The 2020 Symposium on "Social Cohesion and Urban Ethnicity"

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An international symposium, "Social Cohesion and Urban Ethnicity" was held in the Menzies Building, Monash University, Melbourne on 25 January 2020. This was the sixth annual collaborative meeting between Rikkyo and Monash Universities focusing upon urban life, their shared region and national societies. It was September 2014 that the Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies and the Centre for Population and Urban Research agreed to formally affiliate in research ventures. Then, in 2018, the Centre for Population and Urban Research closed, to be replaced by the Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre. And so this Centre jointly organized the 2019 conference, "Social Cohesion and Migrants' Participation in the Host Community." This time, the Institute of Urban Sciences, The University of Seoul, joined as the third-member of a research consultation. The 2020 Symposium was the joint responsibility of these three research centers. The addition of this leading Korean University to the ongoing consultation adds huge potential for the mutual benefit of all involved.

The first day of the conference on January 25, began with an opening Ceremony in which an explanation was given of how this workshop came about and what it aims to achieve by Prof. Tetsuo Mizukami (Vice-Director, Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies). Then, Prof. Dharmalingam Arunachalam (Portfolio Leader, Monash Migration and Inclusion Centre) gave some welcoming remarks. The first session consisted of the following four papers with Prof. Arunachalam as chairperson:

First paper was "Urban Scenes as Empathetic Spaces: The Case of Seoul," and this was presented by Prof. Wonho Jang (Department of Urban Sociology, University of Seoul); the second presentation was "The Growing Cultural and Economic Divide between Metropolitan and Regional Victoria - Warrnambool a Case Study," by Dr. Ernest Healy (Research Affiliate, School of Social Sciences, Monash University); the third paper, "New Residential Trends of Foreign Migrants in the Suburban Tokyo," was presented by Prof.

Photograph 1   Menzies Building, Monash University, Melbourne.

Yoshiaki Edwin Noro (College of Sociology, Rikkyo University); and the final paper for the session described "The Generation of Bangladesh Communities in Japan," by Prof. Tetsuo Mizukami (College of Sociology, Rikkyo University).

The Second Session was an open discussion on prospective collaborative research with Prof. Mizukami in the chair. All participants actively discussed their views of the project. Attention was drawn to the publication, *Creating Social Cohesion in an Interdependent World: Experiences of Australia and Japan* (2016), a significant result of the collaboration between Rikkyo and Monash Universities.

The conception of social cohesion has been growing in interest in the social scientific area since the mid-1990s. But "social cohesion" is a long-established area of social analysis, having been a central concern of founding social theorists such as Durkheim and Marx, and more recently of many other social analysts. Nevertheless, the increase in the sheer volume of discourse and policy development dealing with social cohesion and related concepts over the past two decades in academic and public policy circles is remarkable (Healy, Arunachalam and Mizukami 2016).

To enable a second publication, we have identified key areas and concepts which include, social empathy, in addition to globalization, migration, and transnationalism. Social empathy

Photograph 2　Southern Cross Station

has also recently attracted attention for its role in alleviating social conflict not only within one society but among and across different societies. We would like to focus upon the interplay between the host community and migration. From the perspective of social cohesion, our guidelines for further research specify that our investigations should deal with the involvement of foreign immigrants in the host community and how this has implications for community regeneration. Then, we would like to identify the factors that promote or impede social cohesion, aiming to hold international conferences to compare data and contribute not only to academic fields but also to policy proposals.

After the stimulating discussion, the closing address was offered by Prof. Jang (Director, Center for Glocal Culture and Social Empathy, University of Seoul).

We then shared a dinner of Italian cuisine to conclude the day's proceedings at a Lygon Street restaurant, promising further collaboration and making provisional plans for next year's conference opening.

The second day, January 26th was a Sunday. We organized a study trip to experience something of Melbourne's inner-city development and its diversity. The tour began at Southern Cross Station, which is a major railway terminal, formerly known as Spencer Street station. "It opened in 1859, refurbished in the 1960's and then subject to a major redevelopment completed in 2006, it operates as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) concession from Department of Transport on behalf of the State of Victoria" (Southern Cross Station 2000: 5). Over 1.2 million patrons use the station on weekly basis (ibid.: 7). It

Photograph 3 Waterfront City in Dockland

is located in Docklands which has been an urban renewal spot. It "became part of the City of Melbourne municipality in July 2007, and the suburb's 200 hectares of land and water are on Victoria Harbour, west of the city center" (City of Melbourne 2020).

As this year's conference was held on eve of Australia Day, there were many events in venues around the city, but Monash University campus was very quiet. Recent celebrations on Australia day focus upon Australia's diversity, which also has relevance for our social cohesion theme.

References

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