TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S) – DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The Dialogue between Heritage Conservation and Urban Redevelopment in The Centre of Chinese cities

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
i. present in person (with/without a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
China just has taken nearly 20 years to rank the second economy in the world, triggering a point of the sharp conflict between urban development and heritage conservation in cities’ centres. On the one hand, the local governments of significant Chinese cities have redeveloped old towns to maximise economic benefits in the short term and meet the needs of modern life. On the other hand, the majority of existing historic areas are old towns located in centres of Chinese cities because of the urban formation and sprawl. Obviously, there is a dilemma to balance between redevelopment and conservation in historic areas. This study discusses the real-life phenomenon in detail and the ethnography to explore social-economic activities in different cases. In this study, four historic sites were chosen,
respectively FAW Factory in Changchun, Pingjiang Area in Suzhou, Xintiandi Block in Shanghai and Yihe Mansion in Nanjing. According to China's tiered city system, these four cities have been ranked the first three levels (a total of six levels). Additionally, these four historic areas are recognised as significant heritage sites in the world or China. Through the in-depth analyses of cases, redevelopment projects in these heritage sites demonstrate four conservation models, which means they reveal the different relationship between heritage conservation and urban design in the city centre. To some extent, they could be seen as four dialogues between heritage conservation and urban redevelopment, generalised in China or even in the world. Finally, this study states that the heritage sites could be seen as the place containing the urban context and socio-economic activities. The study proposes Placemaking, the urban design concept and approach used in these heritage sites, to shape them into good places, ultimately to realise an effective dialogue between heritage conservation and urban redevelopment in the future.

**Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Suxin ZHANG is a PhD candidate in the School of Design at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She received her Bachelor Degree in Landscape from Hunan Normal University, China. She got the first Master Degree in Landscape from Hunan Normal University, focusing on the sustainable design in China and 'Application of vertical gardens to residential buildings in Changsha' as her research project. The other Master Degree is in Urban Design from University of New South Wales, Australia, committed to the other research project "Conflict between placemaking and heritage values in the Millers Point Conservation Area in the face of privatisation of the public housing stock". In Nov 2015, she joined the international studio in Technische Universität Berlin, Germany, working in the urban regeneration project. Before arrived in Hong Kong, she worked in China Academy of Urban Planning and Design. Currently, her research focuses on heritage conservation and urban design. Her doctoral thesis explores to balance urban development and heritage conservation in Chinese metropolises by placemaking which has been proposed in past decades as a concept and approach of urban design.