PROLIFERATION OF URBAN VILLAGES:
LINKED TO "SUPPLY CHAIN CAPITALISM"
UN-HABITAT
STATE OF THE WORLD’S CITIES 2010/2011
BRIDGING THE URBAN DIVIDE

URBAN TRENDS: URBAN CORRIDORS - SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME?
As the spatial footprint of urbanization expands into larger conurbations, there is a reverse wave of decentralization reforms.

Disjuncture between the territorial / administrative categories of the urban and the underlying processes of urbanization.
CENSUS DEFINITIONS OF THE URBAN

POPULATION: OF MORE THAN 5,000

POPULATION DENSITY:
OF MORE THAN 400 PERSONS PER SQUARE KILOMETER

ECONOMY:
MORE THAN 75% OF THE ADULT MALE POPULATION ENGAGED IN NON-AGRICULTURAL WORK
- AGGLOMERATION EFFECTS OF CITIES
- CITIES AS THE STAGING POSTS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY
- “ENGINES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH”

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- SOURCE: “NEW GEOGRAPHIES OF URBANIZATION AND INEQUALITY” (BALAKRISHNAN AND DUTTA)
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URBANIZATION THROUGH THE LENS OF "OPERATIONAL LANDSCAPES"

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WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THESE RECONCEPTUALIZATIONS?

- DEFY CANONICAL URBAN THEORY
- THEY ARE TELEOLOGICAL
- REPRESENT A “SPATIAL FUNDAMENTALISM” (ROY) AND A “EUROCENTRIC READING OF ASIAN URBANIZATION” (MCGEE)
WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THESE RECONCEPTUALIZATIONS?

- HOW CAN WE DO RESEARCH THAT DOES NOT REPLICATE THE VERY ASSUMPTIONS AND CATEGORIES THAT WE’RE CRITIQUING?
WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THESE RECONCEPTUALIZATIONS?
WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR URBAN THEORY AND PRAXIS WHEN THE AGRARIAN COUNTRYSIDE IS CENTRED AS A PRIVILEGED SITE FOR ANALYZING URBANIZATION?

WHAT NEW THEORIES AND POLITICAL PRACTICES EMERGE WHEN THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE AGRARIAN COUNTRYSIDE BECOMES THE LENS THROUGH WHICH WE VIEW URBAN CHANGE?