

MASTER'S THESIS

Spatiality, governmentality and the production of new town space in Hong Kong

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**Spatiality, Governmentality and the Production of New Town Space in
Hong Kong**

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements

For the degree of

Master of Philosophy

Principal Supervisor: Dr TANG Wing Shing

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation attempts to understand the production of new town space as the practices of colonial governmentality in Hong Kong, in which the dynamic relationship between space/power and everyday life in a new town is examined. The study suggests that the Foucauldian concept of 'governmentality', which incorporates the notions of spatiality, power and the self, gives a better understanding of how new town space is produced within the spatial imaginations in colonial Hong Kong. The production of new town space/order is the governmental practices of knowledge/power nexus that deploys various rationalities and spatial techniques according to high modernism. The 'analytics of government' could enrich the conceptual understanding of how this space is related to the reconfiguration of urban order as well as the population in the urban periphery that contributes to a stable society over the past decades in Hong Kong. Besides, the case study of Tin Shui Wai, as one of the new town project, is examined in depth to sharpen the process of producing an 'abstract space' and 'abstract persons' through modernist planning. It also elaborates how the governing of this space in practice, in its specific historical-political context, would lead to other problems found in this place, whereas space itself contributes the 'self-government'. Thus, this space is considered as the interplay of power relations embedded in the practices of everyday life in place. In addition, in order to give a better understanding of the 'governing of the self' in a new town, the geographies of an immigrant, mother-worker in Tin Shui Wai are investigated. New town space/order is considered as it is reproduced through the everyday life in this place, where space is occupied through the making of daily geographies and of self representation there.

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