

NON ARKARA, PhD

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Professional Summary

Seasoned Smart City Consultant with over 20 years of experience in driving technological innovation and sustainable urban development. Proven ability to orchestrate complex projects, foster multi-stakeholder collaborations, and deliver impactful results that enhance smart city capabilities.

Key Achievements:

- Designed, prototyped, and executed over 120 technological projects and public-private initiatives, enhancing specific and measurable smart city capabilities (e.g., traffic management) across 77 provinces in Thailand.
- Spearheaded, developed, supervised capacity-building programs, impacting over 5,000 government officials to advance practical digital literacy, cybersecurity, and drive urban innovation.
- Catapulted, monitored, and drove strategic partnerships with domestic and international stakeholders, securing funding and resources for scalable smart city solutions.
- Featured as a keynote speaker at 300+ global forums, sharing insights on human-centric smart city development and community engagement.

Current Employment

Digital Economy Promotion Agency, Bangkok

MAY 2019 – Present

Senior Expert in Smart City Promotion

Past Experience

- True Digital Group, Bangkok; Expert (Product and Service Design)
- Jagiellonian University, Krakow; Rectorial Visiting Professor
- Sydney University; Honorary Senior Lecturer
- IDEO Shanghai; Expert-In-Residence (Urban Anthropology)
- New York University Shanghai; Global Postdoctoral Fellow
- East Water Group, Bangkok; Principal Researcher (Tubma, Rayong, Urban Design Project)
- Harvard University; Teaching Fellow
- Department of Public Works and Thammasat University Research Institute, Bangkok; Principal Researcher (Sukhothai Old City Urban Design Project)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); Visiting Lecturer in Architecture and Urban Design
- Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand; University Lecturer

Education

Harvard University, USA

- **Doctor of Philosophy (Anthropology)** 2016
- **Master of Arts (Anthropology)** 2015

The University of Oxford, UK

- **Master of Philosophy in Modern Chinese Studies** 2010

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

- **Master of Science in Architecture Studies** 2007
- **Urban Design Certificate** 2007

King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMUTL), Thailand

- **Bachelor of Architecture (First Class Honors/Summa Cum Laude)** 2004

Relevant Training and Certifications

- International Training Workshop on Smart Cities in Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) - DSDG/UN DESA, 2025
- ASEAN-Republic of Korea Professional Training Program (Convergence Technology, Digital Heritage and Digital Twin for Smart City Development), Busan IT Industry Promotion Agency (BIPA), 2024
- Safeguarding Private Sector and Academic Innovation: A Cybersecurity Workshop for Advanced Research and Technology Organizations, CRDF Global and US Department of the States, 2024
- Connecting Futures: ASEAN's Path to a Sustainable Digital Economy, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC, 2024
- ASEAN Smart City Professional Program, Seoul National University, 2023
- ASEAN-Republic of Korea Professional Training Program (XR/Metaverse), National IT Industry Promotion Agency (NIPA) and the Busan IT Industry Promotion Agency (BIPA), Busan, Korea, 2023
- Knowledge Co-Creation Program, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 2022
- 5G Talent Development and Enablement, Huawei ASEAN Academy and Thailand 5G Ecosystem Innovation Center, 2021

- Singapore-United States Third Country Training, Singapore International Cooperation Programme, 2020
- Road to CTO (Chief Technology Officers), Durian Corporation, 2021
- ICT Mega Trends Toward the Future Training: Booming Point-Global 5G Development Trend and Strategy, Huawei University, 2020
- Monash University Australia-Indonesia Leaders Program, 2017
- Brown International Advanced Research Institute Program, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, 2016
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Institute, Center for Geographic Analysis at Harvard University, 2013
- China Reform and Governance Fellowship, Asia Pacific Program, Australian National University, 2011

Lifelong Learning

- Completed 20 certified online courses from Coursera to enhance skills in smart city planning, business model development, business and entrepreneurship, social and organizational psychology, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and innovative design thinking

Awards & Recognitions

- Tomorrow City China, Leaders' Award, 2025
- Award, Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO), Best Project (DX) Award, 2024
- Smart City Expo World Congress China, Global Leadership Award (Talent Category), 2024
- Smart City Expo World Congress China, Best Smart City Project Award, 2024
- Taiwan Presidential Hackathon, International Track, Excellent Team Award, 2023
- World Smart City Expo, Republic of Korea, Best Smart City Partnership Award, 2023
- Honorable Alumnus (Societal Contribution Category), KMITL, 2023
- Expo 2020 Future Water Hack at World Expo Dubai, First Prize and Community Choice Award, 2022
- Harvard University Certificates of Distinction in Teaching, 2013

Advisory Roles

- Advisor to the Thailand Media Fund, Smart and Livable Cities Institute for Collaboration (SLIC), Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council, National Strategic Taskforce on Northern Economic Corridor (NeEC), various provincial administrations and city municipalities, universities and research institutes, thriving digital startups, among others.

