What makes China what it is today and what it will become? How are we, as architects, planners or city activists able to intervene amidst the tidal wave of extreme conditions that are shaping the outset of the 21st century and that are directly affecting one out of every five human beings on earth? This seminar will explore and examine these conditions in both the cities and the countryside and their fascinating interrelationships. We will use current and historical texts, Chinese and Foreign Press, Microblogs, Chinese Cinema and Contemporary Chinese Art as source material. Each student will undertake an analysis of a Contemporary Chinese film and will produce an animated video chapter of “A Lexicon of Chinese Urbanism and Ruralism” that will be exhibited at the Lisbon Triennale and other venues. Note: Prior experience with video editing is NOT required.

floating population (liudong renkou) ant tribe (yi zu) urban villages (cheng zhong cun) nail households (dingzihu) stir fried land (chao di) land grabs (zhua di) mouse or rat tribe grass mud horse (caonima) demolition/ relocation (chai qian)