Cities in Inner Asia are historically and presently a destination of post-nomadic migration. As the new settlers have to adapt to urban life, they are in some places numerous enough to create their own districts – and more generally – influence the cityscapes. Therefore, they are not only passive receivers of the new way of life but to some extent shape it.

The cities discussed are Mongolia’s Ulaanbaatar (with its outside district of Nalaikh) and Inner Mongolia’s Ewenki Autonomous Banner (also called Nantun) of the Hulunbuir prefecture in the PR of China.

The talk aims to analyse a variety of patterns in shaping the landscape, local economy and social relations in the newly urbanised areas. The main differences in urban development arise from state policy with regard to infrastructure, followed by the supply of public services. In Mongolia’s areas of low development were few state-run investments, leaving little chance to boost economic growth. This is different from the PR China, where GDP dynamics depend largely on state-run hard infrastructure investments. Among similarities of the urbanisation in post-nomadic settings we find some elements of social dynamics in migration, economic activities, but also transition in religious practices. We will also discuss gentrification processes in newly urbanised districts.