Volunteering Roles and International Humanitarian/Development Missions

- Empowering Digital Transformation in Small Island Developing States: Digitalization of Public Sector in the Solomon Islands, United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), 2025
- Mentorship in education, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, digital transformation, and e-government; involved in teaching roles at various universities in Thailand and abroad. Public speaking roles at more than 50 global events worldwide and 100 events domestically. Reviewed over 50 academic papers for top journals and judged numerous competitions, including national and international hackathons and innovation contests.

Skills

- Urban Planning and Design: Smart city design, urban development, historic preservation
- Research and Analysis: Ethnographic research, data-driven decision-making, qualitative analysis
- Leadership and Collaboration: Cross-functional team leadership, stakeholder engagement, agile project management
- Teaching and Training: Conducting interactive workshops, developing curricula, mentoring professionals

Languages:

- Thai and English (Native Proficiency); Mandarin Chinese (Professional Fluency)

Scholarships and Fellowships

- BOLD UnConference, The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, 2024
- Austrian Leadership Program, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, 2022
- Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative Fellowship, 2018
- Cora A. Du Bois Charitable Trust Anthropology Research Grant, 2015
- Fudan Fellowship, Fudan University Centre for Studies of Chinese Civilization, 2014
- China Scholarship Council Research Scholarship, Ministry of Education, China, 2013 – 2014
- Jen Aubrey Westengard Travel Fund, Harvard University, 2013
- Harvard Asia Center Dissertation Research Grants for Chinese Studies, 2013
- Harvard-Yenching Institute Doctoral Scholarship, 2008 - 2012
- The Empowering Network for International Thai Studies (ENITS) Doctoral Scholarship, 2010
- Thailand-United States Educational Foundation (Fulbright) Scholarships, 2005 - 2007

- MIT W. Danfort Compton Memorial Graduate Fellowship, 2005 – 2007
- C.V. Starr Foundation and Asian Cultural Council Fellowship (Affiliate of Rockefeller's Brothers Fund), 2005 - 2007

Publications (Partial List)

