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*The Center for Chinese Studies and the
Confucius Institute at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Distinguished Speaker Series*

“Fengshui Prescribed Urban Design: The Making of Beijing”

Reginald Y. W. Kwok

Professor of Asian Studies, and Urban and Regional Planning, UHM

November 9, 4:00 p.m.

Tokioka Room (Moore Hall 319)

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

1890 East-West Road, Honolulu, HI 96822

Free admission; reception to follow.

Synopsis: The Chinese belief of *fengshui* (geomancy) as the popular guide for spatial organization and decision-making has been continually practiced for over 4000 years. Following the dictums of *fengshui*, human settlements, whether housing or cities, are so determined in order to bring auspiciousness to the owners or users of these built environments.

This presentation explores some of the most basic and established *fengshui* precepts, and addresses how they have been incorporated into spatial design practices. The physical components of the historical capital city, Beijing, are reviewed through these principles. Illustrations of housing compounds, the imperial palace, and the city itself, demonstrate the society’s and the state’s strong adherence to and respect for *fengshui* beliefs.

Reginald Yin-Wang Kwok is a professor of Asian Studies, and professor of Urban and Regional Planning at UHM. The areas of his teaching and research specialization are the political economy of Chinese development and urbanization, globalization in East Asia, urban economic and spatial development, and the cultural impact on urban form in Asia. He studied and practiced architecture in London and Hong Kong, studied urban planning at Columbia University in New York, and taught at the Architectural Association in London and the University of Hong Kong, where he was the founding director of the Centre of Urban Planning and Urban Studies before joining UH.

His publications include: *Globalizing Taipei: The Political Economy of Spatial Development*, *Hong Kong–Guangdong Link: Partnership in Flux*, *General Theories of Urban Planning* (in Chinese), *The Shek Kip Mei Syndrome: Economic Development and Public Housing in Hong Kong and Singapore*, and *Chinese Urban Reform: What Model Now?*