

Title: The Nature of Deindustrialization

Host: Victor Seow

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Deindustrialization – the term provokes images of poverty, economic decline, and abandonment. In regard to the environment, however, deindustrialization presents a potential contradiction: on the one hand, deindustrialization often leaves landscapes of environmental contamination and ruin, while on the other hand, deindustrialization may not only pave the way for a more sustainable landscape, but may in fact be necessary for long-term sustainable development. In this topical lunch, I invite participants to share their own research around three questions: What are the environmental causes and consequences of deindustrialization? What are the different pathways out of heavy industrial production (such as automobile manufacturing or even agro-industrial production), and how do those pathways contribute to or detract from sustainable development? How do political, economic, and social factors shape the environmental make-up of deindustrialized landscapes?