



**The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Geography and Resource
Management
and**

The Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics



will jointly present a seminar
by

Professor Greg Watts

Professor of Transportation Noise, School of
Engineering, Design, and Technology at the University of
Bradford

Tranquility in the city

Abstract:

This talk will consider the potential of tranquil spaces to be used as restorative environments. The literature points to the importance of quiet areas, green spaces and natural surroundings in relieving stress and improving feelings of well being. Such tranquil environments are potentially well suited to the needs of the citizen because the stress of everyday city life can often involve intense periods of “directed attention” over many hours, leading to stress and mental fatigue. At the University of Bradford in the UK research has provided a unique engineering tool for predicting the perceived tranquility of open spaces in towns, cities and countryside. The tool has recently been used to carry out a tranquility audit of the major parks in one city area. The major noise source in each case results from traffic on roads close to the boundaries. The results provide useful insights into the levels of tranquility that can be achieved in such urban conditions and the effects of mitigating factors are discussed. Suggestions are made for improving the levels of tranquility.

About the speaker:

Greg Watts is a Professor of Transportation Noise in the School of Engineering, Design, and Technology at the University of Bradford. Professor Watts received a 1st class degree in physics (BSc) from the University of Manchester, MSc in Ergonomics from the University College London and PhD in Ergonomics at the Birkbeck College, London. He has been awarded the RWB Stephens Medal of the Institute of Acoustics for outstanding contributions to research and teaching in acoustics. In both industry and academia, Professor Watts has been involved in the study of factors affecting sound perception including perceived tranquility, positive soundscapes and quiet areas and their protection. He has also studied traffic noise prediction, measurement, control and refinement. Professor Watts have researched and published widely on the generation and propagation of traffic noise and vibration and effects on people and buildings, as well as working on noise barrier designs, low noise road surfaces, sustainability and associated standards.

Language: English

Date: 20 April 2010 (Tuesday)

Time: 6-8pm

**Venue: Sino Building (SB) LT2
Chung Chi College**