

**UNIVERSITY OF MACAU
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

Cities shape the lives and outlooks of billions of people, yet they have been overshadowed in contemporary political thought by nation-states, identity groups, and concepts like justice and freedom. The Spirit of Cities revives the classical idea that a city expresses its own distinctive ethos or values. In the ancient world, Athens was synonymous with democracy and Sparta represented military discipline. In this seminar and in a forthcoming book of the same title with co-author Avner de-Shalit of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Professor Bell explores how this classical idea can be applied to today's cities, and explains why philosophy and the social sciences need to rediscover the spirit of cities.

In the book Bell and de-Shalit look at nine modern cities and the prevailing ethos that distinguishes each one. The cities are Jerusalem (religion), Montreal (language), Singapore (nation building), Hong Kong (materialism), Beijing (political power), Oxford (learning), Berlin (tolerance and intolerance), Paris (romance), and New York (ambition). Bell and de-Shalit draw upon the richly varied histories of each city, as well as novels, poems, biographies, tourist guides, architectural landmarks, and the authors' own personal reflections and insights. They show how the ethos of each city is expressed in political, cultural, and economic life, and also how pride in a city's ethos can oppose the homogenizing tendencies of globalization and curb the excesses of nationalism. Combining strolling and storytelling with cutting-edge theory, their work encourages debate and opens up new avenues of inquiry in philosophy and the social sciences.

Guest Seminar
THE SPIRIT OF CITIES
by
Daniel A. Bell,

the Zhiyuan Chair Professor of Arts and Humanities at Shanghai Jiaotong University and professor of political theory and director of the Center for International and Comparative Political Philosophy at Tsinghua University in Beijing. His books include China's New Confucianism and Beyond Liberal Democracy (both Princeton).

VENUE: HG01

DATE: MAR 30, 2011 (WEDNESDAY)

SEMINAR: 17:30 TO 19:00

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

All are Welcome