- 2024. "Less Is More: Thailand's Citizen-Centric Approach to Smart, Livable Cities." *Smart City Magazine: Special Edition*, Smart City Expo Miami 2024 (1) – Future-Ready Communities. Smart Cities Americas. <https://www.smartcitymiami.com/>
- 2023. "Effective Soft Power: How Media can Help Cities Harness Smart Technology for Societal Change." Thai Media Fund Journal 2(2): 1-30.
- 2022. *Smart City Primer*. C-asean and US Embassy Bangkok: Bangkok. With Reilly Paul Rabitaille. eds.
- 2021. "Harnessing Digital Connectivity for Sustainable Cities in ASEAN." *The ASEAN Magazine*. <https://theaseanmagazine.asean.org/article/non-arkaraprasertkul-phd/>
- 2020. "Smart City Initiatives in Thailand: Key Concepts and Methods." *Hitachi Review* 70: 106 – 110. With Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin et.al.
- 2019. "Bangkok's Urban Presence: Toward the Future of Smart Urbanity (Exhibition Entry)" *2019 Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism: Collective City. Guidebook*. (Seoul, Korea: Seoul Metropolitan Government) 137.
- 2018. "Gentrification and Its Contentment: An Anthropological Perspective on Housing, Heritage and Urban Social Change in Shanghai," *Urban Studies* 55(7): 1561-1578. DOI: 10.1177/0042098016684313
- 2017. "Mobility in a Global City: Making Sense of Shanghai's Growing Automobile-Dominated Transport Culture," *Urban Studies* 54 (10): 2232-2248. With Matthew Williams). DOI: 10.1177/0042098016637568.
- 2016. "The Social Poetics of Urban Design: Louis Kahn's Vision for Central Philadelphia (1956-62)" *Journal of Urban Design* 21(6):731-745. DOI: 10.1080/13574809.2016.1184564.
- 2016. "Gentrification from Within: Social Change as Anthropological Process in Urban Shanghai," *Asian Anthropology* 15(1): 1-20. DOI: 10.1080/1683478X.2016.1158227
- 2016. "The Abrupt Rise (and Fall) of Creative Entrepreneurs: Socio-Economic Change, the Visitor Economy and Social Conflict in a Traditional Neighborhood of Shanghai, China," In *Protest and Resistance in the Tourist City*, edited by Johannes Novy & Claire Colomb, New York & London: Routledge: 282 – 301.
- 2015. "The Death and Life of Shanghai's Alleyway Houses – Re-thinking Community and Historic Preservation," *Review of Culture* 50: 138 – 152. With Matthew Williams.
- 2015. "In Praise of the 'Coffin': Japanese Capsule Hotel and Creative Urban Sociality." In *Politics and Aesthetics of Creativity: City, Culture and Space in East Asia*, edited by Lu Pan, Dixon Heung Wah Wong & Karin Ling-Fung Chau, Piscataway, NJ: Bridge21 Press: 93 – 117.
- 2013. "Traditionalism as a Way of Life: The Sense of Home in Shanghai Alleyway." *Harvard Asia Quarterly* XV (3/4): 15 – 25.
- 2012. "Moral Global Storytelling: Reflections on Place and Space in Shanghai's Urban Neighborhoods." *Storytelling, Self, Society* 8(3): 167-79. DOI: 10.1080/15505340.2012.711126
- 2012. "Urbanization and Housing: Socio-Spatial Conflicts Over Urban Space in Contemporary Shanghai." In *Aspects of Urbanization in China: Shanghai, Hong Kong, Guangzhou*, edited by G. Byrne Bracken, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press: 139 – 163.
- 2010. "Leaping Beyond Nostalgia: Shanghai's Urban Life Ethnography." *The Newsletter of the International Institute for Asian Studies* 55 (Autumn/Winter): 28-29.
- 2012 (with Dongwoo Yim, Rafael Luna, Christopher Guignon). *I Want To Be Metropolitan: Boston Case Study*, Novato, California: ORO Editions.
- 2010. "Power, Politics, and the Making of Shanghai." *Journal of Planning History* 9(4): 232-59. DOI: 10.1177/1538513210382384.
- 2010. "Dynamic Soi: Neighborhoods and Urban Life in the City of Bangkok." *Rian Thai: International Journal of Thai Studies* 3(1): 155-184.
- 2010. "Crypto-Urbanism: Retrofitting Tokyo." *Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability* 3(2): 127 - 129. DOI: 10.1080/17549175.2010.502003.
- 2010. "Beyond Preservation: Rebuilding Old Shanghai." *Exposition Magazine of the University of Oxford* 3 (Hilary Term): 10-18.
- 2009. *Shanghai Contemporary: The Politics of Built Form: How Divergent Planning Methods Transformed Shanghai's Urban Identity*, Saarbrücken, Germany: VDM Verlag.
- 2009 (with Reilly Paul Rabitaille). "Differences, Originality and Assimilation: Building Nine at Panabhandhu School." *Thresholds* 35: 8-15. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1162/thld_a_00202.
- 2009. "Towards Modern Urban Housing: Redefining Shanghai's lilong." *Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability* 2(1): 11-29. DOI: 10.1080/17549170902833816.
- 2009. "On Fredric Jameson: Marxism, Postmodernism, and Architecture." *Architectural Theory Review* 14(1): 79-94. DOI: 10.1080/13264820902741011.
- 2008. "Politicization and the Rhetoric of Shanghai Urbanism." *Footprint* 2: 43-52. [doi: 10.7480/footprint.1.676]
- 2008. "Toward Modernist Urban Design: Louis Kahn's Plan for Central Philadelphia." *Journal of Urban Design* 13(2): 177 – 94. DOI: 10.1080/13574800801965676.
- 2006. "A Critical Appearance of Modernism: Building Nine of Panabhandhu School." *Journal of Southeast Asian Architecture* 9 (1): 13 – 28.