage within urban villages in Guangzhou.

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